

CULTURAL PORTAL

**Tribute to Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay
for his Outstanding Academic Achievements
and Contributions to the Knowledge of
the Culture and Heritage of
Classical India**





BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

In May of 2012, along with Professor Alejandro Salazar Rodríguez (Abhiram Thakur Das), Director of **NIOS-Perú**, we presented to the authorities of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM), a proposal to participate in the Tributes that were being made to Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay for his enviable accomplishments as an eminent academician particularly from the time when he was a Professor and Head of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture in the University of Calcutta.

Dr. Marco Martos Carrera, Dean at that time, and the Academic Director, Professor Edgar Álvarez, agreed to confer on Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay the **DIPLOMA OF HONOR** and a **LETTER OF RECOGNITION**.

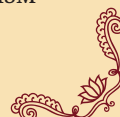
Both documents reflect our appreciation of his valuable contribution to the universe of knowledge and to the development of the investigation of the culture and heritage of Classical India.

These honours, like celebrations for personalities such as Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, are important and necessary, because they consolidate the academic community and allow us to inspire the comprehensive training of both students and teachers.

We hope that this tribute will be a stimulus to develop academic and cultural cooperation between the universities in America and Europe with the great culture of India for the benefit of the whole world.

Lima, September 2022.

Dr. Miguel Angel Polo Santillan
Principal Professor of the Professional School of Philosophy of the UNMSM
Director of **SOLARIS** Journal



For their own unique progress, human sciences and spiritual traditions need bridges that make friendly encounters and fruitful dialogues possible. The discipline of History plays a substantial role in this process of intercultural and transdisciplinary dialogue through which the perspectives of both sides are nurtured and enriched and, therefore, reciprocal benefits are extended. Within the list of important intellectuals who have promoted this path, deserving special mention, is the distinguished Indian educationist, Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, to whom our magazine, *Solaris*, pays a respectful tribute in this issue.

Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay has an appreciable educational background that has allowed him, for more than 50 years, to train and guide various generations of Indian and foreign scholars, many of whom are leading academics and professionals, who proactively contribute to the sustainable progress of humanity.

The content of this “Cultural Portal” is a chronicle of the event held at **The Asiatic Society**, in Kolkata, India, on September 16, 2022. In this ceremony, Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay was awarded two original documents issued in May 2012 by the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of **The Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos**, founded by *Cédula Real*, signed by King Carlos V, on May 12, 1551. The first document is an *Honors Diploma* and the second a *Letter of Recognition*. Both nominations awarded to Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay are in recognition of his great educational trajectory and contributions to the field of Classical Indian History and Culture.

This celebration was in the charge of the **North American Institute of Oriental and Classical Studies (NIOS)**, based in Tennessee, USA, together with a delegation of distinguished academics chaired by Dr. Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz, Coordinator of the **INCOMUN** research group for “Interculturality and Communication” of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. The **Asiatic Society of Kolkata**, India, was asked to organize this program at its location considering the great bond of affection that exists between Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay and the Society .

The ceremony had the international participation of various personalities. On the dais were:

- Professor Dr. **Swapankumar Pramanick**, President of The Asiatic Society and Chairman of the Ceremony, Former Vice-Chancellor of Vidyasagar University, West Bengal;
- Professor Dr. **Samaresh Bandyopadhyay**, Eminent Educationist;
- Dr. **Kalyankumar Chakravarty**, IAS (retired), former Chancellor of the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, Government of India;

- Her Excellency Ms. **Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández**, Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India;
- **Swami Suparnanadaji Maharaja**, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata;
- Professor **H. H. Robinson (Hanumatpresaka Swami Maharaja)**, representative of the North American Institute of Oriental and Classical Studies (NIOS);
- Professor Dr. **Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz**, representative of the University of San Marcos;
- Professor Dr. **Héctor Béjar**, former Foreign Minister of the Peruvian Government;
- Dr. **Satyabrata Chakraborty**, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata;
- Dr. **Asokkanti Sanyal**, Secretary of Biological Sciences of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata.

OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES



Swami Atmabholanandaji Maharaj is doing Invocation. On his right is seen the Bust of Pandit Iswarchandra Vidyasagar. On his left is seen a Section of the Audience.

The ceremonial programme began with *Maṅgalācaraṇa* of some Sanskrit texts by Swami Atmabholanandaji Maharaja of Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Kolkata, and his blessings for the occasion. This reminded us of the consciousness of *śūnya* and *pūrṇa*, that is zero and plenum.



