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**Press release**

Recognizing the monumental contributions made by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to humanity at large and as part of the commemoration of his 150th Birth Anniversary, the Government of India has instituted the annual “Tagore International Award for Cultural Harmony” since 2012 for promoting values of Cultural Harmony. It is given annually and carries an amount equivalent to Indian Rs. one crore (convertible to foreign currency), a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item. The Awardee(s) for every year is/are selected by an eminent Jury under the Chairmanship of the Hon’ble Prime Minister. The First award was conferred on Pandit Ravi Shankar and the second one on Shri Zubin Mehta.

2. This annual award is given to individuals, associations, institutions or organizations for their outstanding contribution towards promoting values of Cultural Harmony. The Award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or gender. Normally, contributions made during 10 years immediately preceding the nomination are considered. Older contributions may also be considered if their significance has become apparent only recently. A written work, in order to be eligible for consideration, should have been published during the last ten years.

3. The nominations are to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Procedure, a copy of which is enclosed seperately. The Code is also available on the Ministry of Culture, Government of India’s web-site: [www.indiaculture.nic.in](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in). All queries may please be sent by e-mail to Ms. Bandana Sharma, Director, Ministry of Culture, bandana.sharma@nic.in , Telefax No. 0091-11-23383185.

**18 August 2016**