

Opening Remarks
Engaging India at Almedalen 2026
Ambassador Anurag Bhushan
13.10–13.20

My gratitude to the organisers for this invitation. Almedalen has long served as a principal convening point for Nordic and European dialogue on governance, policy and democratic resilience. That India is present and engaged at this forum reflects, I believe, a substantive shift in how we conceive of partnership in an interconnected world.

The India-Sweden Strategic Partnership, formalised during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Gothenburg in May, represents a maturation of bilateral ties that were previously situated within the narrower architecture of an Innovation Partnership. This Strategic Partnership encompasses four explicit pillars: strategic dialogue and security cooperation; next-generation economic partnership; emerging technologies and trusted connectivity; and what we have termed Shaping Tomorrow Together — encompassing people, planet and resilience.

The practical manifestation of this partnership is already visible. The India-Sweden Technology and AI Corridor, agreed in the recent Joint Statement, creates a mechanism for structured collaboration on emerging technologies and digitalisation. The India-Sweden Joint Science and Technology Centre, spanning artificial intelligence, 6G, quantum technologies and life sciences, connects researchers from Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian research councils with institutions such as KTH, Chalmers, Uppsala University and RISE. The Leadership Group for Industry Transition, which India and Sweden co-founded in

2019, has become an important global forum for addressing industrial decarbonisation.

Beyond institutional frameworks, the partnership is anchored in human capital. The Indian diaspora in Sweden — numbering approximately 88,400, with a further 2,500 Indian students in Swedish universities — constitutes a substantial bridge across sectors: academia, industry, research and policy. These individuals, positioned simultaneously within Swedish institutions and connected to Indian networks, represent an infrastructure for bilateral collaboration that extends beyond traditional government-to-government channels.

The session that follows addresses the convergence of artificial intelligence, sustainability and industrial transformation. This is not a peripheral concern. India produces approximately 1.5 million engineering graduates annually; Sweden has among the world's most productive deep-technology ecosystems. The interface between these two capacities — Indian engineering depth and scale, and Swedish innovation and commercialisation expertise — constitutes one of the highest-return domains for bilateral cooperation.

I am pleased to acknowledge the distinguished speakers and contributors to this session: Professor Owe Ronström; Dr Klaus Kunz from PI Industries, who has joined us from Germany; Ms Frida Monsen from Vattenfall; Mr Viral Thakker from Credibl, who has travelled from India; Mr Per Andersson; and Dr Swaminathan. Their presence reflects the very spirit of this platform — bringing together academia, industry, innovation and policy to address shared global challenges.

The dialogue between these perspectives illuminates a central question: how digital-age industry is constructed when peer expertise is distributed across

geographies. It is precisely this kind of exchange that gives meaning to the India-Sweden Strategic Partnership.

The task before governments and institutions is to provide the structural frameworks — in funding, mobility, intellectual property, regulatory harmonisation and institutional linkages — that enable this collaboration to scale beyond individual relationships and projects. Engaging India at Almedalen serves not as an introductory exercise, but as a reflection of bilateral engagement that is already operationally mature and strategically consequential.

I would also like to place on record a special word of appreciation for Ms Rupali Mehra for her efforts in organising this important engagement and for bringing together such a meaningful group of voices.

I thank you for your attention, and I invite you to engage substantively with the distinguished speakers who follow.

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