Swami Suparnananda Maharaja (Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission) inaugurating the ceremony by lighting the ceremonial lamp. On his left is Professor Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society) and R to L Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree), Professor Hanumatpresaka Swami (General Secretary of NIOS) and two more dignitaries.



Swami Suparnananda Maharaja (Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata, West Bengal, India), is delivering the inaugural address. On his left are seen (L to R) Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti (General Secretary, The Asiatic Society), Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest), Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society and also of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Recipient of the "Diploma of Honour").

Thereafter, the formal inauguration of the ceremony took place with the lighting of the lamp by Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaja accompanied by other dignitaries. In his inaugural speech, Suparnanandaji Maharaja expressed his happiness for the award of this splendid honour of San Marcos University to his favorite learned personality Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, as he loved him much for his brilliant academic discourse, his expressed humanity to society, his love for his students and also for his charming personality. Swami Maharaja has been always present in award presentations or felicitation programmes bestowed earlier on Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, as held in and near Kolkata.



Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata) is delivering the Address of Welcome. Seen seated (L to R) are Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree), Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India, Special Guest).

Then, Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, extended welcome to all the dignitaries on the dais, the honourable organizers, and the learned audience present in the illustrious hall. In his brief but impressive welcome address, Dr. Chakraborty stated that he felt proud for organizing such a prestigious programme at the Asiatic Society, conferring the “Diploma of Honour” of the San Marcos University upon Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay. He stated that Professor Bandyopadhyay has been a part of the long journey on the road of the development of this glorious Asiatic Society in various capacities as a scholar, as well as, from time to time, part of its administration. Referring to a felicitation volume in honour of Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay entitled *Prācyaprajñāpradīpa*, he said that from it one would get a glimpse of the entire range of the profundity of Professor Bandyopadhyay’s accomplishments as penned by scholars, his students, admirers of this country, as well as abroad. In his speech, he also narrated how we have “got a brilliant Indologist per se, at the cost of a lawyer and an administrator”. He also mentioned that the Asiatic Society honoured the Professor by inviting him to deliver the esteemed ‘Ācārya Swami Pranabananda Lecture’.

Fortunately, Dr. Chakraborty also gave a brief overview of the Asiatic Society: *“I would like on this special occasion to tell those guests who are coming for the first time to the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, that this is officially a home of some of the most important research and learning, the oldest in the country. It was established in 1784 by the renowned Indologist, Sir William Jones, who founded it to unravel the Eastern classical intellectual heritage and make it available to the rest of the world. Based on its achievements, the Government of India, through an Act of Parliament, declared it an Institution of National Importance during its bicentennial in 1984. Following the provisions of its Founder, the Asiatic Society has expanded its academic activities, mainly in the Science, History and Art areas. We are all, including Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay, part of that long historical journey that has brought us to this magnanimous Vidyasagar Hall today.*

“In closing, I will say that Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay’s range of academic achievements can be seen through his list of publications, his professional assignments and affiliations, including the Asiatic Society. A unique nuance of this “low profile” scholar has emerged through the written accounts of his teachers, his colleagues, his students, his friends and admirers in this country and abroad”.

Representing the North American Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies (NIOS), the following address was delivered by H. H. Hanumatpresaka Swami (Professor Huber Hutchin Robinson). His address began by congratulating the educated and respectable ladies and gentlemen present, especially the directors and officials of his Institute. He expressed his great satisfaction for their participation in the management of making real the official delivery of the “Diploma of Honor” and “Letter of Recognition” granted by the Faculty

of Letters and Human Sciences of the National University of San Marcos to the eminent pedagogue Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay.



Hanumatpreshaka Swami (Professor H. H. Robinson, Secretary General of NIOS) is delivering Introductory Address. Seen seated (L to R) are Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree), Monica Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India) and Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaj (Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata).

Hanumatpresaka Swami recalled that Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay was one of the intellectuals who inspired the founding of NIOS on January 12, 2004. He also mentioned that one of the most important NIOS publications is the *Prācyaprajñāpradīpa*, edited by Professor Dr. Ian W. Mabbett, and published together with the International Forum for Felicitating Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay in 2012. He later stated that Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay similarly inspired one of his former students, Dr. Kamalkumar Kundu, to establish the Tamluk Museum in Purba Midnapur District, West Bengal, India.

