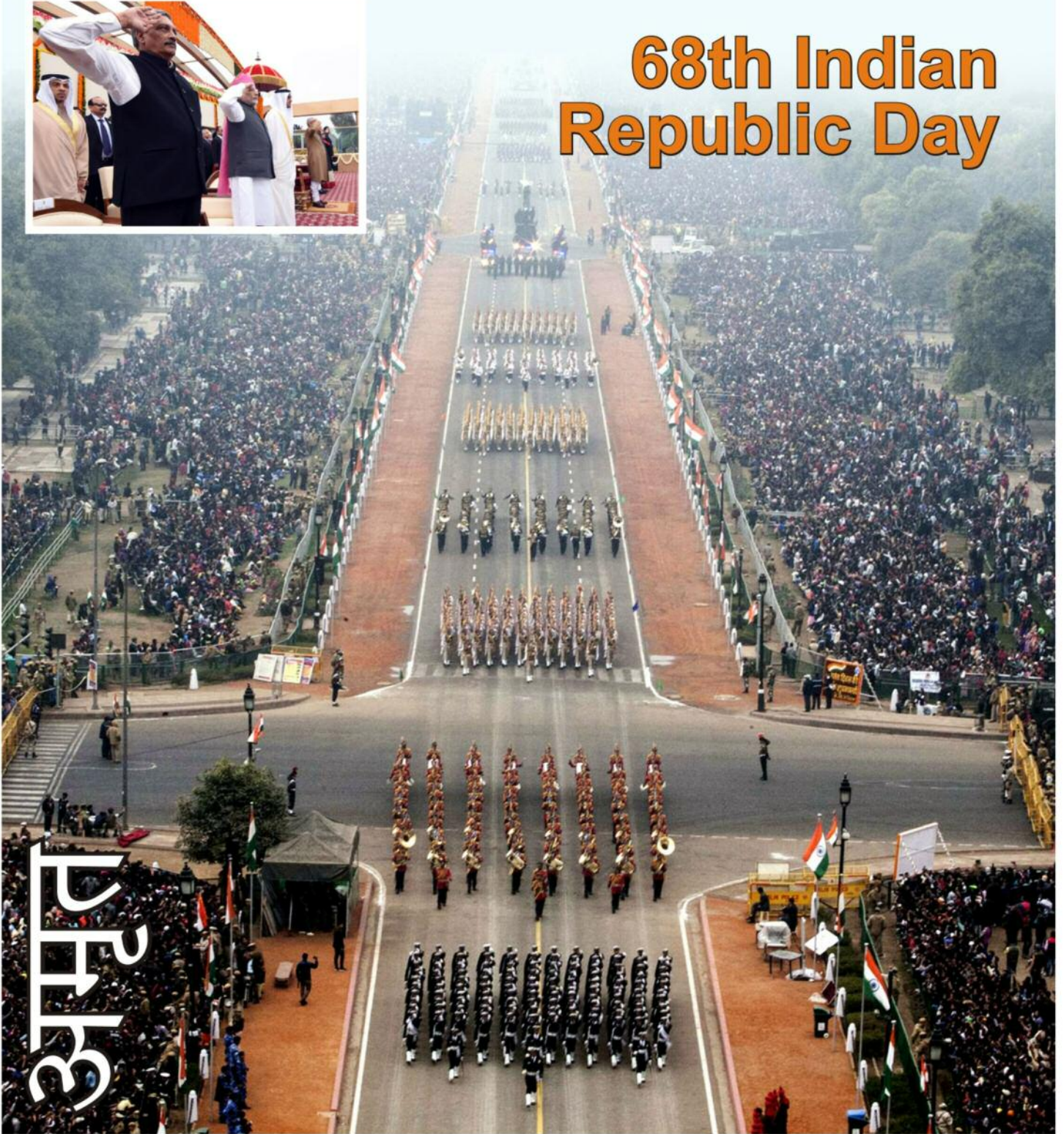


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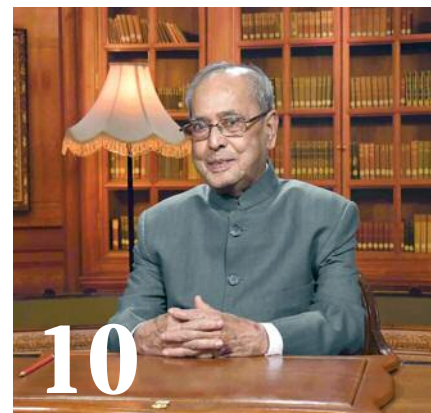


68th Indian Republic Day



आमृत

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AMRIT

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Editor in Chief: Rahul Chhabra

Editor: TPS Rawat

Support team: András Havas, Anna Simon, Anita Adamecz,
Eszter Berki

Contributors: Marek Kepa, Sági Péter, Pilinszky János

Cover, Design and Layout

INDIA EMPIRE Publication
N 126, II Floor, Greater Kailash-I,
New Delhi – 110 048, India
M: +91-9899117477, Tel: +91-11-29231515
E: sayantanc@gmail.com
Web: www.indiaempire.com

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Ayurveda Conference



LEFT: Mr. Vijay Khanduja (FS), Prof. Asmita Wele, Ayurveda Chair and Ambassador Chhabra amongst the audience listening to the presentation. **RIGHT:** Dr. Péter Medgyessy, former PM delivering his presentation on the challenges of ayurveda in Hungary

On 1st December the Embassy of India, in association with the Foundation for Traditional Indian Medicine for the Public Health in Hungary organized a symposium on Ayurveda. The event provided a great opportunity for the invited speakers to share their experiences of and discuss their thoughts and findings on the European World Ayurveda Congress which was organised on 19th October in Koblenz, Germany and was attended by a Hungarian delegation as well.

Apart from Ambassador Rahul Chhabra, who gave the keynote

address, Dr. Péter Medgyessy, former PM of Hungary spoke on the current status of Ayurveda. He summarized in five points the important aspects of work still needs to be done in Hungary to introduce Ayurveda and the ayurvedic medicine into the every-day practice of health-care. He acknowledged the help and support of the Indian government in making the traditional Indian medical practice ever so popular in the country, while requesting greater assistance in meeting the new challenges of this work.

Following his talk, Prof. Iván

Szalkai gave a presentation on his expertise of Panchakarma, the ayurvedic method of detoxification, while Prof. Dr. János Hunyadi gave his detailed report on the Congress with pictures to illustrate.

Finally, the newly-appointed Prof. Asmita Wele, Ayush Chair of the Debrecen University gave a comprehensive presentation on Ayurveda with all its current questions and challenges. The line of speakers was closed by Ms. Lina Lukosiene, Director of Ayurveda Akademi in Vilnius and Prof. Goda Denapiene, gastroenterologist. ■

Book launch and round-table discussion at CEU

Giving a ceremony suited to the auspicious occasion of the launch of the new book Carol Upadhyay's 'Reengineering India: Work, Capital and Class in an Offshore Economy' (Oxford University Press, 2016), professors and members of the South Asian Studies Research Group of the Central-European University (CEU) organised a round-table discussion on the topic 'India and the world'. Accepting their invitation, Ambassador also attended the event. The discussions, which involved the active and enthusiastic participation of all guest speakers, revolved around India's promise as an emerging world power and the myriad faces of its engagement with the global community in most recent times.



Ms Sahana Udupa, Associate Professor introducing the panelists including Ambassador of the round-table discussion 'India and the world' at CEU

The event also served to launch a number of activities in the future in order to advance general and specialist interests in South Asia in Hungary as well as among the broader

policy-academic communities. Ambassador's presence at the very first event of this ambitious plan proved to be highly encouraging for all the pioneers of this endeavor. ■

Ambassador's Ludovika Forum

Accepting the invitation of the International Relations Office of the National University of Public Service, Ambassador delivered a lecture on 'India-Hungary relations in a globalizing world' during the December monthly event of the Ambassadors Forum at Ludovika. In his presentation Ambassador gave a comprehensive and all-round insight into the India of the modern ages; discussing all its achievements including its significant contribution to the space programme, its strong position in the Asian and the global market with glimpses to its geographical advantages as well as the challenges it faces in the modern, globalizing world. Finally, Ambassador dedicated the second half of his time to present the many faces and aspects of relations between India and Hungary in the field of business, culture, education and diplomacy.

His presentation was followed by a panel discussion with experts of the field, Dr. Imre Lázár, senior advisor for the Department of Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Human Capacities and Mr. Ferenc Jári, Director of Department at the Asia-Pacific Dept. of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary. The event was hosted and moderated by Dr. János Bóka, Vice-Dean, Faculty of European and International Studies, National University of Public Service.



