

## **Sambandh Gallery**

### **Inauguration**

1 September 2021

### **Remarks**

#### **Ambassador Tanmaya Lal**

A very warm welcome to all of you,

First of all, I would like to thank Ambassador Elinor Hammarhjold for her presence.

May I also thank Ambassador Klas Molin, Ambassador Niclas Kvarnström, other senior colleagues for joining us today.

Friends,

We are grateful to Ambassador Elinor for accepting our invitation to visit us today and inaugurate this India Sweden Sambandh Gallery.

This Photo gallery is a modest attempt at creating a visual tour of our engagement over the past decades and beyond.

We moved to these premises in March last year.

Before I arrived in Stockholm, my colleagues here, especially Counsellor Anita Shukla had finalised these beautiful premises.

This is known as the Schenkel Building, which dates to 270 years ! having been built originally in 1750.

After I joined here some months back, I was pleasantly surprised to see the Swedish Embassy's hashtag Sambandh.

It appeared most appropriate and we decided to name the Gallery as Sambandh.

So, I want to acknowledge Ambassador Klas for providing us with this wonderful name to not only this friendship and partnership but also to this Gallery !

The collection that you have just seen only provides some glimpses, mainly political

We are now hoping to create and compile audio visual stories of our business, investment, technology, arts & culture, sports and many other aspects of our Sambandh.

We seem to be coming out of a very difficult phase now.

Vaccination doses in India has crossed 650 million mark. We recently had 13 million doses administered in a single day.

The Indian economy has grown by 20% during Q2. For the Financial Year the figure is around FY 19%. FDI figures for the year are USD 80 billion. Foreign exchange reserves are USD 630 billion.

New far reaching reforms are being implemented. This includes liberalisation of several important sectors such as defence, space, drones, geospatial data acquisition & management.

There is a lot of emphasis on Manufacturing. Therefore, focus is on improving and expanding Infrastructure, Ease of Doing Business, Taxation, Labour Laws.

Prime Minister has announced a National Hydrogen Mission. There is focus on Clean Tech, Sustainable solutions and Circular Economy.

Despite the strange and difficult context of the pandemic, we have had a series of high level engagements including this year.

This includes the Virtual Summit between our Prime Ministers, the India EU Summit, Ministerial interactions. Sweden has joined the International Solar Alliance.

I had the opportunity to attend a useful interaction on Monday at the India Sweden Business Leaders Round Table ISBLRT meeting of the Swedish members – on the beautiful Götheburg ship. Hon'ble Minister Baylan attended the event.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome Ambassador Niclas to his new responsibilities. He is starting with a great challenge – Afghanistan – with all the issues about evacuation, humanitarian assistance etc. There are of course serious concerns about human rights and terrorism.

Like Sweden India has been a major development partner for Afghanistan. We hope that there will be not only peace & security, but we could also work closely together on other global issues including Climate Action and Sustainable solutions.

We are now looking forward to the India Sweden Joint Commission dates.

We will have the privilege of welcoming Hon'ble Minister Baylan at the India Sweden Innovation Day special event.

May I thank all of you for accepting our invitation.

May I now request Ambassador Elinor to say a few words.

---