

Tagore Award
Stockholm International School

Stockholm
11 June 2024

Remarks by Ambassador

Tanmaya Lal

Thank you for inviting us to partner your 'End of Year' event.

Many congratulations to all the students, their teachers and parents and the entire staff of the school.

Our embassy and the Stockholm International School have known each other for a number of years now. And, we are happy to be associated with the issuance of the Creativity Award for Grade 10 students at the school.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Lucas Abramson for winning the Tagore Award for Creativity for 2024. I would also like to compliment all the students who participated in this process.

Young minds are curious and creative. This creativity is expressed in many different forms. In literature, in music and arts, in science.

Sweden is known for innovation and creativity. In science, in engineering, in arts and music. India too has flourished in creativity and innovation through ages.

I do not know how familiar are you with India. India or Bharat is an ancient civilization and is today a modern young nation that is developing fast in all fields. India is one-sixth of humanity and also represents the mega diversity of humanity. Today India is the 5th largest economy in the world.

Some of you may know that world's largest ever democratic elections have just been completed in India. More than 970 million people were eligible to vote. More than 640 million people voted. There were more than one million polling booths. And, all the voting was done with more than 5 million electronic voting machines. So, there is a very strong and deep-rooted tradition of democracy in India.

Indian civilization is known for pathbreaking advances in mathematics, metallurgy, astronomy, surgery, shipping, steel making etc. You may know that the concept of Zero has origins in India as does Algebra.

At the same time, ancient epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata continue to have international appeal. Yoga and Ayurveda are practised globally.

Last August, Indian spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 went to the Moon with Vikram Lander landing on the Lunar surface and Pragyaan Rover driving around on the Moon. This was made possible by thousands of Indian engineers, young men and women working together as a team.

Indian engineers are working in Sweden also. In space, designing electric planes, hybrid steel, green batteries, IT and in artificial intelligence.

The Creativity award is named after Rabindranath Tagore who remains an iconic figure. He was a polymath, a great scholar and philosopher; a poet, an author, a painter, a music composer among other talents. His creativity knew no bounds.

He remains one of the most prominent personalities that brought India and Sweden together more than a century ago. He was the first Asian to be awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913. He later visited Stockholm and Uppsala. There is a statue of Tagore at the Uppsala University.

Tagore travelled widely and discussed many issues with leading figures of his time including scientists such as Albert Einstein, artists, philosophers and politicians. He was a great advocate of human values and global peace.

Remarkably, his compositions have been adopted as National Anthems of two countries – India and Bangladesh.

Tagore remains an inspirational figure. I would encourage you to read and find out more about him if you can.

I once again congratulate all of you and especially Lucas Abramson.

I wish you Happy Mid-summer holidays. And the very best for the next term at School.

Thank you.