Ambassador leading the panel discussion with Dr Imre Lázár, senior advisor, Ministry of Human Capacities and Mr Ferenc Jári, Asia-Pacific Dept., MFA moderated by Dr János Bóka, Vice-Dean

In addition, the Embassy also presented a photo exhibition, a breath-taking Kathak dance performance by Ms. Saumya Shukla and a beautiful tabla music recital by Pandit Rajesh Gangani. The evening concluded with a reception where delicious Indian food was served to the guests. ■

A season for celebration



LEFT: The ceremony of lighting the lamp with Sivarama Swami and Ambassador of US, Madam Colleen Bell.

RIGHT: Ambassador greets the audience on the auspicious occasion of Diwali Festival



ISKCON Diwali Dinner

Ambassador and Madam Chhabra attended the annual

Diwali dinner organised by the Hungarian ISKCON community on 8 December. The event started with the

lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Sivarama Swami, spiritual leader of the community, Mr. Madhupati Dasa joined by the guests of honours of the evening; Ambassador Chhabra and Madam Colleen Bell, Ambassador of US. Following the ceremony, Ambassador delivered a festive greeting speech on the auspicious occasion. The event also featured a colourful cultural programme and a delicious feast.

BSH New Year celebrations

Organised on the occasion of bidding farewell to the old and greeting the new year, the Bharatiya Samaj of Hungary (BSH) organised a get-together celebration for the members of the community which was attended by Ambassador and Madam Chhabra as well.



Ambassador and Madam Chhabra amongst the members of BSH and the Indian community of Hungary welcoming the new year of 2017

President's reception

On 9 January, H.E. Mr. János Áder, President of Hungary along with his wife, Madam Anita Herczegh received the New Year's greetings of the diplomatic corps at the Palace of Arts. The event was followed by a reception and a cultural programme. Ambassador and Madam Chhabra were among the guests who had the opportunity to convey in person to the presidential couple all their best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.



Ambassador and Madam Chhabra with H.E. Mr. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for BiH at the Christmas reception in Sarajevo

Christmas in Sarajevo

Dr. Dragan Covic, Croat member of the Presidency of BiH cordially invited Ambassador and Madam Chhabra to attend a Christmas reception in Sarajevo, which they accepted wholeheartedly. On the picture below, H.E. Mr. Rahul Chhabra is speaking to the High Representative for BiH Mr. Valentin Inzko with Mrs. Kavita Chhabra, H.E. Ms. Claire Bodonyi, Ambassador of the Republic of France, and H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Heidari, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas took place at Embassy of India Auditorium in Budapest on 9th Jan 2017. As an opening of the event, Ambassador delivered his remarks speaking about official programmes of the Government of India launched for the Indian diaspora. In turn, Mr. Snehangshu Roy, President of Bharatiya Samaj of Hungary expressed his thanks to Ambassador and the Government of India for their work in connecting the diaspora with India. Then the inaugural speech of the PM, Mr. Narendra Modi was screened alongside with two short movies sent by XP division. The function was attended by several prominent members of the Indian Community. ■



Officers of the Mission and members of the Indian community in Hungary in the company of Ambassador gathered at the Embassy to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Republic Day reception in Budapest – Flag hoisting Ceremony & Evening Reception



Flag Hoisting Ceremony

On 26 January 2017 the Mission celebrated the 67th anniversary of the Republic Day in India organising a festive reception in the Kempinski Hotel Budapest. The event was attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps residing in Budapest, prominent representatives of the Hungarian political, business and cultural scene of both Hungary and India and notable figures of the academic field of Indian studies.

The evening started with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by the National Anthems of the two nations. Mr. Vijay Khanduja delivered his greetings to the audience and thanked all the gathered for attending and celebrating this special holiday together. He also called Republic Day the symbol of true spirit for independent India, a great pride for the nation as independence was obtained over years after facing a variety of obstacles and hurdles. Mr. István Íjgyártó, State Secretary for Cultural and Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and



Ambassador reading out President's Message



Members of Mission in the Exhibition Hall



Dr. Imre Lázár, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Human Capacities, Department for Bilateral Relations

Trade of Hungary was the Chief Guest of the function. Other prominent guests were H.E. Dr. Péter Medgyessy, Former Prime Minister as well as H.E. Mr. Péter Cseresnyés, President of the Indo-Hungarian



LEFT: H.E. Dr. Péter Medgyessy, Former Prime Minister greeting T.P.S. Rawat, Director (ASCC).
RIGHT: Ganesha statue at the entrance



LEFT: Mr. István Jgyártó, State Secretary for Cultural and Science Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Chief Guest of the evening speaking. **RIGHT:** Listening to the anthems of Hungary and India



LEFT: Reception Hall full of guests. **CENTER:** Cultural programme: Ms. Saumya Shukla performing.
RIGHT: Guests enjoying the evening

Parliamentary Friendship Society. Mr. Szilveszter Bus, Deputy State Secretary for Southern Opening, MFA, Dr. Orsolya Pacsay-Tomassich, Deputy State Secretary for International and EU Affairs, Ministry of Human Capacities and Mr. Szabolcs Takács, State Secretary for European Union Affairs, PM's Office. Several other senior officials were also present at the event. A number of Ambassadors, several CEOs, prominent members of Indian diaspora and representatives of the media were

among the guests. Pt Rajesh Gangani, Tabla teacher at ASCC played solo tabla and Ms Saumya Shukla, Kathak teacher at ASCC, rendered a beautiful piece on Kathak.

As the official programme concluded, the guests took their seats by the elegantly decorated tables to enjoy a rich meal of Indian delicacies and the pleasant company of each other in the lavishly decorated ball room with an Indian ambience. ■

DELHI HANDICRAFTS AND GIFTS FAIR

16-20 FEBRUARY, 2017



The poster for the IHGF Delhi Fair Spring 2017 features a yellow background with a circular arrangement of various handicrafts and gifts. The text 'IHGF DELHI FAIR SPRING' is prominently displayed in purple and black, with the dates '16-20 February, 2017' below it. A logo for 'DELHI Fair SPRING 2017' is in the top right, and a tagline reads 'YOUR ONE STOP SOURCING DESTINATION FOR VERY BEST IN HOME | LIFESTYLE FASHION | TEXTILES'. A small '43rd' badge is also visible.

More information: http://epch.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=184

SYMPOSIUM ON AYURVEDA

1 DECEMBER 2016



Ambassador Rahul Chhabra

Embassy of India, in Association with the Foundation for Traditional Indian Medicine for the Public Health in Hungary organized a Symposium on Ayurveda on 1st December 2016



Dr. Péter Medgyessy

in the Auditorium of the Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre.

Ambassador Rahul Chhabra gave welcome address, and



Dr. Iván Szalkai



Dr. János Hunyadi



Prof. Asmita Wele



Goda Denapiene-Lithuania



Audience and VIPs

Dr. Péter Medgyessy, former PM of Hungary gave speech on the current status of Ayurveda. Other speakers included Prof. Iván Szalkai, Prof. Dr. János Hunyadi, Prof. Asmita

Wele, Ayush Chair, Lina Lukosiene, Director of Ayurveda Academi in Vilnius and Prof. Goda Denapiene, gastroenterologist. ■

INDIA WAS THE LAST GUEST OF 2016 AT AMBASSADORS' FORUM SERIES

This year's last Ambassadors' Forum at Ludovika welcomed H.E Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Indian Ambassador to Hungary as a special guest. His Excellency has a graduate degree in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics and Masters in Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta, where he was placed on the Roll of Honour. In the past, he served as Director for External Publicity at the Ministry of External Affairs and Director in the Foreign Secretary's Office and also served in China, the United States, France, Belgium, Senegal, and the Philippines.

Moderated by Dr. János Bóka, Vice-Dean for Education of Faculty of International and European Studies, the Forum took place with the presence of



Ambassador leading the panel discussion with Dr. Imre Lázár, senior advisor, Ministry of Human Capacities and Mr. Ferenc Jári, Asia-Pacific Dept., MFA moderated by Dr. János Bóka, Vice-Dean

the experts, Dr. Imre Lázár Head of Capacities and Jári Ferenc, Head of Department at the Ministry of Human Department at the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Trade in Hungary.

