

Welcome Remarks

by



Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia

Director General, ICWA

at

Eighth Sapru House Lecture

by

H.E. (Dr.) Viktor Orban

Prime Minister of Hungary

on

‘Hungary and Europe in a Changing World’

at

New Delhi

17 October, 2013

H. E. (Dr.) Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, Smt. Preet Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, Ambassador S.K. Lambah, Special Envoy, Prime Minister's Office, and former Ambassador to Hungary and Chairperson for today's event, Mr. Mihaly Varga, Minister for National Economy, Hungary, Mr. Zoltan Balogh, Minister for Human Resources, Hungary, Mr. Peter Szijjarto, State Secretary for Foreign and External Economic Relations, PM's Office, Hungary, H.E. (Dr.) Janos Terenyi, Ambassador of Hungary to India,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of ICWA, the oldest and a highly prestigious foreign policy think tank of India, I extend a warm welcome to all of you to the Eighth Sapru House Lecture. We are delighted and honoured that H.E. (Dr.) Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, has agreed to deliver the lecture entitled "Hungary and Europe in a Changing World".



(L-R) H.E. (Dr.) Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary and Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA

2. ICWA was established for research, discussion and exchange of ideas on the issues of foreign policy and global affairs before our independence. A group of eminent intellectuals and leaders of the country including Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, provided crucial contributions for the establishment of the ICWA. With the status of an 'institution of national importance' bestowed on it by the Parliament of India, ICWA has been constantly engaged in fundamental research, academic interactions and outreach activities. Contemporary foreign policy themes are reflected in its work such as Delhi Dialogue, Conferences on India-Africa relations, Latin America and Caribbean Initiative and the Sapru House Lecture Series.

3. This lecture series is dedicated to the founding fathers of the ICWA. Since its inception in August 2012, eminent scholars and foreign dignitaries have delivered the lectures under this series. Today we are honored and privileged by the gracious presence of H.E. Prime Minister (Dr.) Viktor Orbán and look forward to his lecture.

4. It is a great honor for us that Smt. Preeti Kaur, Minister of State for External Affairs, has accepted our invitation to give her special remarks. We are grateful to Ambassador S.K. Lambah, Special Envoy, Prime Minister's Office and former Ambassador to Hungary, for agreeing to chair this session. We are also thankful to H.E. (Dr.) Janos Terenyi, Ambassador of Hungary to India for his kind support.

5. Today, it is an appropriate moment to recall India's interaction with Europe. Our centuries-old historical, cultural and economic linkages retain huge importance in our contemporary foreign policy discourse. Our worldview of a multi-polar order is founded on democratic principles and ethos. India recognizes the remarkable success of European integration process and emergence of the EU as a prominent economic power and an important global actor in the world politics. It considers that a multi-polar world order is helpful for India-EU relations and it seeks to address the global challenges on the basis of effective multilateralism. As the world is moving fast on the swirling wave of globalization, our endeavors for free trade, scientific cooperation, peace and security are further strengthened. In the promotion of knowledge economy, India and Europe are significant partners.

6. A close and cordial relationship with Hungary has always been one of the important planks of India's policy towards Europe. Our countries share a multi-faceted partnership since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948. Both have striven for stable multi-polar global order. India-Hungary relations are widening in many realms, and our peoples take immense interest in the arts and culture of each other.

7. Both India and the EU have been experiencing transformation in their external policies today. We look forward to listening to the Prime Minister on the changing dynamics of European politics, economy and foreign policy.

8. H.E. (Dr.) Viktor Orbán has been the Prime Minister of Hungary since May 2010. He served in the same august position from 1998 to 2002. As Head of Government, he has been endeavoring to secure improvement in public health and education system in the country. His economic policy has been aimed at promoting inclusive development and economic growth. The



H. E. (Dr.) Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, delivering the lecture

Prime Minister has also worked for significant economic and administrative reform. Prior to joining politics, he had an illustrious academic career. He attended Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest and the Pembroke College, Oxford University. He has received numerous awards, including the Freedom Award of the American Enterprise Institute, the Polak Award and the Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit.

9. On behalf of the Chair, may I now invite the honorable Minister of State to deliver her special remarks. After this, Hon'ble Prime Minister is requested to deliver his lecture. The Chair will conduct the proceedings interactive segment and give his concluding remarks.
