

**Republic Day
Virtual Reception
Video Message
26 January 2022
Stockholm**

**Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal**

Excellencies,
Friends,

- A very warm welcome to all you as we celebrate the Republic Day of India.
- Due to the Covid pandemic situation, we are constrained to host this event in a virtual format. We are grateful for your support.
- This day in 1950, a little over two years after becoming an independent nation, India adopted a far-sighted Constitution.
- India is home to an ancient civilisation and the birthplace of several of world's religions.
- Our journey as a sovereign nation is entering 75th year.
- This journey is guided by our Constitution and is remarkable in many ways.
- Overcoming colonial past and the trauma of partition, India chose to become a Republic that guaranteed equal rights for all its citizens.
- Diversity and Democracy define our nation.
- As a country with one sixth of the world's population, a society that is mega diverse in terms of ethnicities, faiths, languages and cultures chose the path of democratic governance.
- The country stands transformed within this relatively short span.
- Two years ago, the Indian national elections of 2019 not only had the highest number of eligible voters - more than 910 million - but also saw the highest ever voter turnout in India at nearly 70%.
- India's GDP is now around 2.7 trillion US Dollar and is among the fastest growing large economies.

- Indian scientists have launched space probes to Mars and Moon; they conduct polar research in Arctic and Antarctic; deploy nuclear energy; develop drugs and vaccines; and are preparing for a manned space flight and deep ocean missions.
- At the same time, technology is being deployed to scale up development solutions for hundreds of millions of people. There have been massive gains in financial inclusion and efficient & transparent e-governance.

Friends,

- The large Indian economy is bouncing back strongly.
- Despite pandemic, the number of unicorns emerging from India is multiplying.
- In India, drones are delivering vaccines. Space tech companies are testing 3D printed rocket engines. World's first DNA vaccine for Covid19 was developed and approved in India. AI-assisted health tech solutions are being commercialized. FinTech is booming.
- Indian healthcare and renewable energy Startups are winning global recognition.
- India is not only achieving its climate action commitments but is setting ever more ambitious 2030 targets. 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. Half of installed power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels. Emission intensity of GDP to be reduced by 35% over 2005 levels.

Friends,

- Earlier this month, India crossed an historic landmark – that of 1.57 billion vaccine doses administered in one year.
- It is a testimony to India's innovation and ability to manufacture at scale in these challenging times.
- Vaccines made in India have also reached more than 90 countries.
- As economic growth returns, the battle against global warming resumes in earnest.
- Accelerating an inclusive green transition is the key.
- This requires innovative sustainable solutions for cleaner technologies, circular economy, smart grids, AI & digitalization and life sciences and HealthTech.
- These are also the areas of our ongoing collaboration and partnerships with Sweden.
- Despite pandemic, India Sweden political engagement has further intensified.

- Last year there were three Prime Ministerial interactions – once in March in a virtual Summit and then in May at the India-EU Summit. This was followed by a meeting on the sidelines of COP26 in Glasgow.
- There were several ministerial engagements, which included areas such as Trade and industry, Science & Technology, Environment & Climate Change, and Defence.
- Several new investment decisions in India were announced by Swedish companies last year.
- Similarly, a number of big Indian businesses are invested in Sweden in diverse areas such as textiles, specialty steels, metal forgings, power transmission, electrical equipment and digital sustainable solutions.
- Indian educated professionals today head a number of leading Technology companies globally. Here in Sweden, we are proud of the Indian Diaspora - researchers, professors, professionals - who are all making useful contribution to their new home.
- The India Sweden joint international initiative on Climate Action – the LeadIT (Leadership Group on Industry Transition), launched a couple of years ago, continues to attract important new members.
- We also welcome Sweden’s decision to join the International Solar Alliance.

Friends,
Excellencies,

- India has long engaged constructively globally with all partners.
- Whether it is peacekeeping or counter terrorism or other global challenges at the United Nations; humanitarian assistance or development partnerships, vaccine equity or SDGs or climate change.
- India is currently serving its eighth term as an elected member of the UN Security Council. Later this December, India will assume the responsibilities as the next G20 Presidency.

Excellencies,

- Before concluding, may I once again thank all of you for joining us today, as we celebrate the strength of our constitution that provides the basis for the exciting and inclusive journey of more than 1.3 billion people on the path of democracy.
- May I now invite you to listen to a special message from H. E. Foreign Minister of Sweden Ms. Ann Linde on this occasion.
- We are very grateful for this gesture Your Excellency.

- Thank you.

- I would like to express our gratitude to H. E. Foreign Minister of Sweden Ms. Ann Linde for sharing a special message on the occasion of the Republic Day of India.

- We deeply appreciate this warm gesture.

- We look forward to further intensification of India Sweden partnership.