Continuing with his speech, he mentioned that the objective of establishing NIOS is to create a platform where different organizations and individuals can discuss such fundamental principles as what is this phenomenal world, are there vital sources that manipulates it with free will and a concern for aesthetic values? What is the relationship between individual free will and destiny? He stated that Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, as NIOS's Principal Advisor, has been working directly on these issues and that his character and intellectual rigor have marked a good part of NIOS's character. In continuation, he said that besides *Prācyaprajñāpradīpa*, NIOS has published two other important works edited by Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay: 1. *Bhārata-Saṁskṛti*, the content of which is the

presentations made at the three-day international Seminar on ‘Importance of early Indian culture for making a better world’. The event was organized by NIOS together with the Indian Museum in 2015, and 2. *Śikṣādarśa*, Presentations at the two-day International Seminar on ‘Early Indian Education and Man-making in Present Times’ in Delhi in 2019.

Concluding his address he said that for him, it was not too surprising that a great university like San Marcos take note of the extensive academic trajectory in research and cultural contribution in ancient history and culture made by Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, and that this be translated into the “Diploma of Honor” and “Letter of Recognition”. As an afterword he noted that since Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay could not spare time to travel to Peru, NIOS gladly undertook the commitment to arrange the delivery of the documents in India.



Professor Raúl Zevallos Ortiz (Representative of the San Marcos University) is delivering Introductory Address. Seen seated (L to R) are Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree), Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India) and Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaj (Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata).

The next introductory speech was given by Professor Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz. He began his address by noting what a privilege it was to attend this ceremony on behalf of the Center for Asian Studies (CEAS) of the San Marcos University in this long-awaited celebration for Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay. The Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences is the continuity of what was initially the Faculty of Theology and Arts. In this sense, from the historical point of view, the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences is the oldest faculty of the University of San Marcos and, consequently of the Americas.

This chronological primacy also occurs in the field of oriental studies, being that the Faculty of Letters, through its Institute of Philology, is the first center at the national and Latin American level, to carry out studies and translations of texts in Sanskrit. In that framework, this “Honorary Diploma” has been issued to the highly distinguished Life Member of the Asiatic Society, Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay. Appropriately the Diploma specifically recognizes his outstanding contribution to the field of education generally and specifically to the study and promotion of early Indian cultural studies, traditions and heritage. It is also noteworthy that this is the first time that an Indian scholar has been awarded this “Honorary Diploma”.

Furthermore, Professor Zevallos appreciated the coincidence that the University of San Marcos was established in Lima by the Spanish colonial authorities in the year 1551 to promote research and scholarship for a better management of the American colonies, while the The Asiatic Society was founded during the rule of the English East India Company in 1784, to improve and promote Oriental research. Despite their colonial origins, both institutions have ties to the independence of their respective nations. Perhaps those delicate, subtle, invisible links can be marked as both seeds and signs and of destiny; and if the seeds herald the future, perhaps these seeds are now ripe enough to manifest in the world of material forms, in the form of understanding, in the form of agreements and cultural, academic exchanges and other reciprocal benefits.



Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty is delivering his speech as the Chief Guest of the Ceremony. Seen seated (L to R) are Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree), Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India).

Then Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty, Former President of **Lalit Kala Akademi** (National Academy of Arts), Former Chancellor of **National University of Educational Planning and Administration**, New Delhi, India,

Chief Guest of the meeting, said that this ceremony, which conferred the “Honorary Diploma” to Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay, was *“a cathartic and redemptive occasion to invoke universal consciousness, a crying need of current humanity, afflicted by the disunity of affiliations, external to the human essence, and by its growing divorce from nature. It was a ceremony of honoring and being honored, included in an act of giving, which is also an act of receiving. The ceremony fulfilled the mandate of the ancient Indian Vedantic text of the Taittirīya Upaniṣad, which reads: śraddhayā deyam, hriyā deyam, bhīyā deyam, saṁvidā deyam. The gift, in this case, the “Diploma of Honor”, is a unifying act of reciprocity and conscience. It is being done and accepted, according to the Upaniṣadic prescription, with respect, hesitation, fear and compassion.”* In Dr. Chakravarty’s opinion, the words of Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay in accepting this gift and those of Professor Béjar in bestowing it will strengthen the universal consciousness that unites humanity throughout the world.



Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India) is delivering address of the Special Guest. Seen seated (L to R) are Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, and Ceremony), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree).

The ceremony continued with the participation of Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández, **Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India**. She began by again highlighting that San Marcos University is the oldest continuously operating university in the Americas, *“Alma mater of twenty-one*

Peruvian presidents, five candidates for the Nobel Prize in Physics, Literature and Peace and a Nobel Prize winner, Mario Vargas Llosa. For Peruvians it is natural to have this curiosity of ancient history since Peru is undeniably one of the cradles of ancient human civilization. The Andean region of Peru was inhabited about 14,000 years ago, giving rise to the ancient sacred city of Caral, with an age of 5,000 years, making it the oldest in America and one of the oldest cities in the world”.

