



सत्यमेव जयते

**High Commission of India
Dhaka**

Press Release

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka paid its tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore with online events on Rabindra Jayanti on 08/05/2020 on facebook page of IGCC- www.facebook.com/IndiraGandhiCulturalCentre/



Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Dhaka paid its tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore with online events on Rabindra Jayanti on 08/05/2020

A Webinar was organized on “Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore:- a ray of hope through Tagore’s philosophy”. The webinar included welcome remarks by Smt. Riva Ganguly Das, High Commissioner of India, Dhaka. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe (President, ICCR) and Guest speakers were Professor Fakrul Alam (Academician and translator of the **book written by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – The Unfinished Memoirs**), Professor Dr. Vidyut Chakrabarty (Vice Chancellor, Visva Bharati University), Professor Dr. Bishwajit Ghosh (Vice Chancellor, Rabindra University Bangladesh) and Professor Dr. Radha Chakravarty (Academician and writer).

Dr. Sahasrabuddhe remembered Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose birth centenary year, we are observing. He said “Bangabandhu had paid rich tributes to Rabindranath Tagore in 1972, when independent Bangladesh first observed Tagore’s Birth Anniversary. In a message, Bangabandhu had said that- “Bangalees have proved their love for Rabindranath Tagore by sacrificing their blood. They have established the right to study Rabindranath’s literature in Bangladesh by liberating the Bangalee nation. This is the best tribute ever paid to Kabiguru!” “

Dr Sahasrabuddhe highlighted the various aspects of Tagore's Philosophy along with a phrase by Tagore in his book- *The Centre of Indian Culture*, where Gurudev says, "... When, taking our stand at such centre, we turn towards the West, our gaze shall no longer be timid and dazed, our heads shall remain erect, safe from insult. For then we shall be able to take our own views of Truth from the standpoint of our own vantage ground, this opening out a new vista of thought before the grateful world." Dr. Shahastrabuddhe concluded his remarks by remembering how confident Rabindranath Tagore was about the power of the East. He said "Three months before his death, in April 1941, Tagore wrote "... Perhaps, that dawn will come from this horizon, from the East where the sun rises!"

Prof Dr. Fakrul Alam who translated the famous book written by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "The Unfinished Memoirs" said "On this birthday webinar, being organized at a time when our people are trying to cope with the crisis brought about by Covid-19, we know that Rabindranath Tagore is a ray of hope we can turn to and be inspired by as we move on to better days and a brighter future"

Prof Dr. Bidyut Chakrabarty threw light on the various aspects of Rabindranath Tagore's work which are most relevant in any epidemic and can be useful in present crisis of COVID 19 pandemic. He highlighted on how Tagore always dealt with epidemics in a very positive way and even provided a herbal mix to all students of Santiniketan to control the Cholera epidemic.

Prof. Dr. Biswajit Ghosh said "Rabindranath Tagore may be relevant again in this time of the current Corona epidemic of the world --- He had the courage and patience to deal with disasters without panic. We will remember his words, we will remember his optimistic philosophy."

Prof Dr. Radha Chakravarty highlighted Tagore's relevance for our times, drawing attention to his social awareness, especially with respect to women's position in society, questions of caste and untouchability and the plight of those at the margins of society. She referred to his inclusive, democratic views on religion, and his critique of orthodoxy and communal hatred. She also commented on Tagore's environmental consciousness, his views on knowledge and education, his notion of a diverse yet interconnected world, and his overarching humanist philosophy.

IGCC also webcasted documentaries on Rabindranath Tagore produced by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (*Colours of Dreams, In the land of Chhinnopatra, The story of Gitanjali – in Bengali, The story of Gitanjali – in English*) along with webcasting of "Tribute to Rabindranath through songs" by *Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Laisa Ahmed Lisa, Aditi Mohsin, Shama Rahman, Lily Islam* and Webcasting of "Tribute to Rabindranath through recitation" by *Bhaswar Banerjee, Shahadat Hossain Nipu, Samiul Islam Poluck*.

To witness the events one may visit Facebook page of Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre:- www.facebook.com/IndiraGandhiCulturalCentre/

Date:- 09/05/2020

Place:- Dhaka
