

Bijoya Sammeloni & Deepaboli Celebration
Organized by the Stockholm Puja Council
12 October 2025
Speech by Ambassador Anurag Bhushan

Namaskar, good evening, and a very warm welcome to all of you.

It is a true pleasure and honour for me to be here today, among such a vibrant and engaged community, to celebrate the cherished festivals in our cultural calendar — Bijoya and Deepaboli.

These festivals hold deep meaning for all of us. Bijoya reminds us of the eternal triumph of good over evil, and the victory of truth, justice, and righteousness. Deepaboli, the festival of lights, brings with it the promise of renewal — a celebration of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

In the diaspora, far from our homeland, these festivals take on even greater significance. They become more than rituals — they become a reaffirmation of our identity, our values, and our sense of community. Today, seeing so many of you gathered here in celebration, I feel proud and deeply moved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Debjani Dey and her wonderful team at the Stockholm Puja Council. Year after year, your commitment, passion, and tireless efforts ensure that our traditions continue to thrive here in Sweden. Your work is not just about organizing a festival; it is about building a bridge — between generations, between communities, and between cultures.

Your efforts help maintain a vital cultural link for Indian families here, especially for the younger generation growing up away from India. And equally important, they offer an opportunity for our Swedish friends and international guests to experience the richness, diversity, and warmth of Indian culture.

The Indian Embassy is proud to support and stand beside initiatives like this, which so beautifully reflect the spirit of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” – One India, Great India – and the timeless ideal of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, the world as one family.

Let us carry forward the messages of these festivals — of unity, kindness, and resilience. May the light of Deepabali shine brightly in our lives, and may the spirit of Bijoya inspire us to rise above differences, and come together in harmony and shared purpose.

Once again, my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, performers, volunteers, and to each one of you for making this evening so special.

Shubho Bijoya. Shubh Deepaboli.

Dhanyawaad.