In his opening speech Mr. Chhabra gave a broad introduction about India including geographical, economic, cultural and many other aspects, as well as about Hungarian-Indian relations. The Ambassador presented his country's geographical dimensions, also in comparison with Europe. He talked about the population density, the fact, that India is in possession of the 1/5 of the world's water supply, and most of all, the unique Mars mission, the country was the first to launch. Challenges India currently faces, like the extreme poverty, the health care system and the improvement of the educational system were also mentioned.

The historical overview of the Hungarian-Indian relations corroborate that the countries sustain a strong relationship, India has been in the top 3 investors in Hungary for years. Tourism is significant, the Indian culture is very popular in Hungary, and furthermore Hungary supports the

Indian aspiration to be a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Chhabra mentioned the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme that provides opportunity for 200 Indian students or practicing professionals to pursue studies in Hungary.

The experts analysed the role and position of India in global politics, but the highlight of the event was the cultural programme organized by the Embassy. The first artist was Pandit Rajesh Gangani, a "tabla" performer, a classic Indian music on percussion instruments. He was followed by Saumya Shukla, presenting a north Indian folk dance, the "kathak." The cultural event was completed by a photo exhibition of the artist Bijoy Mishra, presenting his works on India. ■

—Source: <http://en.uni-nke.hu/no-menu/birek/2016/12/09/india-was-the-last-guest-of-2016-at-ambassadors-forum-series>

REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE ON THE EVE OF THE REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA 2017

Fellow citizens:

On the eve of the sixty-eighth Republic Day of our nation, I extend warm greetings to all of you in India and abroad. I convey my special greetings to members of our Armed Forces, Para-military Forces and Internal Security Forces. I pay my tribute to the brave soldiers and security personnel who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives in defending India's territorial integrity and maintaining law and order.

Brothers and sisters:

When India attained freedom on 15th August 1947, we did not have an instrument of governance of our own. We waited till 26th January, 1950 when the Indian people gave to themselves a Constitution to secure for all its citizens, justice, liberty, equality, and gender and economic equity. We promised to promote fraternity, dignity of the individual, and unity and integrity of the nation.

On that day, we became the largest democracy of the world.

The faith and commitment of people gave life to our Constitution and our founding fathers, wisely and carefully, steered the new nation past its troubles of being a poor economy with huge regional imbalances and a vast citizenry deprived of even basic necessities.

It goes to the credit of the strong institutions of democracy built by our founders that for the last six and a



H.E. Mr Pranab Mukherjee

half decades, Indian democracy has been an oasis of stability in the region troubled by unrest. From a population of 360 million in 1951, we are now a 1.3 billion strong nation. Even then, our per capita income has shown a ten-fold increase, poverty ratio has declined by two-thirds, average life expectancy has more than doubled, and literacy rate has shown a four-fold increase. We are today the fastest growing amongst the major economies of the world. We are the second largest reservoir of scientific and technical manpower, the third largest army, the sixth member of the nuclear club, the sixth member in the race for space, and the

tenth largest industrial power. From a net food grains importing country, India is now a leading exporter of food commodities. The journey so far has been eventful, sometimes painful, but most of the times, exhilarating.

What has brought us thus far will take us further ahead. But we will have to learn to adjust our sails, quickly and deftly, to the winds of change. Evolutionary and incremental growth will have to accommodate rapid disruptions brought in by advances of science and technology. Innovation, more so inclusive innovation, will have to become a way of life. Education will have to keep pace with technology. In the race between man and machine, the winner will have to be job generation. The velocity of technology adoption will call for a workforce that is willing to learn and adapt. Our education system will have to join hands with innovation to prepare our youth for life-long learning.

Fellow citizens:

Our economy has been performing well despite the challenging global economic conditions. In the first half of 2016-17, it grew at a rate of 7.2 percent - same as that last year - showing sustained recovery. We are firmly on the path of fiscal consolidation and our inflation level is within comfort zone. Though our exports are yet to pick up, we have managed a stable external sector with sizeable foreign exchange reserves.

Demonetization, while immobilizing black money and fighting corruption, may have led to temporary slowdown of economic activity. As more and more transactions become cashless, it will improve the transparency of the economy.

Brothers and sisters:

Born in independent India, three generations of citizens do not carry the baggage of colonial past. These generations have had the privilege of acquiring education, pursuing opportunities and chasing dreams in a free nation. This sometimes makes it easy for them to take freedom for granted; to forget the price that extraordinary men and women paid to win this freedom; to forget that the tree of freedom needs constant care and nourishment. Democracy has conferred rights on each one of us. But along with these rights, come responsibilities which have to be discharged. Gandhiji said and I quote: "The highest form of freedom carries with it the greatest measure of discipline and humility. Freedom that comes from discipline and humility cannot be denied; unbridled license is a sign of vulgarity injurious alike to self and others" (unquote).

Fellow citizens:

Youth today are brimming with hope and aspirations. They pursue their life goals, which they perceive will bring them fame, success and happiness, with single-minded devotion. They consider happiness as their existential objective, which of course is understandable. They search

for happiness in the highs and lows of day-to-day emotions, and in the fulfilment of the objectives they have set for themselves. They look for a job as well as a purpose in life. Lack of opportunities leads to frustration and unhappiness which manifests itself in anger, anxiety, stress and aberrations in behaviour. This has to be dealt with by inculcating pro-social behaviour through gainful employment, active engagement with community, parental guidance, and empathetic response from a caring society.

Brothers and sisters:

One of my predecessors left on my table a framed quotation which reads (and I quote): "The object of government in peace and in war is not the glory of rulers or races but the happiness of the common man" (unquote). Happiness is fundamental to the human experience of life. Happiness is equally the outcome of economic and non-economic parameters. The quest for happiness is closely tied to sustainable development, which combines human well-being, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. We must make happiness and well-being of our people as the touchstones of public policy.

Many of the flagship initiatives of the government have been designed to promote the well-being of the society. The Swachh Bharat Mission aims at a Clean India by 2nd October, 2019 to coincide with the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji. Increased spending on programmes like MGNREGA is enhancing employment generation to rejuvenate the rural economy. Aadhaar, with its present reach of over 110 crore people, is helping in direct transfer of benefits, plugging leakages and improving transparency. The Digital India programme is creating a knowledge economy through universal provision of digital infrastructure and platforms for cashless economic transactions. Initiatives like Start-up India and Atal Innovation Mission are fostering innovation and new-age entrepreneurship. Under the Skill India initiative, the National Skill Development Mission is working on skilling 300 million youth by 2022.

Brothers and sisters:

It is my firm conviction that India's pluralism and her social, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity are our greatest strength. Our tradition has always celebrated the 'argumentative' Indian; not the 'intolerant' Indian. Multiple views, thoughts and philosophies have competed with each other peacefully for centuries in our country. A wise and discerning mind is necessary for democracy to flourish. More than the unison of ideas, a healthy democracy calls for conformity to the values of tolerance, patience and respect for others. These values must reside in the hearts and minds of every Indian; inculcating in them a temperament of understanding and responsibility.

Fellow citizens:

We have a noisy democracy. Yet, we need more and not

less of democracy. The strength of our democracy is evidenced by the fact that over 66 percent of the total electorate of 834 million voted in the 2014 General Elections. The depth and breadth of our democracy sparkles in the regular elections being held in our panchayati raj institutions. And yet, our legislatures lose sessions to disruptions when they should be debating and legislating on issues of importance. Collective efforts must be made to bring the focus back to debate, discussion and decision-making.

As our Republic enters her sixty-eighth year, we must acknowledge that our systems are not perfect. The imperfections have to be recognized and rectified. The settled complacencies have to be questioned. The edifice of trust has to be strengthened. The time is also ripe for a constructive debate on electoral reforms and a return to the practice of the early decades after independence when elections to Lok Sabha and state assemblies were held simultaneously. It is for the Election Commission to take this exercise forward in consultation with political parties.

Fellow citizens:

In a fiercely competitive world, we have to work harder than ever to redeem the promises that we make to our people.

- We have to work harder because our war on poverty is not yet over. Our economy is yet to grow at over 10 percent for an extended period of time to make a significant dent on poverty. One-fifth of our countrymen still remain below poverty line. Gandhiji's mission to wipe every tear from every eye still remains unfulfilled.

- We have to work harder to provide food security to our people and to make the agriculture sector resilient to the vagaries of nature. We have to provide better amenities and opportunities to our people in villages to ensure a decent quality of life.

- We have to work harder to provide enhanced employment opportunities to our youth through the creation of world-class manufacturing and services sectors. The competitiveness of the domestic industry has to be improved by focusing on quality, productivity and efficiency.

