

Stockholm Sangeet Festival

2 October 2021

Stockholm

Remarks

Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

- Namaskar. Greetings everyone.
- Thank you for this invitation to join you
- Many congratulations to the organizers of this cultural event
- This is a result of passion and hardwork. It is not easy to bring together such a large number of accomplished artists together at one stage
- I compliment Stockholm Sangeet Festival for their initiatives
- I understand that the appreciation for Indian Classical music and dance continues to grow in Sweden.
- As you all know, the Indian Classical music tradition goes back millenia and has evolved by absorbing from influences along the way
- I understand that the Stockholm Sangeet Festival is now completing 15 years. It is a commendable journey and I wish them many more milestones. It is wonderful to see that the participation has expanded beyond Stockholm to artists from other Swedish cities and beyond Sweden.
- Among the early exposures to Indian Classical Dance in Sweden was through Lilavati Häger who made Sweden her home and also received Royal Commendation.
- In 1998, legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar was awarded Polar Prize by His Majesty.
- As you are aware, India Classical Music has a deep meditative or spiritual quality to it.
- Lord Krishna is a wonderful musician, enchanting everyone with his flute. He is also a graceful dancer. His stories are told beautifully through various musical traditions for instance Baul in Gengal or through classical dance forms – the Manipuri, Kuchipudi, Odissi or Bharatnatyam.
- It has close connection to nature, seasons and times of the day. Different Raga convey different moods and contemplation.
- It has been handed down over generations through a strong oral tradition.

- The Indian Classical Dance also carries deep symbolic meanings. For instance, one can discover multiple layers of cosmic wisdom and meanings through the eternal dance of Shiva as Nataraja.
- Krishna and other stories from ancient epics find expression in various Indian Classical dance forms.
- While its origins remain a subject of speculation and scientific exploration, this human creative pursuit is an aspect that defines and enriches all cultures.
- Music through different arrangement of notes evokes emotions, which transcend cultures, languages and borders.
- In the Indian tradition, the origin of music can be traced back to the primordial sound; and music and dance are integral to spiritual pursuit.