

INDIA DAY
Flavours KTH
Stockholm
7 December 2022

**Remarks by Ambassador
Tanmaya Lal**

- Namaskar,
- Thank you for inviting me. It is great to be among young bright students !
- This is the first time I am joining this event although I visited KTH a couple of months back.
- This is an exciting time to be in Stockholm as we enter the Nobel Week.
- As science and technology students you would know that this year the Nobel is celebrating breakthroughs in Click Chemistry with applications for medicine and materials; Quantum Entanglement with applications for encryption and computing; and Paleogenomics that enhances our understanding of human origins.
- This spirit of research & innovation is also what defines India Sweden collaboration.
- In this 75th year of our independence, India has become the world's fifth largest economy. Yesterday World Bank upgraded forecast for India's economic growth to nearly 7%.
- More than 100 unicorns have now come out from India. This reflects the investor confidence in the innovative scalable solutions coming out of India.
- Indian startups are building rockets and satellites.
- Today if we consider any global challenge or mega trend such as Digitalisation, Decarbonisation, Deglobalisation or Pandemic, India is a part of the global solution.
- Last week India took over as the G20 President. In three weeks, Sweden takes over EU Presidency.
- Next year also marks 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Sweden.
- Our engagement, of course, goes further back.
- In 1930 much before India's independence Prof. C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics.
- More than a hundred years ago, after World War I and before Gandhiji had returned to India, Indian revolutionaries based themselves in Stockholm.
- In 1913 Tagore became the first non-European to be awarded Nobel Prize for Literature.

- Going further back, just after the 1857 rebellion, Swedish engineers worked on building sections of Indian Railways and iron and steel works in India.
- Two hundred years ago Prof Otto Tullberg initiated Indology studies at Uppsala University.
- And almost 300 years ago, Swedish East India Company ships sailed from Gothenburg to trade with India and beyond.
- We have come a long way since then.
- The Ministers of Foreign Trade of Sweden Johan Forssell is on his way to India today. Two days back Former Prime Minister Carl Bildt met Foreign Minister Dr. Jaishankar.
- In recent months MoUs on financial regulation and aviation control have been signed. Joint Working Groups on Defence, Digital Technologies and Health have met.
- At the recent COP27, our Ministers of Environment led the discussions of our joint global initiative on climate action - the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT).
- In May this year, our Prime Ministers met at the 2nd India Nordic Summit.
- Two weeks ago, a Swedish scientific delegation was in India to discuss joint development of a payload on India's Venus Space Mission with ISRO.
- Last month, Volvo inaugurated its second largest R&D centre globally in India.
- SAAB has announced plans to manufacture in India. Autoliv, Sandvik, IKEA all are expanding presence in India. Maximum number of the Ericsson's employees are in India.
- Indian companies are producing specialty steel, automotive components, cellulose & bioethanol & power transmission equipment in Sweden. They are also supplying digital and sustainability solutions.
- Joint calls for proposals on projects in circular economy, smart grids and other sustainable solutions have been announced.
- So, a lot is happening.
- Academic linkages remain an important part of our collaboration.
- I understand that KTH too has long collaborated with premier Indian institutions.
- Indian students at KTH & other leading Swedish institutions are an important thread in our ties.
- India remains an important source for talent pool as industry moves towards digital and green transition. Indian engineers are already working at Northvolt and H2 Steel.

- All of you are important actors in these mega trends.
- At the same time, you also build bridges between institutions, communities and countries.
- Through your daily interactions at KTH and beyond, you shape opinion about India.
- An India that represents 1/6th of humanity in all its diversity, its talent and dynamism, and civilizational heritage.
- Events like this also help in this process.

- Interesting to know that this evening you will tell the story of Indian cinema.
- Mainstream Hindi films have been hugely popular across Asia and Africa.
- But Indian cinema has been much more than escapist masala movies with song & dance.
- The story of Indian cinema is as old as that of the major world cinema.
- Already in late 1890s moving pictures were being shot in India. The first feature film, a silent movie came out in 1913. By 1920 nearly 30 films were being produced annually in India.
- In 1931, the first talkies came out in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Telugu and Tamil languages.
- Even by that time, cities like Bombay (Mumbai), Calcutta (Kolkata) and Madras (Chennai) had become leading film hubs. Today Bangalore and Hyderabad are also among cinema hubs.
- So, the story of Indian cinema is also the reflection of India's diversity & creativity.
- Today Indian cinema is a global phenomenon. In part due to the hugely successful Indian Diaspora across continents.

- We are looking forward to this evening's programme.
- May I again congratulate all of you for your efforts and wish you the very best.

- Thank You.