- We have to work harder to provide safety and security to our women and children. Women must be able to lead their lives with honour and dignity. Children must be able to enjoy their childhood to the fullest.

- We have to work harder to change our consumption pattern which has resulted in environmental and ecological de-gradation. We have to appease nature to prevent it from unleashing its fury in the form of floods, landslides and droughts.

- We have to work harder because our pluralistic culture and tolerance are still being put to test by vested interests. Reason and moderation should be our guide in dealing with such situations.

- We have to work harder to keep at bay the dark forces of terrorism. These forces have to be dealt with firmly and decisively. The forces inimical to our interests cannot be allowed to grow.

- We have to work harder to ensure the well-being of our soldiers and security personnel who protect us from internal and external threats.

And,

-We have to work harder because;

We are all equal children before our mother;

And our motherland asks each of us in whatever role we play; To do our duty; With integrity, commitment and unflinching loyalty;

To the values enshrined in our Constitution.

Jai Hind!

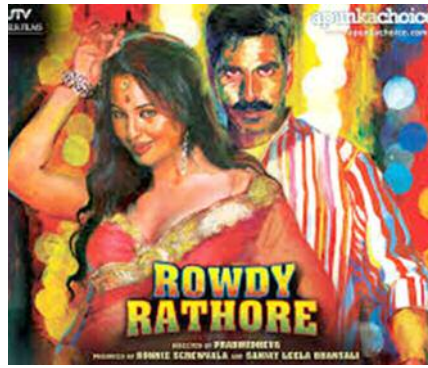
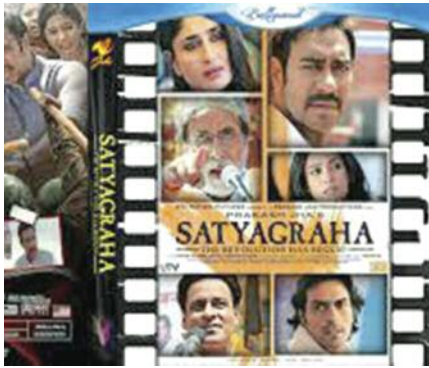
CULTURE

ASCC ACTIVITIES

Indian Film Club

On first and third Friday of every month films are screened under the aegis of “Indian Cine Club” at the Auditorium of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre in Embassy Premises for Hungarian fans. The following films were screened under the regular Film Club at the Cultural Centre in December, 2016 and January, 2017:





On 2.12.2016 Stanley ka dabba was screened (2011, Hindi), on 16.12.2016 Tanu weds Manu. ASCC screened Satyagraha (2013, Hindi) on 13.01.2017 and Rowdy Rathore on 20.01.2017.

The movies were subtitled in Hungarian language and were very well-received by the audience. Around 60 persons attended the screening.

OCCASIONAL PROGRAMMES in ASCC

Ambassadors's Forum in Ludovika

7 December 2016

After panel discussions a cultural programme was organized by the embassy. Pandit Rajesh Gangani performed classical Indian music on tabla. He was followed by Saumya Shukla, who presented kathak. The cultural event was completed by a photo exhibition of the artist Bijoy Mishra, presenting his work on India.



LEFT: India was the last guest of 2016 at Ambassadors' Forum series. RIGHT: Audience listening to the discussion



LEFT: Ambassador speaking on the occasion. RIGHT: Ms Saumya Shukla performing



LEFT: Pt Rajesh Gangani performing. RIGHT: Photos of Bijoy Mishra exhibited

Inauguration Ceremony of Exhibition: 'Streets of my India' & Jhansi ki Raani dance drama
12 December 2016

On 12 December, 2016, a combined programme was hosted by Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre: the Photo Exhibition of Ilona S. Varga ALion titled "Streets of my India" was inaugurated in the Exhibition Hall. Following the welcome speech of H.E. Rahul Chhabra, Ambassador of India, Ilona spoke about the background of her street photos made in Delhi and

Ladakh. She emphasized that the pictures are composed from her own point of view with which she sees India and its people.

After the opening ceremony the story of Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Warrior Queen of Jhansi, conceptualized by Mrs. Kavita Chhabra, spouse of H.E. Ambassador Rahul Chhabra was showcased on stage through poem, dance and music. The drama was directed by Ms. Panni Somi, renowned Bharatnatyam artist and leader of

Sivasakti Kalananda Dance Theatre, Hungary and Ms Saumya Shukla, India based Kathak Performer and Teacher at ASCC. Pt Rajesh Gangani, Tabla Artist and Teacher at ASCC accompanied the artists and Dr. Kanchan Bharadwaj recited the poetry for the drama. English narration of the dance-drama was conducted by Ms. Anna Simon.

The idea behind this dance drama was to showcase the spirit and strong role of women during India's struggle for Independence, and also to showcase



LEFT: Ribbon cutting ceremony. **CENTER:** Ambassador speaking to Dr. András Balogh, Ambassador to India 1988-1992. **RIGHT:** Mr. Imre Szakács, Painter, Szentendre Art Colony and Mr. T.P.S. Rawat, Director of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre



Ambassador speaking on the occasion



LEFT & CENTER: Artists performing. **RIGHT:** Dr. Imre Lázár, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Human Capacities and Mr Gauri Shankar Gupta, Former Ambassador of India to Hungary

a beautiful marriage of two distinct Indian Classical Dances - Kathak and Bharatnatyam. The main stations of the life of the warrior queen were depicted through dance movements and the text excerpts from the famous poem of Smt. Subhadra Kumar Chauhan.

The event was a big hit with international audience of VIP guests from ministries, embassies as well as Hungarian audience, as it showcased the 'Stree-Shakti' of India with the beautiful fusion of two very powerful classical dances of India- Bharat Natyam and Kathak on the strong beats of Tabla. After the performance the guests were invited to a Reception at the Residence.

**Christmas Celebration in Embassy
23 December 2016**



Continuing the newly initiated tradition in Embassy of India last year, members of the Mission celebrated Christmas in the Auditorium of ASCC on 23 December, 2016. A small reception was organized from snacks brought by the members, Indian and Hungarian style. After lunch Christmas games were organized by the Cultural Centre, during which colleagues could compete and win small gift items.

The celebration was well received and served as a good team building event after the long and exhausting autumn period to close before the holidays.



International Nritya Ratna Award

Ms Gabriella Tóth, Kuchipudi dancer and teacher of ASCC has been awarded by the *Committee of 8th Cuttack Mahotsav: International Dance & Music Festival – 2017* with International Nritya Ratna Award for her years long devotion and dedication towards Indian Classical Dance - Kuchipudi. Her solo performance was on 6th January, 2017 at Kala Vikash Kendra Auditorium, Cuttack, Orissa, India. The week-long festival included all styles of Indian Classical Dances (Solo, Duet & Group) – Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Mohiniattam, Kathakali, Odishi, Kathak, Manipuri & Sattriya as well as Contemporary, Creative, Neo-Classical Dance, Vilasini Natyam, Keralanatakam, Kalaripayattu, Rabindrik Nritya etc. and music genres both vocal and instrumental. Young and talented Indian Classical Dancers, Vocalists and Instrumentalists in the age group between 20 and 40 from any part of India and the World participated in the event. Interested Senior most / Veteran Dancers / Exponents / Gurus were also be specially considered / invited. All selected Solo / Duet performers were honoured with 'Nritya-Mani' for Dance, 'Sangeet-Mani' for Vocal Music and 'Badya-Mani' for Instrumental Music along with a prestigious Trophy as a mark of distinction. Few selected Dancers have been also be honoured with 'Nritya-Shiromani', 'Nritya-Ratna' and the like.

**Hawaii guitar performance by
Neel Ranjan Mukherjee**
11 January 2017



Neel Ranjan Mukherjee performing



Bouquet ceremony



Group photo

On 11 January, 2017, the semester began with the fantastic music performance of a Hawaii guitarist, Neel Ranjan Mukherjee. The artist was on a tour in Europe and for the first

time visited Hungary too. The show was special for the musical instrument too: Hungarian audience has never heard Indian classical music in this type of instrument so far.

Neel Ranjan Mukherjee, a prime disciple of legendary Sitar maestro Pandit Debu Chaudhuri “Padmabhushan Awardee”, is the one and only performer playing Indian classical music on the traditional Hawaiian Guitar over two decades. He enthralled our audiences with 7 strings and 4 octaves without adding any extra strings like sympathetic or drone in it, which is a rare phenomenon he uses. Being trained under the strict discipline of Senia Jaipur Gharana, Neel is a traditionalist but his style of presentation illustrates his own brilliance and always leaves an impression to the audience’s heart which shows his mastery and individuality. The deep and strong voice of the Hawaii guitar was very different from that of the expected sound but was really soothing and capable of broadcasting the message of Indian classical music. The maestro played different types of Ragas starting with the Alap and continuing with more fast cycles to show some fine moments of traditional music.

