



**PRÍHOVOR PREZIDENTA SR
na slávnostnej ceremónii
udelenia čestného titulu doctor honoris causa
prezidentke Indickej republiky Droupadi Murmu**

Nitra, 10. 4. 2025

Dear Madam President, Your Excellencies,
Honorable Rector of the University, Distinguished University Representatives,
Dear Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

thank you for the invitation to your esteemed university. It is a sincere pleasure to be here for the awarding of the honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa to the President of the Republic of India, Mrs. Droupadi Murmu - a distinguished leader and steadfast advocate for social justice, women's rights, and linguistic diversity. I regard the official visit of Madam President to Slovakia as a meaningful milestone in the growing and dynamic relationship between our two countries.

At the heart of this relationship lies our shared commitment to progress - our mutual dedication to build partnerships that deliver lasting and tangible benefits across key areas such as innovation, culture and scientific exchange.

Dear Madam President,

you lead a country that is transforming into a global economic powerhouse right before our eyes. This reflects not only a remarkable pace of economic growth, but also an impressive ability to adept to the challenges of today. To be among the best means mastering the digitalization of both the economy and society, leveraging innovation and employing artificial intelligence to serve your need. I am deeply impressed by the remarkable strides that modern India is making as it transforms into a nation that simultaneously honours its rich and millennia-old traditions while boldly envisioning and shaping its future.

This transformation goes far beyond the scope of a political agenda limited to a single electoral term. It represents a profound civilizational leap forward.

Fulfilling such a mission requires the ability to recognize it as a true priority - to place the interests of the nation and its people above all.

In today's world, progress and development must be firmly anchored in the advancement of education and its accessibility, as well as in the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens. Your own inspiring life journey stands as living proof of this truth. You represent a story of a remarkable woman who became the first in her community to earn a university degree and who ultimately rose to the highest constitutional office in the country.

It also reflects the story of a nation with great potential that is steadily building its presence on the global stage.

Your path has also brought you to a deep understanding: True national development is not measured only by positive statistics, but by the genuine well-being of its people. It means peace and security. And it also means the elimination of social inequality and all forms of discrimination, including cultural and linguistic.

In 2003, your native language, Santali, was officially recognized in the Constitution of India. On that occasion, you reminded the world that a tribe or a nation endures through its language, culture and traditions.

We Slovaks deeply relate to this truth, confirmed by our own history.

The University and the city of Nitra, where we gather today are closely tied to a defining moment in our national heritage. It was the era of Great Moravia and the enduring legacy of the Thessalonian brothers, Saints Cyril and Methodius. Their arrival in the year eight hundred sixty-three marked the foundations of our Christian culture, as well as the birth of our language and script.

These are the deep historical roots from which our modern statehood continues to grow.

Dear Madam President,

only knowledge rooted in the values of humanity, justice, equality, solidarity, and the pursuit of common good can become a true wisdom. In the best case, it can become the wisdom of statesmanship.

This is particularly relevant in today's world, where much cynicism and hatred infiltrate the public space, and where international relations are challenged by conflicts in various parts of the globe.

The world urgently needs leaders like you.

It is my great honour to offer my sincere congratulations to you on receiving the honorary doctorate from Constantine the Philosopher University. I wish you continued success in all your future endeavours.

I firmly believe that today's ceremony, along with your official visit to the Slovak Republic, will inspire and further encourage the cooperation and friendship between our countries.

Thank you!