Since then a long list of cultures flourished on Peruvian soil where people mastered agriculture, pottery, metallurgy, architecture and many other arts and sciences to meet the challenges posed by their geography. Innovations such as terraced farms built on the slopes of mountains, complex irrigation canals, recording devices such as Quipus and even the Nazca lines, which some believe are complex astronomical observatories, are some of the products of Peruvian ingenuity.

Campos Fernández affirmed that *“The recognition of Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay definitely adds a milestone to the 59 years of diplomatic relations between Peru and India. The ties that unite these two countries are printed, she said, by more than 30 bilateral agreements, ranging from cooperation in defense, education and traditional knowledge, to the establishment of a Mixed Commission, an ambitious political and technical mechanism to review all the areas of this relationship”.*

The esteemed diplomat continued *“It (this Diploma) will also show the Indian rapprochement in the Peruvian academic world. Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay therefore joins the ranks of Indian scholars, artists and thinkers who have won admiration in Peru. Such was the case of Rabin-dranath Tagore, who inspired Peruvian writers like César Vallejo. In the same vein, Peruvian culture is also making its way into the Indian psyche, with many tourists from all over India have been drawn by the ancient Andean civilization, Peruvian food and the legacy of monuments such as Machu Picchu and the Nazca Lines”.*

She then concluded her speech with a quote from the Peruvian Nobel Laureate, Mario Vargas Llosa, who said, the day he was lauded by his *alma mater*: *“San Marcos is an ancient institution, [...], antiquity is a value, and one of the Peruvian values is this university, the oldest in America, always an extraordinary focus of science, intellectual work, research, creation, and also an institution that has fought incessantly for freedom, for a better world than the one we have, for a world of greater equality, greater opportunities, greater tolerance, a world without violence, without repression, a world that in some way lives up to the best that our country has given throughout history”.*



Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata, and Ceremony) is delivering the Presidential Address. Seen seated (L to R) Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Honoree), Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India).

Concluding the opening and introductory addresses, the present President of the Asiatic Society and former Vice-Chancellor of the Vidyasagar University of West Bengal, India, the honorable Swapankumar Pramanick, began his speech as follows: *“Firstly, allow me to greet the distinguished personalities present here, beginning with the respected Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, who was my colleague at the University of Calcutta; Professor Dr. Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz and Professor Dr. Héctor Béjar, representatives of the San Marcos University, Lima, Peru; Professor Hanumatpreśaka Swami, representative of the North American Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies (NIOS), who has transmitted the message of the recovery of a collective consciousness of global unity, from the platform of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism; Her Excellency, Mónica Cecilia Fernández, Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India in Delhi; Respected Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaja, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata, who kindly, auspiciously, opened this august gathering by recalling the glorious tradition of synthetic spiritual communion, which is embodied in the blessings of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa; Swami Atmabholanandaji Maharaja of the Bharat Sevashram Sangha, an organization that has dedicated itself to the cause of humanity by rendering selfless services to the bereaved; Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarti, IAS (retired), Ph.D. (Harvard University), and former Chancellor of the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, who has been the chief guest on this occasion and who has warmly complimented Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay; Dr. Satyabrata Chakrabarti, Honorable General Secretary of the Asiatic Society; Professor Asokkanti Sanyal,*

Honorable Secretary of Biological Sciences of the Asiatic Society; Honorable Council Members of the Asiatic Society, other members of the Society, members of the press and electronic media, ladies and gentlemen.

The Asiatic Society feels privileged and proud to provide the platform to honor Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, who was and is dedicated to Indological, Classical and Oriental Studies, and has also explored the specialized areas of Numismatics, Archaeology, Epigraphy, History of Ancient Art and Science and Learning Sanskrit”.

He then stated that Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay has been associated for more than five decades with the operation of the Asiatic Society and he is therefore a Distinguished Life Member of the Asiatic Society. Furthermore, the important role he played in achieving the declaration of the Asiatic Society as an Institution of National Importance in 1984 by the Government of India is well known. He also expressed “*I am proud to mention that I had the privilege of being his colleague for a long time at the University of Calcutta, where Dr. Bandyopadhyay was a professor in the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture and I was a professor in the Department of Sociology.*” During his long teaching and research career, Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay had produced many scholarly publications, guided research projects, and completed many research projects. He had also been associated with the activities of many Scientific Societies. His publications have been carried out by many national and international publishers with forewords written by internationally renowned academics. In addition to our own Asiatic Society, Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay has been associated with other learned organizations such as the **Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland**, the **Epigraphical Society of India** (Mysore), the **Numismatic Society of India** (Varanasi), the **North American Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies** (NIOS), and the like. He has chaired the sessions of so many bodies such as the Numismatic Society of India, the official magazine of which he was also one of the editors, president of the 32nd Conference of the Epigraphical Society of India and many other similar conferences. In addition, he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the Indian Archaeological and Ancient Science Society in 2006. He was honored with the Sir J.C. Bose Award in 2016.