He was accompanied by Pt Rajesh Gangani, Tabla player. Rajesh Gangani is a highly respected Tabla artist from India reputed the world over his virtuosity and extraordinariness. Rajesh Gangani comes from a traditional Tabla Gharana of Ajarada and Jaipur Gharana of Kathak, six generations in music. He is the disciple of his father the great maestro Tabla late Guru Pandit Madanlal Gangani a Reader Professor in Tabla from Faculty of Performing Arts M.S. University in Vadodara, Gujarat, India. Rajesh completed music in Tabla Diploma & Kathak dance Diploma study in Faculty of Performing Arts, M.S. University. He got awarded Tabla master of Kalanagari swarnim Vadodara Gaurav puraskar Swarim

Gujarat in Year of 2011. At present Pt. Rajesh Gangani working in Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre (ASCC) as Tabla teacher-Cum-Performer at Indian Embassy of Budapest.

Indian classical music-cum-lecture by Calcutta Trio
31 January 2017



Mr. András Kozma, disciple of Late Pt. Ravi Shankar playing the Sitar



T.P.S. Rawat, Director (ASCC) and his wife listening to the music



Calcutta Trio holding lecture



Group photo

On the last day of January the unique Hungarian music group: Calcutta Trio performed in ASCC. The lecture-cum-demonstration was held in the Auditorium of Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre. The programme was followed by QA session.

The Trio was founded in 1976 and was established with the aim to make Indian classical music known and popular, played authentically by non-Indians and up until today – not counting their Indian and other foreign performances – held more than 3,000 concerts and lectures in Hungary. Besides the concerts they strived to give an insight to the

classical culture of India by giving lectures. The Trio has widely been performing in India, and also been performing in various western countries. The efforts of the Trio led to establishing the first RIMPA (Ravi Shankar Institute for Music and Performing Arts) branch in Budapest, where they teach classical Indian music and work on propagating classical Indian art, as well as produce Indian performances in the region. Since 1979 a weekly Indian Music Club has been existing in Budapest, the only and very first of its type in the continent, where programs, lectures and performances are granted by the Trio.

Andras Kozma, Sitar player is the only European disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar. Mr. Kozma is an active member of several Indian music related societies and got his Ph.D. in 1987. Since 1989 Mr. Kozma is the director of RIMPA (Ravi Shankar Institute for Music and Performing Arts) in Budapest, where the Central European Branch was inaugurated by late Pt. Ravi Shankar in 1990. For long

years he was a music producer at the Hungarian Radio, where he introduced Indian and other Asian musical systems to the listeners. He is also known as a lecturer and author of Indian philosophy and he has been working part time for NASA, where he lectures and teaches the astronauts on special mental exercises.

During the programme Mr. Kozma showcased basic Ragas of Indian classical music and also spoke about history of Indian music, accompanied by his Tabla player, Mr. Péter Szalai, who was a student of the world famous tabla maestro Ustad Alla Rakha. András Molnár escorted the musicians on Tanpura.

A full-house audience was registered for the concert as it is always rare occasion to have the opportunity to listen to these qualified musicians. Hungarian audience is very keen on learning the background of Indian culture so the lecture-demonstration was followed by Question-Answer session. ■

The Maharaja Who Saved Hundreds of Polish Orphans

During WWII hundreds of abandoned Polish children were brought to squalid Soviet orphanages. This would have condemned them to a bleak future, but a kind-hearted maharaja unexpectedly came to their rescue

People often forget that when Germany invaded Poland in 1939, it acted in collaboration with the Soviet Union. The two totalitarian regimes had signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact earlier that year, agreeing to partition Poland. Sixteen days after Hitler attacked the western border, the Red Army launched an eastern offensive. The two great powers carved up Poland according to plan and for a while co-existed peacefully, before jumping at each other's throats in 1941. Stalin's attack on Poland orphaned thousands of children,

who were then relocated deep into the Soviet Union, in camps and temporary orphanages where they were often left to die of illness or hunger.

From hell to paradise

In 1941 an amnesty allowing the destitute little refugees to leave the Soviet Union was declared. Some of them eventually found refuge in Mexico, New Zealand and other distant countries, but India was the first state to offer them



The Maharajah Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, 5th May 1933, photo: Forum

shelter. Maharaja Jam Saheb Digvijaysinhji Ranjitsinhji, the ruler of Nawanagar, a princely state in British India, volunteered to provide hundreds of children with a home. As a Hindu delegate to Great Britain's war cabinet, the maharaja was well aware of the international situation at the time, and his generous nature prompted him to immediately come forth with his offer. The children were transported to India by members of Anders' Army (a Polish armed force formed in the Soviet Union after the amnesty), the Red Cross, the Polish consulate in Bombay and British officials.

In early 1942, the first group, 170 orphans, travelled 1,500km in trucks from Ashgabat to Bombay (now Mumbai), from where they went to Balachadi, a small seashore town in north-western India, 25 km from the Maharaja's capital Jamnagar. Compared to the hell they had experienced in the Soviet Union their destination must have seemed like paradise. The maharaja greeted the newcomers with the following words: 'You are no longer orphans. From now on you are Nawangarians, and I am Bapu, father of all Nawangarians, so I'm your father as well'. He built dormitories in which each of them had a separate bed. He also generously provided for the children so that they could study, play and eat to their heart's content.

At the 'Polish' Maharaja's

Between 1942 and 1946 over 600 Polish children found a home in India thanks to the maharaja. They were all provided with food, clothes and medical care. The kind ruler let the guest house of his Balachadi palace be used as a school so that his little protégés could learn to read and



The Maharajah Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, before going to the front, photo: Mary Evans Picture Library / East News



Rescued Polish orphans, photo: Vesper Publishing



Jam Saheb with rescued Polish orphans, photo: Centrum Studiów Polska-Azja

write. A special library with Polish books was set up so that they wouldn't forget their mother tongue. They often staged theatrical plays, which Digvijaysinhji always attended. After the representations 'he would invite the young actors for a festive tea and give them sweets' writes Wiesław Stypula, one of these rescued orphans, in his book *W gościnie u 'polskiego' maharadży* (editor's translation: *At the 'Polish' Maharaja's*). The children also played football, volleyball, grass hockey and even went camping. When the war ended and the orphans had to return to Europe, both the children and the maharaja were heart-broken.

Good Maharaja Square

Digvijaysinhji never requested financial compensation for his grand gesture. His only wish, which he mentioned during a conversation with Polish general Władysław

Sikorski, was to have a street named after him in liberated Poland. Sadly, his dream didn't come true during his lifetime. The communist regime was highly reluctant to recognize the orphans' plight, since it would have shed light on atrocities perpetrated by the Red Army. It was only after the political turn of 1989, when Poland became a fully independent state, that a square in Warsaw was named after Digvijaysinhji. Since 2012, a small park in the city's south-western area of Ochota is called the Square of the Good Maharaja. A monument dedicated to the kind-hearted prince was also erected, and he was posthumously given the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. ■

*Author: Marek Kępa, April 2016,
source: <http://culture.pl/en/article/the-maharaja-who-saved-hundreds-of-polish-orphans>*

HUNGARIAN SECTION

MEGSZÍVLELENDŐ UTAZÁSI TANÁCSOK A-Z-IG

Indiába egyénileg utazóknak Sági Péter indológustól – 1. rész

Fontos elérhetőségek • Általában • Pénzügyek • Poggyász • A szállodában • Az utcán • Közlekedés

Fontos elérhetőségek

India Nagykövetsége Magyarországon — cím: 1025 Budapest, Búzavirág utca 14. (Pusztaszeri körönd közelében); telefon: (00 36 1) 3257742 vagy 3257743; fax: (00 36 1) 3257745; e-mail küldése a honlapon (www.indianembassy.hu) található úrlapon keresztül.

Magyarország Nagykövetsége Új-Delhiben — cím: 2/50-M Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021, India; telefon: (00 91 11) 26114737 vagy 26114738, 26114739, 26114740; fax: (00 91 11) 26886742; e-mail: mission.del@mfa.gov.hu, konzuli osztály: consulate.del@mfa.gov.hu.

További elérhetőségek a honlapon: www.mfa.gov.hu/kulkepvisolet/in/hu.

