

Beat: News

President's Message On The Eve Of Birthday Of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

Tagore's Message Of Universalism

Moscow, Russia, 08.05.2015, 10:28 Time

USPA NEWS - The President, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee in conversation with the Ambassador of India to Russia, Mr. P.S. Raghavan, in Moscow, Russia on May 07, 2015. "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake."^[1]

The President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee in his message on the eve of birthday (May 9, 2015) of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore has said:

"I join my fellow citizens in paying homage to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, the first Nobel laureate of Asia and one of the greatest intellectual icons of India, on the occasion of his 154th birth anniversary.

It is significant that even after lapse of a century, Tagore has not lost relevance. On the one hand, his literary exuberance continues to win him millions of fans in India and across the world. On the other hand, his ideas and concepts on subjects such as education, village reconstruction, cooperative endeavour and many others still guide our path to a better and brighter world.

Tagore's concept of education, modelled on the ideal of ancient Indian "Tapabona" encourages young learners to savour joyous education in the open outdoors rather than dry and dreary classrooms. The need for a symbiotic relationship between man and nature is an idea whose time has come. Similarly, Tagore's ideas on rural reconstruction based on cooperative farming, guided by the policy of self-help and mutual harmony are reflected in the concept of "Community Colleges"^[2] which are now accepted globally.

A century ago, Tagore envisaged mutual cooperation of nation and civilization, anticipating the idea of globalisation. In today's strife-torn world where disruptive forces are raising their ugly heads to destroy peace and mutual friendship, Tagore's message of universalism carries solace and inspires confidence in a better future.

On the occasion of the Gurudev's birth anniversary, let his words from Gitanjali (Song of Offerings) resonate in the air ""

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake."^[3]

Article online:

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-4062/presidents-message-on-the-eve-of-birthday-of-gurudev-rabindranath-tagore.html>

Editorial office and responsibility:

V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDSiV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Doruvu Paul Jagan Babu

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

UPA United Press Agency LTD

483 Green Lanes

UK, London N13NV 4BS

contact (at) unitedpressagency.com

Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619