

Sewa Diwali
Organised by Sewa Sweden
12 October 2025
Speech for Ambassador Anurag Bhushan

Namaste and a very warm greeting to MP Erik Ottoson and everyone present today.

It is a true pleasure to join you today at this beautiful celebration of Sewa Diwali, organized with such dedication by Sewa Europe, and in particular, Sewa Sweden. My heartfelt appreciation to Vaibhav Jape, Ashutosh Kumar, and their incredible team whose tireless efforts have brought us all together under one roof – not just to celebrate a festival, but to celebrate a spirit: the spirit of selfless service.

This year's theme — “Illuminate Lives” — couldn't be more meaningful. Diwali is the festival of lights, but its true essence lies not only in lighting lamps in our homes, but in lighting up the lives of others. And that is exactly what Sewa Diwali represents — a cultural fundraiser that blends tradition with compassion, celebration with kindness.

The word "Sewa" comes from Sanskrit — it means selfless service for the wellbeing of all. Today, we are not just witnessing a celebration, but a movement — a movement led by individuals and families who serve without any expectation, who believe that real joy lies in giving.

I would like to especially commend Sewa Sweden for their extraordinary initiatives — from educational projects to humanitarian relief during Operation Ganga and the COVID outbreak, and for their continued work in community integration. This is not just an organization — it is a living embodiment of our ancient philosophy: “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” — the world is one family.

Diwali, as we all know, is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists — but its message is universal: the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. And here in Sweden, a land known for its long and peaceful winter nights, the light of Diwali takes on a special meaning — a symbol of hope, harmony, and unity.

It fills me with pride to see how the Indian community here continues to nurture and share our culture. Events like Sewa Diwali build a vibrant cultural bridge between India and Sweden, one based on mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for a compassionate world.

A heartfelt thanks to the incredible cultural groups performing today — from Sanskriti, Kalaashala, Nrityangan, Sarawathy Kala Kendra, to the Nepali and Sri Lankan dance groups, and many more — you are not just performing art; you are preserving heritage, creating unity, and inspiring the next generation.

Let us remember that every diya lit today is more than a symbol — it represents a life touched, a child educated, a dream empowered. I encourage each of you to contribute, volunteer, and carry this light forward.

To the youth present here — you are the torchbearers of this spirit. Blend tradition with innovation. Use your creativity and compassion to uplift others. You are the hope that will continue to illuminate lives for years to come.

Finally, a sincere thank you once again to Sewa Sweden, to all volunteers, and to leaders like Emma Fledman, Mayor of Järfälla Kommun, and Erik Ottoson, Member of Parliament, for being part of this celebration.

On behalf of everyone, I wish you and your families a joyous, peaceful, and prosperous Diwali.

Let's continue to illuminate lives, together. Thank you.