

Indian Afternoon

Uppsala
23 April 2022

Remarks Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Namaskar,
Good Afternoon!

Hon. Municipal Commissioner Ms. Linda Eskilsson,
Distinguished Audience,

I would like to thank Ms. Suranjana Ghosh for inviting me here for this Indian Afternoon.

It is always great to visit Uppsala. A city that has such a special place in the story of Sweden. A spiritual centre and an academic hub.

And a city that has special links with India as the place where the Indology tradition commenced in Sweden two hundred years ago.

I have seen the remarkable carving of Sanskrit verses from the ancient Indian epic Mahabharata on a rock here in Uppsala by Prof Otto Tullberg.

And I have a picture in my office of India's first Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore visiting Uppsala a hundred years ago.

Today's evening is also special since this venue is an historic landmark.

So, it is great to join all of you for an afternoon of Indian classical music and dance in Uppsala.

As many of you are aware, the Indian classical music and dance tradition goes back millennia and has evolved by absorbing influences along a long journey.

The Indian classical tradition has a deep meditative or spiritual aspect to it.

The Indian classical music is connected to nature, to seasons and to times of the day. Different ragas convey different moods, emotions and contemplation.

The Indian classical dance too carries deeper symbolic meanings and interpretations. For instance, one can discover multiple layers of cosmic wisdom and meanings through the eternal dance of Shiva as Nataraja.

In the Indian tradition the origin of music can be traced back to the primordial sound. At the CERN headquarters in Geneva, the European centre for nuclear research that houses the famous particle accelerator, India's gift is a bronze sculpture of Shiva as the Nataraja,

whose dance represents the myriad aspects of the eternal cosmic life cycles of creation, sustenance and destruction.

In the Indian mythology, Lord Krishna is also a wonderful musician who enchants everyone with his flute. He is also a graceful dancer.

Krishna's and other stories from ancient epics find expression in various Indian classical music and dance forms.

Music and dance are indeed great Ambassadors in a connected world.

It is heartening to meet connoisseurs of Indian classical music and dance here in Sweden.

We hope to continue all efforts to facilitate such exchanges and opportunities.

And we now look forward to an afternoon of recitals by all the wonderful talented artistes and their students.

Thank You.