

High Commission of India  
Colombo

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore celebrated in Sri Lanka**

To pay tribute to Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion of his 159th birth anniversary, a series of online performances from Sri Lankan and Indian artists were organised. Deputy High Commissioner of India, Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, presided over an event on 08 May celebrating the occasion and offered a floral tribute to Gurudev.

2. At the event, Deputy High Commissioner read out a message from the High Commissioner Designate of India to Sri Lanka, who arrived in Colombo on 08 May to assume his new responsibilities. Conveying his greetings on the occasion, in the message, High Commissioner noted that the works and vision of Gurudev constitute a rich legacy for the entire human kind. The HC-Designate has observed that all Indians feel proud to be inheritors of the light which emanated from Bengal in the 19th -20th century in the form of lives and works of its great daughters and sons, who include Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans, Swami Vivekananda, and Gurudev. He has expressed his happiness at the sustained efforts undertaken to preserve and promote the invaluable legacy.

3. Gurudev Tagore had a lasting affiliation with Sri Lanka and its people. He visited Sri Lanka thrice in his lifetime during 1922, 1928 and 1934 had a profound impact on the socio-cultural relationship between the two countries. His last overseas visit was to Sri Lanka. The Visva Bharti University at Santiniketan, established by Gurudev, has continued to attract many Sri Lankan artists and scholars including the great Ananda Samarakoon, who have contributed immensely to deepening the cultural contacts between India and Sri Lanka. Commemorating Gurudev's deep connection with Sri Lanka, the 1500 seater auditorium built in Ruhuna University with Indian Grant assistance, the largest University auditorium in Sri Lanka, was named as Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium.

4. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, the cultural arm of the High Commission, also organized documentary screenings online on its various social media sites.

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19 Vaisakh Saka 1942  
09 May 2020