Magyar állampolgárok vész helyzetben, ha azonnali segítségre szorulnak, éjjelnappal elérhetik a nagykövetség ügyeletét: (00 91) 87 50 30 35 55. Az ügyeleti telefonszámot csak tényleges sürgősségi helyzetben hívja!

Az egyedül utazó hölgyek legyenek éberek. Ezzel együtt India közbiztonsága nagyon jónak mondható, a rablás és

erőszakos bűncselekmények száma a népességhez viszonyítva alacsony. A helyi rendőrség célja segíteni az utazókat, sürgős esetben habozás nélkül forduljunk egy járőrhez.

Delhi Magyar Tájékoztatói és Kulturális Központ — cím: 1/A Janpath, New Delhi 110011; telefon: (00 91 11) 23014992; fax: (00 91 11) 23793161; e-mail: hicc.delhi@gmail.com.

A vezetékes telefonszámok két- vagy háromjegyű körzetszám után nyolc jegyből állnak, a mobiltelefonok számai összesen tízjegyűek. Ha nem vagyunk a körzetben, a szám elé 0-át (vagy a nemzetközi 00 91-et) kell tárcsázni.

Általában

1. Egy jó útiterv összeállítása akár több hétig eltart. Útikönyvek mellett böngésszünk fórumokat is. A www.indiamike.com az indiaiak és külföldiek által egyaránt használt legteljesebb felhasználói felület, ahol az indiai utazás minden mikéntjével megismerkedhetünk, kérdéseinket feltehetjük.
2. Utunkat a tevékeny pihenés és élményszerzés jegyében tervezzük, lehetőleg legkevesebb két vagy három hétre.

Ami a magyaroknak a nyár felszabadultsága – még ha akad is egy-egy kánikulai nap –, és az öt hideg hónap behúzódnása, az elmúlás levertsége – némi havas örömmel –, az az indiaiak számára pontosan fordítva a hűvös évszak jókedve – legyen bár néha fogvacogtató –, s az öt forró hónap tikkasztó, fonnyasztó kedvetlensége – amelyet néha felvidít a lezúduló zápor. Az októbertől márciusig tartó üdülőidényben reggel 9-től az este 6 óra körüli sötétedésig tartó időt tudjuk városnézésre, kültéri tevékenységekre fordítani. Az április vége, május és június eleje rendkívül forró (35–49°C), az esőzés (június vége–szeptember eleje) alatt pedig, bár a hőmérséklet alacsonyabb (30–35°C), de a nagy páratartalom miatt a hőérzet jelentős. Az esős évszak során az északi Dzsammú-Kasmír és a déli Tamilnádu állam látogatása javasolt, ezeket elkerüli az eső. Decembertől február elejéig fűtés hiányában Észak-India nem hegyi területein is igen hideg van (5–10°C), a napos déli órákat leszámítva (20–25°C). Az ilyenkor szokásos sűrű köd csak déltájban száll fel, sokorás késéseket okozva a vonatok közlekedésében.

- Ha szeretnénk valamely környező országot is meglátogatni (ez a legtöbb utazó esetében Néppált jelent), akkor kétszeri vagy többszöri belépésre jogosító indiai vízumot kell kérelmeznünk.
- A mienkétől eltérő kultúrába igyekezzünk a kint tartózkodás során behelyezkedni. Férfiak és nők egyaránt kerüljék a keveset takaró viseleteket, amelyek a tűző napsütésben egyébként is alkalmatlanok. Válasszunk kart és lábat takaró, könnyű pamutruhát. A hölgyek számára célszerű lehet tájékozódni a helyi viseletről és kiegészíteni ruhatárukat azzal (pl. kurti-csúridár, szalvárcamíz), hiszen előnyös, ha a ruha nem csak takar, de úgy takar, ahogy azt a helyi lakosok megszokták. Férfiaknak póló helyett ing, hosszú vászonnadrág javasolt övvel.
- Sok indiai tud – különböző mértékben – angolul, de ezt ne tekintjük magától értetődőnek vagy szükségszerűnek akkor sem, ha nem beszéljük a helyi nyelvet. Előfordulhat, hogy zavarukban alapszavakkal válaszolnak („yes, yes sir”), de valójában nem értik az elhangzottakat.
- Ha útbaigazítást kérünk, ellenőrzésképp feltétlenül többekkel beszéljünk, mert nem szívesen vallják be (egymásnak sem), ha nem emlékeznek jól, így könnyedén félretájékoztathatnak.
- Legyünk nyitottak a környezet különbözőségére, a váratlan helyzeteket szellemességgel fogadjuk. Igyekezzünk előzetes felkészüléssel és a helyiek felé kezdeményező hozzáállással választ találni a minket érdeklő kérdésekre.

- Indiában nem feltétlenül kell szóban köszönetet mondani apróságokért (sukrijá, dhanja-vád, thénk-jú), ellenben köszönjük illedelmesen, illetve a nekünk szóló köszönést ismételjük el: □ hivatalos köszönés: dzsí–namaSZ–kár (áll és ajkak magasságában összetett tenyérrel, fej előre billentésével, de meghajlás nélkül) □ boltba belépve: namaS–kár (távozáskor elég biccenteni) □ fiatalabbaknak: namasz–té (tegeződő alak) □ ha az illető vallása felől nincs kétségünk, muszlimoknak: ádá, ádá, ádá arz vagy asszalámaleekum (válasz: va aleekum-asszalám), szikkheknek pedig: szatszríkál (szat-srí-akál) □ a dél-indiai tamilok köszönése: vanakkam

Pénzügyek

- Saját szervezésben – helyismeret nélkül, de körültekintéssel – egy egyhónapos utazás hozzávetőlegesen két-háromcsillagos színvonalon, a repülőjegyet (Budapest–Delhi, 150–180 ezer Ft), vízumügyintézés és oltásokat (15 és 25 ezer Ft) is beleszámítva nem kell, hogy többé kerüljön személyenként 400 ezer forintnál. Ebből kitűnik, hogy az odajutáshoz képest a kint tartózkodás sokkalta olcsóbb. Kalandvagyók különösebb kényelmetlenség nélkül ennél kevesebből is tervezhetnek. Akinek ideje engedi, három hónapos, vagy akár féléves turistavízumot is igényelhet, a látnivalók pedig aligha fogynak majd el.
- Egy indiai rúpia (INR, Rs, új jele ₹; rupajá, az értelemszerűen gyakoribb többes számban rupaé) mintegy 4 vagy 5 magyar forintot ér (2017), a vásárlóereje azonban egészen más. Az alapvető fogyasztási cikkekhez a magyar utazó a hazainál általában négyszer olcsóbban juthat hozzá. Annak megítélésére, hogy egy eladásra kínált áru ára megfelel-e a helyi átlagnak, szorozzuk meg azt előbb 4-gyel – így megkapjuk, mennyi forintot jelent –, majd megint 4-gyel, hogy a magyar árszínvonalhoz igazítsuk. Ha hazai viszonylatban sem drágállnánk, áll az alku. Természetesen bizonyos cikkek (pl. gyümölcsök) fajlagosan a hazainál többé is kerülhetnek.
- A márkaboltokat leszámítva a legtöbb helyen az alkudozás még mindig a vásárlás fontos része lehet. Ha szeretnénk valamit vásárolni, de nincs ötletünk, mennyi érte a megfelelő összeg, bátran kérdezzünk meg egy rokonszenves járókelőt. Ennek az előzetes értesülésnek a birtokában beszéljünk az árussal, aki akár kétszeres vagy többszörös árról is kezdheti az üzletet. A helyi vásárlóknak is gyakran meg kell a boltost győzniük, hogy a felkínált áru vagy szolgáltatás különböző okoknál fogva nem ér annyit. Gyakran amikor a vevő már-már vásárlás nélkül hagyná el az üzletet, egyezik bele végül az eladó a lealkudott összegbe. Ez a helyi szokások szerves része.
- A gyári csomagolású termékeken hatóságilag szerepel a

legmagasabb fogyasztói ár (MRP). Idegenfogalmi célpontok környékén a mozgó árusok ezt nem mindig tartják be.

