

## **Bengali New Year**

Bengali Association of Gothenburg

30 April 2022

### **Remarks**

**Ambassador Tanmaya Lal**

Namaskar,  
Shubho Noboborsho,

I would like to thank the Bengali Association of Gothenburg for inviting me to address this special event to celebrate Bengali New Year here in Sweden.

Although the temperatures have already become very warm in India, here in Sweden Spring is in the air.

I see that people are enjoying beautiful cherry blossoms both in Stockholm and Gothenburg.

Gothenburg remains a very important port and a trade and manufacturing hub in this region.

Three hundred years ago, Swedish ships sailed out of Gothenburg to pursue trade with the East.

That trade contributed to the success and prosperity of the port city and science and arts also flourished.

Today there are extensive business linkages between this region and India.

I understand that you have put together an interesting cultural programme for this evening.

It is good to see that the programme also reflects the diversity of Indian cultural traditions.

Tagore's songs will of course be a highlight.

Tagore visited Sweden nearly a hundred years ago in 1921. He had earlier been awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913. He was the first Asian to be a Nobel Laureate.

Tagore was an iconic Ambassador for India.

Today, all of you also represent India.

You represent India's youth and dynamism, talent and professionalism to your Swedish and other colleagues and friends and those around you.

Earlier this year Foreign Minister Ann Linde gave a special video message on the occasion of our Republic Day on 26 January.

It was very encouraging to see that she made a special mention of the Indian Diaspora and their contribution.

I would like to thank all of you for the good work that you do here.

Best wishes for today's event to all of you.

Best wishes for the year ahead.

Thank you.