

Namaste Stockholm

17 September 2022

Stockholm

Remarks by Ambassador

Tanmaya Lal

Namaste Stockholm !

A warm welcome to all of you,

Namaste Stockholm is back after two difficult years.

It is a blessing to be able to resume these public celebrations.

Thanks to Mr. Sanjoo Malhotra and India Unlimited for making this possible. It is not an easy task. So, many thanks to you and your team Mr. Sanjoo.

May I also thank Ms. Christina Steer from Visit Sweden for joining us today in this wonderful setting.

Good to see all the partners who have joined hands with India Unlimited.

Friends,

We are happy and proud to present young talent based here in Sweden.

They will present a range of Indian classical, folk, film & modern dance and music.

They offer a glimpse of the diversity that is part of India's civilizational heritage.

We welcome all of them and thank them for joining us today.

Friends,

This is a special year for us as we celebrate 75 years of India's independence.

India is one sixth of humanity - 1,300 million people.

A nation of huge diversity - of languages, faiths, ethnicities, cultures.

Democracy and Diversity are our biggest strengths as we move forward.

In a span of 75 years, India has come a long way.

Even as global economy faces strong headwinds, India has emerged in the last few weeks as the fifth largest economy with record levels of GDP growth and FDI.

Last year Maximum number of Unicorns - startups with a valuation of more than 1 billion dollars – as many as 44 – came from India despite Covid.

There is strong investor confidence in the scale and speed of innovative solutions being offered.

This excitement is based on the ongoing digital and infrastructure transformation.

Highest number of digital payments globally are being made in India now.

Indigenous covid vaccines were quickly developed.

More than 2 billion Covid vaccine doses were administered in 18

months. A manned space Mission is under preparation.

Airports to railways and Metros are being run on solar power.

Hydrogen powered buses developed in India are coming on

roads. A real transformation is underway in India.

Friends,

The India Sweden partnership is also on the upswing.

Our leaders are meeting regularly.

We are collaborating on innovation, clean technologies and industry

transition. A growing number of Indian companies are doing business in

Sweden.

Not only in IT solutions but also in heavy engineering. Some of them are partners in today's event.

Ericsson has been in India for more than 100 years. Volvo, Spotify, Truecaller, H&Mor IKEA are all increasing their presence.

Indian diaspora is making significant contribution here.

The future is promising, as we complete 75 years of India Sweden diplomatic ties next year.

Friends,

In India we are now moving into the exciting festive season.

Today's programme began with a tribute to Lord Ganesha. We recently celebrated the festivals of Ganesh Chaturthi and Onam. Durga Puja is coming up next.

We are excited to bring to you a glimpse of the vibrant festivities, the diverse colours, sights & sounds and taste of India here with Namaste Stockholm.

Thank you all for joining.