Scholars who have come in contact with him have awarded him numerous accolades. I may mention here one such compliment which was paid to him by Professor Santoshkumar Bhattacharya, who at one time was the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta and who was also associated with the Asiatic Society. Professor Bhattacharya said: “*In my interaction with various members of our Faculty, Dr. Bandyopadhyay stood out as a scholar of in-*

defatigable scholarly energy and unerring precision – a rare combination indeed. I distinctly remember, even after so many years, noticing these traits of his character, as he worked heart and soul in the preparation and publication of a birth centenary volume in honor of the late Professor Dr. D. R. Bhandarkar, the renowned pioneer of the Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture of our University for teaching and research in the area in question. This volume was published on January 11, 1984 by Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, at a function held at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata, and presided over by me. The Honour, which is bestowed today on Professor Dr. Bandyopadhyay, stands out as unique in the long history of appreciation and recognition of their academic efforts”.

**DELIVERY OF THE “CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION” AND
“DIPLOMA OF HONOR” FOR SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY.**



Professor Héctor Béjar (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru) is delivering the “Diploma of Honour” of the San Marcos University to the Eminent Educationist Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Recipient of the Award). Seen standing on their left are Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India), and on their right is Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata).

Professor Héctor Béjar, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Casa de las Américas Award winner and author of several highly lauded books, was in charge of delivering the “Diploma of Honor”. In his speech, he explained that the struggle of the Indian people for their independence, and

especially the figure of Mahatma Gandhi, inspired, at the beginning of the last century, the generations of young people who made up modern Peru, in relation to European colonialism.

“After World War II, India got its independence. All this allowed the opening of diplomatic relations between India and Peru from 1963. Hence the importance for Peru today to intensify relations with the culture of the Indian nation, also one of the oldest in the world”.

Professor Béjar went on to say that *“we appreciate that globalization does not just have to encompass business, commercial enterprises and markets. It must involve above all the spirit of the people, their feelings and their hearts. We speak then of a relationship of mutual, cordial and intercultural esteem that helps us to know and appreciate each other”.*

To conclude, Professor Béjar wished Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay a long and healthy life and the ceremony to be the favorable start of strengthening cultural ties between India, Peru and other countries.



Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Recipient of the “Diploma of Honour” and “Letter of Recognition” of the San Marcos University, Lima Peru, South America) is delivering his Acceptance Speech.

Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay then delivered his response speech, addressing those present as lovers and admirers of early Indian history, culture and traditions, genuine lovers of India, present there in this *pitṛpakṣha* afternoon.

“May I please be excused for addressing you with these words and not differentiating between the dignitaries on the dais and the quality audience in front of my eyes. I consider the warm presence of you all not because my humble self is going to be presented with the prestigious “Diploma of Honour” by one of the oldest universities of the world, San Marcos University, Lima, Peru, South America, but because of your genuine love for Indian Culture, in the study and promotion of which I am engaged for over six decades.

“In 2015, on the occasion of the launching ceremony at the Indian Museum, Kolkata, of the *Prācyaprajñāpradīpa*, a congratulatory volume in my honor published by the International Forum for Felicitating Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay and the North American Institute of Oriental Studies. and Classical Studies, it was made public that the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of the San Marcos University of Lima, had issued a prestigious Diploma of Honor in recognition of my educational activities”.

Since then, as he explained, he has received many requests to inform of the appropriate moment in which he could go to the same University to receive the Diploma, assuring him that they will make all the arrangements for travel and a comfortable stay. *“However, my academic commitments did not allow me to spend at least a week in Peru and sometime earlier this year I received a letter telling me that a team from the University would come to India and organize the delivery of the Diploma to me”.*

After expressing his gratitude to the authorities of the San Marcos University, for honoring him, he also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the authorities of the North American Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies, in particular to its General Secretary, Professor H. H. Robinson (Hanumatpresaka Swami Maharaja) for guiding the team of scholars who traveled from Lima to Kolkata.

Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay also thanked Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaja, Secretary of the Cultural Institute of Ramakrishna Mission, Gol Park, Kolkata, who always graces occasions organized in his honor, and Swami Atmabholanandaji Maharaja of Bharat Sevashram Sangh for their holy presence at this auspicious moment.

