

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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**INDIA-UNESCO COMMEMORATIVE EVENT TO LAUNCH 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF GURUDEV RABINDRANATH TAGORE HELD IN PARIS**

**New Delhi: May 17, 2010**

A special event to jointly launch, by India and UNESCO, the commemorative activities leading up to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 2011 was held in Maison de L’Inde City University, Paris on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010. The event consisted of “Waves of Joy” – a composite presentation of music, dance and poetry in Bengali, English and French by Ms. Sharmila Roy Pommot. Rare Iconography of Tagore obtained with the help of Visva Bharati University was also displayed including a rare photo of Tagore with Mahatma Gandhi and another with Einstein. The event was attended by ADG (Culture) designate, UNESCO, the Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO, about 50 Ambassadors/ Permanent Delegates, artists, intellectuals and prominent members of the Indian community in France .

At the initiative of Shri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, the 35<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in October 2009, unanimously approved UNESCO’s association with the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in 2011. A similar commemoration had been organised in 1961 for his 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The commemorative activities in UNESCO would include a year-long programme of activities including an International Seminar and performance of Tagore’s poetry, music and dance and would culminate with a major event on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011, which marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

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