



The period November 2024 to January 2025 marks the centennial of Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Argentina—the only Latin American country he ever visited.

To commemorate the event, [The Centre for Comparative Literature](#), Bhasha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, in collaboration with [Coherent Digital](#), is organising two 90-minute Zoom lectures to be held in January and February 2025.

Absent Presence: Rabindranath Tagore in Costa Rica

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm (India) / 7 am (Costa Rica) / 8 am (New York) / 10 am (Buenos Aires)

Speaker: Professor Roberto Morales Harley, Universidad de Costa Rica

Discussant: Professor Shyama Prasad Ganguly, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Chair: Dr. Gustavo Canzobre, Fundacion Hastinapura

Details about the February lecture will be released and sent to you soon.

[Register for the January lecture here](#)

Learn more about Tagore's legacy:

Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) was an immensely important figure in modern Indian literature and a significant voice in India's cultural and spiritual renaissance. He wrote primarily in Bengali but translated many of his works into English. His most famous works include *Gitanjali*, for which he received the Nobel Prize, and iconic songs such as "Jana Gana Mana" (India's national anthem). Tagore was also deeply engaged with philosophy, education (founding Visva-Bharati University), and social reform, and his ideas influenced the global cultural and intellectual landscape.

In 1924, when Tagore visited Argentina, his health was deteriorating after a grueling tour of Europe. Victoria Ocampo, a prominent Argentinian writer, intellectual, and patron of the arts, invited him to recuperate at her estate in Buenos Aires. Although they had not met before, Ocampo admired Tagore's works, particularly *Gitanjali*, and their correspondence had led to this visit. During his stay, Tagore composed a collection of poems, *Purabi*, which included reflections inspired by the landscape in Argentina and his experience there. The visit symbolizes the confluence of Indian and Latin American intellectual and cultural traditions, and it underscores Tagore's universal appeal and the global resonance of his works. His trip to Argentina is significant in many ways in the history of Indo-Latin American history, as many scholars have explored.



Dr. Roberto Morales Harley is Professor of Sanskrit Language and Literature, Department of Classics, University of Costa Rica. He specializes in Sanskrit language, Sanskrit epics, and Indian studies in Costa Rica. He holds degrees in Classical Philology, Classical Literature, and Languages of the Ancient World. His recent book, *The Embassy, the Ambush, and the Ogre: Greco-Roman Influence in Sanskrit Theatre*, was published in 2024 by Open Book Publishers. Additionally, he has numerous articles and chapters to his credit.



Dr. Shyama Prasad Ganguly is formerly Professor of Spanish and Latin American studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) (1978–2012), specializing in Economic and Comparative Culture Studies. He has done pioneering work on Tagore's reception in Spain and Latin America and Cervantes's *El Quijote* in India. He has authored, edited, and translated twenty-six books and numerous articles on Spanish and Latin American themes. He has served as interpreter and has been involved in serious theatre for six decades.



Dr. Gustavo Canzobre specializes in art and classical philosophy of India and the artistic and educative philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore. He is Headmaster of Hastinapur Foundation's School of Eastern Philosophy Professors. He is also the Director of radio program NIKETAN at Millennium Station, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a member of the India Committee of CARI, the most prominent think tank in Argentina.

[Register for the lecture here](#)