5. Dombornyomott, illetve sima magyar betétkártyával a bankautomatákból rendszerint egy összegben 10.000, nagyobb városokban 20.000 rúpiát lehet fölvenni. A tranzakciós díj elég magas (kb. 3000 Ft), ezért igyekezzünk a legnagyobb összeget kivenni. Ugyanakkor a pénzfelvétellel nem kell kockázatot vállalunk azzal, hogy a teljes utazásunkhoz elegendő valutamennyiséget egy összegben végig magunkkal hordozzuk, továbbá megkíméljük magunkat a pénzváltás megszervezésétől. Célszerű némi valutát vinni, abból egy keveset a reptéren, a többit a turistanegyedben átváltani, majd a továbbiakban bankautomatát igénybe venni.
6. Tartsunk magunknál kis címleteket (érme: 1, 2, 5, 10; bankjegy: 10, 20, 50, 100), mert az 500 és 2000 rúpiást legtöbbször magunknak kell felváltani, hogy kis tételeket ki tudjunk fizetni.

Poggyász

1. Általános szabály, hogy ha magunk hordozzuk csomagunkat, akkor ne készítsünk be több holmit, mint amennyit még kényelmesen elbírnak. Egy többhetes, illetve akár több hónapos utazáshoz teljesen elegendő személynként 10-15 kg felszerelés.
2. Az igazán szükséges poggyász: egyheti váltás ruha, két törülköző, piperetasak, orvosságos tasak, elektronikus kiegészítők (nincs szükség átalakító dugaljra), bicska, váltás papucs vagy szandál. Évszaknak megfelelően esernyő vagy pulóver, helyben beszerezhető nagy meleg kendő.
3. Zárt cipőre szinte egyáltalán nincs szükség (a hegyekben sem), sőt az északi hideg idő kivételével még előnytelen is; válasszunk helyette kényelmes és elegáns bőrből való szandált.
4. A hátizsáknál sokkal jobb szolgálatot tesz egy kilógó – így sérülékeny – részek nélküli kézitáska. Nem kell hosszú ideig kézben hordozni, szálláshelyünket vagy egy csomagmegőrzőt elérve, ezt hátrahagyva tervezzük az adott hely felfedezését. Ha valaki szeretne kevésbé kitűnni a tömegből, annak a hátizsák és övtáska nem célszerű megoldás, Indiában ugyanis csak igen ritkán lehet találkozni ezekkel. A zsebek mellett értékeinket tehetjük egy ing alatti, nyakból lelógó tasakba.
5. Egy indiai út nem kíméli ruháinkat (foltok, szakadás). Az esőzés idejét leszámítva a legtöbb szálláshelyen vagy közelében reggel leadva már estére kimosathatjuk a szennyeset, azonban ne a legkedvesebb darabjainkat

vigyük magunkkal, mivel a mosás gyakran nem kíméletes, egy hosszabb út alatt a ruhák színe fakulni fog.

6. Férfiaknak fölösleges borotvakészletet bekészíteni. Indiában bármelyik borbély gyorsan, megbízhatóan és szépen elvégzi a műveletet helyettünk 30 rúpia körüli összegért, rövid arcmasszázzsal egybekötve. A pengét természetesen a szemünk láttára cserélik ki.

A szállodában

1. A repülőn bevándorlási nyomtatványunkon meg kell adni első szálláshelyünket, így feltétlenül készüljünk egy címmel, még akkor is, ha nem ott szállunk meg végül. Készítsünk fénymásolatot úti okmányunkról, így elkerülhető, hogy rendszeresen ki kelljen adni azt kezünkől fénymásolás céljára. Néhány szállásadó ugyanakkor ragaszkodik a személyes másolathoz.
2. Szállásdíjak (2017) várostól, a hely fekvésétől és kedveltségétől, árversenytől függően: □ olcsó: ₹200–1000, átlagosan 500; légkondicionálással 700–900; □ közép: ₹1000–2000, átlagosan 1500. Ha vasúttal utazunk, szabad szoba esetén érkező vagy induló vonatjegy birtokában is jogosultak vagyunk igénybe venni a vasútállomás szállását egy vagy két éjszakára. Ezek képviselik a legjobb ár-érték arányt. A szobák tiszták, néha nagy belmagassággal és eredeti régi bútorokkal, továbbá a központban szállhatunk meg a poggyász szállítása nélkül. Keressük az állomáson a “वशिरामालय, 4 वशिराम कक्ष” vagy “Retiring room” feliratot. Az IRCTC révén a szobák egy hányada számos nagyvárosban már a vonatjeggyel együtt lefoglalható (ld. alább). Ha valahol csak átutazóban vagyunk, érkező vagy induló vonatjegyünkkel elenyésző díj ellenében igénybe vehetjük a szinte minden állomáson megtalálható, biztonságos csomagmegőrzőt (“अमानती सामान घर”, “Cloak room”). Csomagunkon, jelképesen még a hátizsákon is, kötelező lakatot elhelyezni. Nagyobb értékű természetesen ne hagyjunk a leadott poggyászban.
3. A legtöbb városban nem szükséges előre szobát foglalni, az idegenforgalmi negyedekben számos lehetőség kínálkozik; ellenben mindig nézzük meg a szobát, mielőtt igent mondunk.
4. Vélts vagy valós biztonsági okokból az útikönyvekben évek óta ismétlődő olcsó szálláshelyek egy része már nem fogad külföldieket, mert a rendőrségi bejelentés a szállásadóra külön terhet ró. Ilyenkor a szállásadók akkor is teltházra hivatkoznak, ha ez valószínűtlennek látszik. Ilyen esetben érdeklődjünk máshol vagy másik negyedben!
5. Előkelő szállodák kivételével poggyászsunkat magunk vigyük a szobába, de ha ezt egy alkalmazott kérés nélkül megteszi helyettünk, nem vagyunk kötelesek

ellentételezni, akkor sem, ha erre utalást tesz. Ne is vegyük azonban rossz néven.

- India meleg égövi ország. Olcsó, ám nem alacsony színvonalú szálláshelyeken meleg víz általában vagy csak reggel, illetve külön kérésre, vagy pedig nem lesz. Kisebb településeken zuhanyzó nincs mindig, az indiaiak vagyoni helyzetre való tekintet nélkül a korsóval, ülte történő fürdést részesítik előnyben.
- A mellékhelyiségben mindig ellenőrizzük, hogy van-e víz a csapban. A felső kategóriás szálláshelyeket leszámítva ritkán találunk toalettpapírt. Helyette sok esetben az ülőkébe van építve egy fűvóka, vagy van zuhanycső – a nem angol változat esetén is egy vizeskancsó – kéznél.
- Az olcsóbb szálláshelyeken a lepedő és párnahuzat foltos lehet, de ez nem jelenti szükségszerűen azt, hogy mosatlan. Törülköző nem mindig jár.

Az utcán

- Az úttesten való átkelésnél mindig, mindkét irányban szét kell nézni, mert bárhol lehet a fogalommal szemben haladó jármű. A kanyarodó járművek mindig és kizárólag a gyalogos előtt kanyarodnak el akkor is, ha az már az úttest közepén jár.
- Figyeljünk az értékeinkre.
- Mindig kerüljük a csatornafedeleket.
- A sokak számára megszokást igénylő utcazajt az irányjelző lámpa helyetti dudaszó okozza.
- Ne felejtjük pillantásunkat az embereken, mert vizionozni fogják. Készüljünk fel elesett emberek látványára is a forgalmas csomópontok körül. Kerüljük az önjelölt idegenvezetőket. Kézmozdulatok helyett használjunk szavakat a látottak leírására.
- Csak kivételes esetben adjunk alamizsnát; ha segíteni szeretnénk, támogassunk egy megfelelő alapítványt. A

koldusgyerekeket, különösen, ha az utazó kezét is megfogják, határozott, de azért nem túl hangos szóval küldjük el („csall!”, „hatt!”).

- A száraz éghajlat miatti szálló por (és a hely függvényében a légszennyezettség) hatására az emberek gyakran köpnek. A vörös köpet nem vértől, hanem a szájrüssítőként fogyasztott pántól nyeri színét. Az orrfújás illetlenségnek számít, a szípotgás és krakogás nem.

Közlekedés

Repülő

- Magyarországról legkönnyebben Delhibe repülhetünk. Az ígért közvetlen Budapest–Mumbai járat még nem valósult meg. Az elmúlt években az Aeroflot, FinnAir, Qatar és Turkish Airl. kínálta a legolcsóbb repülőjegyeket. Érdeemes előre foglalni, több tízezer forintot takaríthatunk meg így.
- Az elmúlt években rohamos ütemben fejlődött a légi közlekedés, most már számos társaság – mint az IndiGo, SpiceJet, Jet Airways, GoAir és AirAsia – kínálja kedvező árú szolgáltatásait Indián belül és a környező országokba is.
- Delhiben a városközponttal és idegenforgalmi negyeddel szomszédos Új-delhi pályaudvart gyorsmetró köti össze a reptérrel, de az éjszakai órákban – amikor a metró szünetel – igénybe vehetjük a Kasmíri-kapu buszállomáshoz közlekedő városi buszt, amely érinti a Connaught Place-t (Rádzsív Csauk) és az Új-delhi vasútállomást. Csennaiban az Egmore és Central pályaudvarokhoz közlekedő HÉV és az új metró közvetlenül a reptér előtt halad el (Tiruszúlám megálló).
- A hivatalos reptéri taxiálláson előre megváltott jeggyel a nagyvárosok egyikében sem kerülhet a reptéri transzfer többé 300–500 rúpiánál (a távolság és napszak függvényében).