Of course, the presence of Dr. Kalyankumar Chakraborty, Former President of Lalit Kala Akademi (National Academy of Arts) and Former Chancellor of the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, in India, was not forgotten.

Her Excellency Madam Monica Cecilia Campus Fernandez, Ambassador (Acting) of Peru in India, has very generously made it possible to grace the occasion by her much inspiring presence and heighten its dignity immensely and in expressing heartfelt gratitude to her I find no suitable words.

Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick, President of the Asiatic Society, and Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, with their staff and all those who had made the occasion by their gracious presence or in any other way a memorable one deserve our heartfelt thanks. This occasion inspires me to go on working until I breath my last as work is worship. I wish the very best for you all.

Persons of merit only recognise meritorious men. The famous Sanskrit saying goes –

*na aguṇī guṇīnām vetti
guṇī ca guṇamatsarī
guṇī guṇānurāgī ca
viralāstāḍṛśāḥ narāḥ | |*

CLOSING WORDS AND CULTURAL ITEM



Dr. Asokkanti Sanyal (Biological Science Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata) is extending Vote of Thanks. Seen seated (L to R) are Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty (General Secretary of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata), Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty (Chief Guest of the Ceremony), Professor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick (President of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, and Ceremony), Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay (Recipient of the Award), Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández (Head of Chancellery of the Embassy of Peru in India) and Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaj (Secretary, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata).

The Ceremony entered its final part with a message of thanks, proposed by Dr. Asokkanti Sanyal, Secretary of Biological Sciences, Asiatic Society, Kolkata, India, who said *“this ceremony is a unique and auspicious function*

where the humanity and eternal knowledge of the century old subject of Indology are honoured.” This honor was conferred by the oldest University in the Western Hemisphere located far from India, the seat of Classical and Oriental Studies.

Finally, Dr. Asokkanti Sanyal expressed his thanks and gratitude to the authorities of the University of San Marcos and to the honorable dignitaries, especially from the Universities and the Embassy of Peru, in Delhi, present there. He also expressed his sincere thanks to the authorities of the North American Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies for their important role in organizing the program at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. Dr. Asokkanti thanked all the guests present at the ceremony and the members of the Council and other members, officers and staff of the Asiatic Society.



Dr. Sm. Mala Maitra, a former student of Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay and Director of Mandra (Institute of Performing Arts) is presenting the Closing Song. On her right are seen the Bust of Pandit Iswarchandra Vidyasagar and the distinguished guests of the Dias. On her left is seen a Section of the Audience.

The ceremony honouring Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay came to an end with the closing song by his former student Dr. Sm. Mala Maitra, Director, **Mandra** (Institute of Performing Art).



Exhibition of available 50 Books and Edited Works of Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay at the Entrance of the Vidyasagar Hall of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. (Seen standing From left to Right) Professor Alejandro Salazar Rodriguez, Hanumatpresaka Swami (Professor H. H, Robinson) and Professor Héctor Béjar. Persons seated are representatives of the organizers.

At the end of the ceremony everyone left the meeting hall after giving a look to the exhibition of available 50 books and edited works of Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay displayed at the entrance of the hall.

The Editors of Solaris also wish to conclude this article with the happy notice that after this event became known throughout the world, letters and documents of appreciation flooded in and a selection of these, though too extensive for this journal, will be published as a small but excellent booklet in the near future.





Herein *SOLARIS* joins this tribute by mentioning the words of Professor Dr. Marco Martos Carrera, at the time, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences of the University of San Marcos and President of the Peruvian Academy of Language, who, to approve the granting of the Diploma of Honor and Letter of Recognition said: *“In Peru, the ancients called their wise men AMAUTA, they guided people to be honest, compassionate, hard-working and truthful; There is no doubt that this distinction fits perfectly with the merits and virtues of Professor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, whom we recognize from today as A GREAT TEACHER, AN ILLUSTRIOUS FRIEND of this Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences and as a lamp that will always be lighting the world, the bridge that unites the contributions of ancient history with the present”.*



HOMENAJE AL PROFESOR
Dr. SAMARESH BANDYOPADHYAY POR SUS
DESTACADOS LOGROS ACADÉMICOS Y CONTRIBUCIONES
AL CONOCIMIENTO DE LA CULTURA Y EL
PATRIMONIO DE LA INDIA CLÁSICA
– RESUMEN EN ESPAÑOL –

Las ciencias humanas y las tradiciones espirituales, para su propio progreso, necesitan puentes que posibiliten encuentros amistosos y diálogos fructíferos. La historia juega un papel sustancial en este proceso porque a través de ella se nutren y enriquecen las perspectivas de ambos lados y, por lo tanto, se amplía el beneficio recíproco. Dentro de la lista de importantes intelectuales que han promovido este camino se encuentra el insigne historiador hindú, Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, a quien la Revista **SOLARIS**, en esta edición, rinde un merecido homenaje. El Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay tiene una estimable trayectoria educativa que le ha permitido, por más de 40 años, formar y orientar a varias generaciones de estudiantes, muchos de los cuales, actualmente, son destacados académicos y profesionales.

