

**Seminar on the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union & India
organised by Sweden–India Parliamentary Friendship Group
18 March 2026**

**Introductory Remarks by
Anurag Bhushan, Ambassador of India to Sweden**

Honourable Chairperson of Sweden India Parliamentary Friendship Group Margareta Cederfelt, Honourable Members of the Riksdag,

It is a privilege to address this House — an institution that embodies Sweden’s long democratic tradition, its commitment to transparency, and its belief that principled engagement can shape a more stable world. These are values that India deeply respects, and they form the foundation of our growing partnership.

India and Sweden have built a relationship that is both modern and remarkably forward-looking. It is a partnership anchored in innovation, sustainability, and trust. Swedish companies have been part of India’s industrial story for more than a century; Indian enterprises are increasingly part of Sweden’s technology and services landscape. Our governments collaborate on green transition, life sciences, digital public infrastructure, and the future of mobility. And our people-to-people ties — from students to researchers to entrepreneurs — continue to expand every year.

This relationship has never been transactional. It has always been strategic, values-based, and oriented toward solving global challenges together.

Today, that partnership stands at an inflection point.

Earlier this year, India and the European Union concluded a Free Trade Agreement that has been nearly two decades in the making. It is one of the most ambitious economic frameworks either side has negotiated — connecting the world’s

fifth-largest and second-largest economies, and creating new pathways for investment, technology, and resilient supply chains.

For Europe and for Sweden, this agreement is not simply about tariffs or market access. It is about aligning with a democratic, rules-based partner that is young, dynamic, and committed to building a competitive manufacturing ecosystem. It is about strengthening Europe's strategic resilience by diversifying supply chains toward trusted partners. And it is about ensuring that Swedish innovation, engineering excellence, and sustainability leadership find a natural home in India's growth story.

To speak to these opportunities in depth, it is my honour to introduce someone who has played a central role in shaping India's economic policy architecture and in articulating India's global economic outlook.

The Chief Economic Advisor brings a perspective that is analytical, forward-looking, and grounded in India's structural transformation — from digital public infrastructure to manufacturing reforms to the country's evolving role in global supply chains.

With that, I invite the Chief Economic Advisor to address this august gathering.