A következő részt a magazin február-márciusi számában olvashatják. ■

एक प्रश्न

किधर हैं हम स्वर्ग के वृक्षों से
धूल होने लगे हैं हम अपने
जगत के गर्वीले पक्षी की चोंच में।
लहर जम रही है,
धड़कन और गरगराहट थक-थम रही हैं,

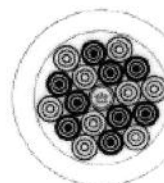
साक्षियाँ दरक रही हैं।
कहीं से भी
आ सकता है वाक्य?
कहीं से भी?

–यानोश पिलिंस्की

AZ INDIAI KARAMBOL JÁTÉK

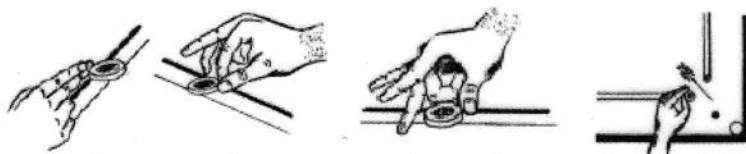
1. A JÁTÉKOT KETTEN VAGY NÉGYEN JÁTSZHATJÁTOK, AZ ELLENFELEK EGYMÁSSAL SZEMBEN HELYEZKEDJENEK EL. AZ EGYIKNEK FEKETE, A MÁSIKNAK FEHÉR KORONGJAI VANNAK.

2. A PIROS KORONGOT HELYEZZÉTEK KÖZÉPRE, ÉS KÖRÉJE AZ ÁBRA SZERINT TEGYÉTEK FEL A 9 FEKETE ÉS 9 FEHÉR KORONGOT!



3. MINDIG A FEHÉR KEZD! AKI KEZD, FOGJA MEG A KÉK KORONGOT EZ A CSATÁR ÉS TEGYE LE AZ ELŐTTE LÉVŐ PIROS KÖRÖKKEL HATÁROLT SÁVON BÁRHOVÁ. ERRÓL A SÁVRÓL SOHA NEM LÓGHAT KI A CSATÁR!. MIUTÁN LETETTED A CSATÁRT, EGY HATÁROZOTT PÖCKÖLÉSSSEL CÉLOZD MEG A KORONGOKAT, ÚGY HOGY AZOK MINÉL TÁVOLABB KERÜLTJENEK EGYMÁSTÓL!

4. LEHETSÉGES PÖCKÖLÉSI TECHNIKÁK:



5. A KÖVETKEZŐ JÁTÉKOS FOGJA MEG ISMÉT A CSATÁRT, ÉS A SÁVJÁRÓL PRÓBÁLJA MEG ELTALÁLNI A SAJÁT KORONGJÁT ÚGY, HOGY LEHETŐLEG BELETALÁLJON A NÉGY LYUK EGYIKÉBE. HA EZ SIKERÜLT, AKKOR VEDD KI A KORONGOT ÉS TEDD MAGAD ELÉ. ADDIG PRÓBÁLKOZHATSZ, AMÍG NEM TÉVESZTESZ.

6. A PIROS KORONGOT, AZAZ A KIRÁLYNÖT AKKOR LÖHETED BE, HA MÁR BELÖTTÉL LEGALÁBB EGY KORONGOT A SAJÁTODBÓL, DE MÉG NEM LÖTTED BE AZ UTOLSÓT. HA SIKERÜLT IS BELÖNÖD A KIRÁLYNÖT, CSAK AKKOR TARTHATOD MEG, HA UTÁNA BELŐSZ MÉG EGYET A SAJÁTODBÓL, NYERTÉL, MÉG AKKOR IS, HA AZ ELLENFELEDNEK MÁR EGYETLEN KORONGJA SINCS! HA EZ NEM SIKERÜLT, A PIROSAT VISSZA KELL TENNED A TÁBLA KÖZEPÉRE. HA BELÖTTED AZ UTOLSÓ KORONGODAT A PIROS ELŐTT, VESZÍTETTÉL.

7. HA A CSATÁR NEM ÉR KORONGOT A LÖVÉSNÉL, JÖHET A KÖVETKEZŐ. HA NEM SIKERÜLT ELLŐNI A CSATÁRT, MÉG KÉTSZER PRÓBÁLKOZHATSZ. HA BELÖTTED A CSATÁRT, VISSZA KELL TENNED EGY KORONGODAT KÖZÉPRE. HA UGYANAZZAL A LÖVÉSSSEL EGY MÁSIK KORONGOT IS BELÖTTÉL, AKKOR KÉTSZER KIMARADSZ. HA AZ ELLENFELED KORONGJÁT LÖTTED BE, EGYSZER KIMARADSZ. HA AZ UTOLSÓ KORONGJA VOLT, ELVESZÍTETTED A JÁTSZMÁT. HA KIESETT EGY BÁBU A TÁBLÁRÓL, TEGYÉTEK VISSZA KÖZÉPRE.

HAMPI



Hampi is a village and temple town recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, listed as the *Group of Monuments at Hampi* in northern Karnataka, India. It was one of the richest and largest cities in the world during its prime. It is located within the ruins of the city of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. Predating the city of Vijayanagara, Hampi continues to be an important religious centre, housing the Virupaksha Temple and several other monuments belonging to the old city. According to statistics of 2014, Hampi is the most searched historical place in Karnataka on Google. The empire boasted a massive army comprising close to two million men. In around 1500 AD Vijayanagar had about 500,000 inhabitants (supporting 0.1% of the global population during 1440-1540), making it the second largest city in the world after Beijing and almost thrice the size of Paris.

Emperor Ashoka's Rock Edicts in Nittur & Udegolan (both in Bellary district) suggest that this region was part of the Maurya Empire during the 3rd century BC. A Brahmi inscription and a terracotta seal dating to the 2nd century CE were also recovered from the excavation site. The first settlements in Hampi date from 1 CE.

Hampi was one of the best areas of the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire from 1343 to 1565, when it was besieged by the Deccan Muslim confederacy. Hampi was chosen because of its strategic location, bounded by the torrential Tungabhadra river on one side and surrounded by defensible hills on the other three sides.

The ruins of Hampi were discovered by Colonel Colin Mackenzie in 1800.

The site is significant historically and architecturally. The landscape abounds with large stones which have been used to make statues of Jaina deities. The Archaeological Survey of India continues to conduct excavations in the area to search for additional artifacts and temples.

Hampi is situated on the banks of the Tungabhadra River. Hosapete (Hospet), 13 km away, is the nearest railway head. The principal industries of the village are agriculture, the support of the Virupaksha temple and some other local holy places in the vicinity, as well as tourism. The annual Hampi Utsav or "*Vijaya Festival*" celebrated since Vijayanagara reign. It is organized by the Government of Karnataka as *Nada Festival*.

The extant monuments of Vijayanagara or Hampi can be divided into Religious, Civil & Military buildings. The Jain temples on Hemakuta hill, the two Devi shrines and some other structures in the Virupaksha temple complex predate the Vijayanagara Empire. The earliest amongst them, the Shiva shrines with their stepped pyramidal vimanas or superstructures, date to the early Chalukyan period around ninth-tenth century AD.

Hampi has various notable Hindu temples with some vedanta theology inside the temples, some of which are still active places of worship. Vittala Temple Complex is perhaps the most famous and well-known among the ruins of Hampi. The iconic stone chariot in the vicinity of this temple complex is a symbol of Karnataka Tourism.

Non-profit organization Global Heritage Fund (GHF), in partnership with the Hampi Foundation, Cornell University, and the State of Karnataka, has been actively involved in the conservation of Hampi's unique cultural heritage.

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The Embassy of India, Hungary
1025 Budapest Búzavirág utca 14, Hungary
Telephone Numbers: (36-1) 325-7742, (36-1) 325-7743
Fax Number: (36-1) 325-7745
Website: www.indianembassy.hu