El contenido de este Portal Cultural es una crónica del evento realizado en la Sociedad Asiática, en Kolkata, India, el 16 de septiembre de 2022. En esta ceremonia, el Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay recibió los originales de un **Diploma de Honor** y una **Carta de Reconocimiento** emitidos, en mayo del 2012, por la Facultad de Letras y Ciencias Humanas de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos-UNMSM, Decana de América.

Esta celebración estuvo a cargo del Instituto Norteamericano de Estudios Orientales y Clásicos – **NIOS** (con sede en Tennessee, EE. UU) conjuntamente con una delegación de distinguidos académicos presidida por el Dr. Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz, Coordinador del grupo de investigación **INCOMUN Interculturalidad y Comunicación** de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima-Perú, quien le solicitó a la Sociedad Asiática la organización de este programa en su local.

La ceremonia contó con la asistencia de una distinguida delegación internacional de académicos, diplomáticos y artistas. En el estrado se encontraban:

- **Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick** (ex vicerrector de la Universidad Vidyasagar, Bengala Occidental), presidente de la Sociedad Asiática y de la ceremonia.
- **Dra. Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández**, Jefa de Cancillería de la Embajada del Perú en la India.
- **Dr. Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty**, ex rector de la Universidad Nacional de Planificación y Administración Educativas, Nueva Delhi, India, Invitado principal.
- **Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay**, Educador eminente.

- **Swami Suparnananda Maharaja**, Secretario del Instituto de Cultura de la Misión Ramakrishna, Golpark, Kolkata.
- **S.S. Hanumatpresaka Swami Maharaja**, representante del Instituto Norteamericano de Estudios Orientales y Clásicos-NIOS.
- **Dr. Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz** representante de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos-UNMSM.
- **Dr. Héctor Béjar**, excanciller del gobierno peruano.
- **Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty**, Secretario General de la Sociedad Asiática.
- **Dr. Asokanti Sanyal**, Secretario de Ciencias Biológicas de la Sociedad Asiática.

El programa comenzó con una *Maṅgalācaraṇa* (invocación auspiciosa) de un texto sánscrito recitado por el Swami Atmabholanandaji Maharaja del Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Kolkata. Luego vino la inauguración formal de la ceremonia con el encendido de una lámpara por parte de Swami Suparnanandaji Maharaja acompañado de otros dignatarios.

En su discurso inaugural, Suparnanandaji Maharaja expresó su felicidad por el reconocimiento honorífico de la Universidad de San Marcos al profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, ya que lo aprecia mucho por su brillante discurso académico y su humanidad, por su amor a sus alumnos y por sus encantadoras actividades. Seguidamente, el Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty, Secretario General de la Sociedad Asiática, dio la bienvenida a todos los dignatarios en el estrado, a los honorables organizadores y al erudito público presente.

Luego del discurso de bienvenida del Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty, hicieron uso de la palabra los representantes de los organizadores. El primero en intervenir fue el Profesor Hanumatpresaka Swami Maharaja. Él explicó todos los hechos desde el día de la propuesta para reconocer internacionalmente los méritos del Profesor Dr. Bandyopadhyay en mayo de 2012, hasta el día de la materialización, el 16 de septiembre de 2022. El profesor Hanumatpresaka Swami terminó su exposición expresando públicamente su agradecimiento a la Sociedad Asiática por haber realizado este maravilloso evento.

De igual manera el representante de la Universidad de San Marcos, Profesor Dr. Raúl Fernando Zevallos Ortiz, agradeció a la Sociedad Asiática por los hermosos arreglos para la ocasión. Luego, el profesor Zevallos expresó su aprecio a tan destacado intelectual, como lo es, el profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay.

