

Namaste Stockholm

Stockholm

9 September 2023

Remarks

Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

- May I first welcome **Hon. Governor of Stockholm County** Ms. Anna Kinberg Batra here today. We are grateful that you have agreed to inaugurate this year's Special Namaste Stockholm.
- Namaste Stockholm is back in an even Bigger Avatar !
- This year is special since India and Sweden are celebrating **75 years** of diplomatic relations.
- Also Sweden and India have held parallel Presidencies of the **EU** and **G20** !
- A **landmark G20 Summit** has opened in Delhi today even as we speak !
- 2023 is also special as two weeks ago India's **Vikram lander** landed on the moon.
- You may have seen remarkable pictures of **Pragyan rover** going for a drive on the lunar surface around the **Shiv Shakti site**.
- Some of our partners here today represent **Indian companies** that have actively contributed to this historic **Chandrayaan-3** mission. Many congratulations !
- We welcome all **partners** who have joined hands for this year's Namaste Stockholm.
- And Special thanks to Mr. **Sanjoo Malhotra** of **India Unlimited** and his **team** for putting on this huge show.
- The great **success of Namaste Stockholm** of last year found a special mention in the speech by Hon. **Minister for Foreign Trade** Johan Forssell on our Republic Day reception this year in January.

- This year's **Global Business Climate Survey** released by Business Sweden and Swedish Chamber of Commerce a few days back shows that India has emerged as **one of the most preferred business destinations**.
- We have just completed a very successful roadshow '**Time for India**' organized by **Team Sweden in India** where we also participated actively. There was **huge interest** in all the cities – Stockholm, Linköping, Luleå and Gothenburg on the **transformational India story** and what that means for Sweden and the rest of the world.
- Yesterday, we had a great session where **Indian companies** invested in Sweden talked about their **growth journeys**. We are **proud** of the contribution made by Indian companies and professionals to the Swedish economy and society.
- Some of you may have joined the **Yoga session** here earlier today. In June it was wonderful to see United Nations **International Day of Yoga** celebrated across all major cities in Sweden.
- I may add that this year has been designated by the **United Nations** as the **International Year of Millets** following an Indian proposal. Millets are a climate smart super food and we hope this will promote their greater use.
- India's mega **diversity** is also reflected in the many varied **cuisines**. We invite you to sample some of these here today.
- The **festive season** has begun in India. Last few days, we have celebrated **Onam** and **Janmashtami** with in Stockholm and Gothenburg. Many more festivals are coming up.
- We are excited to bring to you a **glimpse** of the **vibrant colours, sights & sounds** and **tastes** of **Bharat**, here in Kungsträdgården with Namaste Stockholm.
- I understand there will be around **35 performances** today ! All done by the amazing **local Indian talent and their friends** ! Our huge **complements** to all the artistes.
- We hope you will enjoy this year's Namaste Stockholm !