

Diwali Celebrations
Organized by the Indian Association in Sweden (IAS), Lund
1 November 2025

Speech by Ambassador Anurag Bhushan

Namaskar and good evening everyone,

It is a great pleasure to join you all although virtually to celebrate **Diwali — the Festival of Lights**. My heartfelt thanks to Mr Kanan Krishnan, Ms Arshi Seikh and their team at **Indian Association in Sweden** for organizing this wonderful gathering that brings together our vibrant community here in Skåne and our many Swedish friends.

Diwali is not just a festival — it is a message of **hope, renewal, and unity**. It reminds us that light always triumphs over darkness, and that knowledge, compassion, and togetherness will forever overcome ignorance and despair.

Here in Sweden, thousands of kilometres away from our homeland, the glow of Diwali lamps shines just as bright. It reflects the spirit of every Indian who carries a piece of India in their heart — through traditions, values, and the joy of sharing light with others.

I am deeply moved to see how beautifully the Indian community continues to preserve and celebrate our culture, while also building meaningful bonds with the Swedish people. Events like these embody the best of **India–Sweden friendship** — a friendship built on mutual respect, shared innovation, and the warmth of human connection.

As we celebrate tonight with dance, music, and delicious Indian food, let us also remember the deeper meaning of Diwali:

- to light the lamp of kindness,
- to dispel divisions with understanding,
- and to renew our collective resolve to make the world a brighter place.

I extend my warm wishes to all of you and your families for good health, happiness, and prosperity.

May this Diwali bring light to every home and harmony to every heart.

Shubh Deepavali to all!

Thank you.