

UTSAV
Alen School of Indian Dances
9 June 2022

Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Excellencies,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

Good evening,

May I first of all express our special thanks to all the Ambassadors and senior diplomat colleagues who have joined us here this evening.

Thanks also to the Alen School of Indian Dances for the excellent work that they have been doing and for organising today's event.

Today's event, Utsav, is special as it celebrates the spirit of India in the 75th year of our Independence. It celebrates India's civilizational heritage in the form of dance and festivals.

Diversity is what defines India. And the performances today will offer a glimpse into the diversity of traditions and cultures within India.

In India the classical dance and music tradition goes back millennia. And it has evolved absorbing various influences along the way.

The ancient text of *Natyashastra*, which goes back to around 2,000 years, is the earliest text describing various aspects of dance. It also shows the longstanding centrality of dance in the Indian culture.

The Indian classical dance draws its inspiration from divine forms and philosophy and carries deep symbolic meanings.

One can discover multiple layers of cosmic wisdom and meanings through the eternal dance of Lord Shiva as the Nataraja.

This dance represents the myriad aspects of the cosmic lifecycles of creation, sustenance and destruction which is followed again by renewal.

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 such as Ramayana or Mahabharata find expression in various Indian classical dance forms.

India's mega diversity of faiths, languages, cultures, geographies, climates also means that the 1.3 billion Indians get to celebrate a wide variety of festivals throughout the year.

We hope that we can share some of this excitement of Indian dances and festivals here this evening with all of you.

I once again thank the Alen School of Indian Dance and now look forward to this evening's Utsav - the celebration of Indian dance and festivals.

Best wishes,

Thank You.
