

Låt Tablan tala
Let the Tabla Speak
TV Documentary on Suranjana Ghosh
Uppsala
14 October 2023

Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Mr. Bernhardsson
Ms. Ferngren

May I thank the **Uppsala Kommun** for this invitation. It is wonderful to join all of you this evening.

This is a unique recognition of remarkable talent & journey of Suranjanaji.

I have had the **opportunity to hear the magic of Tabla taals and sounds** played by **Suranjanaji** on several occasions. Both as a **solo** artiste and as a **group**.

I am always struck by her **simplicity** and **disarming personality**.

At the same time, it is **amazing to see her mastery** over this beautiful instrument and the pure **joy and intensity** with which she plays Tabla.

Those who are familiar with Indian classical music would know of its **deep meditative and spiritual quality**.

In the **Indian tradition, Lord Shiva as Nataraja** is visualised as holding a **Damaru**, which is a small **percussion** instrument, whose **sound symbolises the primordial sound** that **created the universe**.

The **Taalas or musical meters** go back to **ancient Vedic texts** in the Indian tradition.

It is great to see the **Tabla rhythms flourishing here in Sweden**.

Suranjanaji **not only plays classical** music but many different **styles**, including folk and jazz. Last month hundreds of visitors enjoyed her latest experiment at **Namaste Stockholm** w Swedish artistes.

Experiencing such musical collaboration between Indian and Swedish artistes is simply beautiful.

This TV **documentary** on Ms. Suranjana, **who has made Sweden her home** is special in many ways.

This is a **landmark year** for India and Sweden as we celebrate **75 years** of our diplomatic relations. Our **people-to-people contacts**, business and academic linkages go much further back.

It is also significant that this event is taking place in **Uppsala**, the home of Indology studies in Sweden.

It is also **great to see Suranjanaji pass on her Tabla heritage** to the next generation here in Sweden.

Her journey from Siliguri to Uppsala and to musical greatness is inspirational.

Our complements to the team that has produced this **valuable** documentary on a **story of a musical bridge** across distant lands.

Such endeavours are highly needed in today's world, especially in **these challenging times**, as they **reach out** to so many people and contribute to **mutual understanding, overcoming stereotypes** and **building genuine friendships**.

Once again thank you for this **beautiful initiative**.