

Rabindra Sandhya
Tagore Dance and Music Group

21 November 2021
Stockholm

Brief Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Good evening everyone.

May I first of all thank the Tagore Dance and Music Group for inviting me to this special event this evening.

It is wonderful to join Rabindra Sandhya in Stockholm. And very heartening to see this celebration in Sweden.

It is also very appropriate as Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was and remains an international icon.

He was not only a versatile and prolific poet, novelist and artist, but also a philosopher and a social reformer.

This year marks 100 years since his first visit to Sweden.

A few years earlier in 1913, he became the first non-European to be awarded the Nobel Prize, even before the World War I.

This was a time when India was still a colony.

Tagore came from an illustrious and creative family. He was a leader of cultural renaissance.

He lived in a time of religious reform, literary revolution and national freedom movement.

He was influenced by the Vaishnav poets of medieval Bengal, the Bengali folk music and Indian classical music heritage.

He visited a number of countries in different continents. He brought the east and the west closer.

He is the only person in the world whose compositions were later adopted as their national anthem by two nations – India and Bangladesh.

He was indeed a man of many talents, an inspirational figure in India and abroad.

Once again may I thank you for this invitation and look forward to the program put together by the Indian and Swedish artists today.