

WHAT SUP

THE DANCE OF ROMANCE AND RHYTHM AT EMAMI CULTURAL FIESTA, WITH t2



Draped in a sea green sari, Tanusree Shankar danced to a music composition by Taufiq Qureshi at Kala Mandir on February 16 on Day Two of Emami Cultural Fiesta, in association with t2. The first half of the evening was made up of five short pieces — *Anjali*, *Wrishyavihar*, *Manmayuri*, *Pratiksha* and *Reincarnation*—culminating into the 45-minute composition, *We The Living*. (Above) *Pratiksha*, the five-minute dance piece led by Tanusree, was based on longing, or the long wait to be united with the lover. “I did not expect so many people to turn up on a weekday! The crowd was really responsive,” Tanusree told t2 post-show.



→ Girls in red-and-black outfits welcomed the audience with the short piece, *Anjali*, which celebrated “what India is best known for — hospitality”. The music was by the late Ananda Shankar; the choreography by Tanusree Shankar.



→ Tanusree’s dance troupe explored the rhythm of life in *Reincarnation*. The choreography depicted the pace with which life moves, set to pre-recorded music by sarod players Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan.

↓ *Manmayuri* celebrated the romance of the rains and the dance of the peacock, to a composition by Tarun Bhattacharya.

← Inspired by Jalaluddin Rumi’s poem *Human Being*, Tanusree had choreographed the 45-minute dance piece *We The Living* to music by Debojyoti Mishra, lights by Dinesh Poddar and pre-recorded recitation by Victor Banerjee. “This composition is really close to my heart. I love the poem because it talks about humanity being the religion of the world. It is important for us to move along together,” said Tanusree.



This is the first time we saw her perform. It was exquisite. The gorgeous costumes and the brilliant lighting made the overall performance spellbinding. — **R.S. Goenka**, joint chairman, Emami Group



I really enjoyed the show and I liked the colourful costumes. We don’t get to see this in Germany. — **Olaf Iversen**, German consul-general



Tanusree Shankar is a good friend of my wife (Jennifer Heemstra). We were out of town during all her shows, so I was looking forward to this one. She is one of the best performers in Calcutta. — **Cory Wilcox**, management officer, US Consulate General



It was a mesmerising show. Tanusree Shankar’s dance has originality. I loved the coordination and costumes of *Manmayuri*. — **Vandana Paul**, principal, La Maternelle High School



I am a former student of Tanusree Shankar. I was away for a long time, so I could not attend any of her shows. The minute I heard about this one, I knew I had to be there. — **Debashree Tewary**, who teaches at Global Institute of Fashion Technology



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