Seguidamente hizo uso de la palabra el Invitado principal de la ceremonia, el Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty, Ph. D. por la Universidad de Harvard, exsecretario de Gobierno de la India. El Dr. Chakravarty es muy conocido en el mundo académico por su libro *Rock-Art of India* (1984). Al comenzar su discurso expresó su felicidad por participar de esta ceremonia. Él dijo: *el profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay es un erudito de mente brillante que ha sintetizado ciencia y religión, conocimiento y sabiduría, estudios indológicos, orientales y clásicos y conocimiento combinado de numismática, epigrafía, arte, historia, ciencia antigua, arqueología y aprendizaje del sánscrito.* Luego agregó: *La presencia de la Jefa de*

Cancillería de la embajada del Perú en la India ofrece la posibilidad de establecer un puente de entendimiento intercultural entre el Perú y la India.

Después le correspondió el turno al presidente de la ceremonia, el profesor Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick, presidente de la Sociedad Asiática. Él comenzó mencionando cómo recibió la carta del Dr. Raúl Zevallos de la Universidad de San Marcos para organizar este programa. Él dijo que se sentía orgulloso de participar junto a esta importante casa de estudios para hacer la entrega de este valioso **Diploma de Honor** al profesor Bandyopadhyay, quien fue, durante mucho tiempo, su colega en la Universidad de Calcuta. Finalmente expresó su agradecimiento a todos los involucrados, en especial a la Universidad de San Marcos y al Profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, emisor y receptor de los Diplomas respectivamente.



El eminente pedagogo Profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay recibiendo el **Diploma de Honor** de la Facultad de Letras de la UNMSM. De pie a su izquierda el profesor Hanumatpresaka Swami, Secretario General de NIOS, Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández, Jefa de Cancillería de la Embajada del Perú en India y a su derecha está el Profesor Héctor Béjar, Dr. en sociología, ex Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Perú.

Seguidamente el excanciller del gobierno peruano, Profesor Dr. Héctor Béjar, en presencia de su Excelencia Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández, Jefa de Cancillería de la Embajada del Perú en la India, entregó el **Diploma de Honor** al Profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay, *un hombre de completa humanidad, maestro preferido de muchos estudiantes e investigadores de la Universidad de Calcuta.*

A su turno, el profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay se dirigió a todos los asistentes como admiradores y amantes de la historia, la cultura y las tradiciones de la India clásica. Luego expresó su más sincero y profundo agradecimiento a la Universidad de San Marcos por otorgarle estos prestigiosos diplomas. Seguidamente agradeció al Profesor Hanumatpresaka Swami, Secretario General de **NIOS** por guiar al equipo de académicos desde América hasta Kolkata, India. También expresó su gratitud reverencial a Swami Suparnanadaji Maharaja por engalanar todas las ocasiones organizadas para homenajearlo. Luego extendió su agradecimiento a Swami Atmabholanandaji Maharaja, al Dr. Satyabrata Chakraborty y al Dr. Swapankumar Pramanick, por su presencia y por su gran papel en esta ceremonia llena de acontecimientos. El profesor Dr. Bandyopadhyay manifestó su más sincera gratitud a dos personalidades, al Dr. Kalyankumar Chakravarty, Invitado Principal de esta ceremonia, quien ha realzado la importancia de la misma con su presencia y a la Excelentísima Señora Mónica Cecilia Campos Fernández, quien, con su asistencia, honra y estimula la ocasión. Sobre los alumnos, dijo que siempre trató de servirlos tratándolos como sus divinidades y con la creencia de que los alumnos son los mejores jueces de la eficiencia de los maestros. Mencionó que no encontraba las palabras adecuadas para expresar un sentido agradecimiento a todas las honorables personas presentes en esta ceremonia por el amor, cariño y honor que le brindan. Al final, el profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay dijo que esta ceremonia le motivará a seguir trabajando hasta que respire por última vez, teniendo en cuenta las palabras: *“el trabajo es una forma de adoración”*.



Culminamos este merecido homenaje al Profesor Dr. Samaresh Bandyopadhyay recordando las palabras del profesor Dr. Marco Martos Carrera, en su momento, Decano de la Facultad de Letras y Ciencias Humanas de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos y Presidente de la Academia Peruana de la Lengua, quien al aprobar el otorgamiento del **Diploma de Honor** dijo: “En el Perú, los antiguos llamaban *AMAUTA* a sus sabios. Ellos guiaban a las personas a ser honestas, compasivas, trabajadoras y veraces; no cabe duda de que esta distinción encaja perfectamente en los méritos y virtudes del Profesor Dr. SAMARESH Bandyopadhyay, a quien desde hoy lo reconocemos como UN GRAN MAESTRO, UN AMIGO ILUSTRE de esta Facultad de Letras y Ciencias Humanas y como una lámpara que siempre estará alumbrando el puente que une los aportes de la historia antigua con el presente”.