

**Yuva Sweden**  
**Release of Publication - Reflections**  
Stockholm  
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**Remarks by Ambassador**  
**Tanmaya Lal**

Namaskar

Thank you for inviting me this evening, it is good to join you.

Especially the **young teenagers**.

**Congratulations** on this wonderful **initiative**.

Great to see this **platform** being crated for the young Indians in Sweden !

I have browsed through the '**Reflections**' and very much enjoyed the **articles, poems and drawings**.

It is interesting to learn about **perspectives and experiences** and hopes of the young who are in this special situation – of having been **born in India and now growing up in Sweden**.

The articles & poems share some **glimpses** into your world.

These talk about how you understand your **identity** – at school or among friends - as you move towards becoming young adults.

**This diversity of experience will enrich your personality**.

Good to see **curiosity on wanting to know more** about both India and Sweden.

And the **comparisons** that have been made.

It is interesting to look at the **topics** on which articles have been written.

**Schools, Education systems, Languages, Food, Festivals, Transport and Environment**.

Good to learn about the interesting **viewpoints**.

I must say I also learnt about some **new words** !

Interesting also to see references to **Namaste Stockholm** that the Embassy has been organising with its partners for the past several years.

On **Food**, you would know about the Swedish fondness for **spices** such as Cinnamon and Cardamom which are extensively used in their Fika buns, or the wines like the **Glögg**, or the Christmas specialties **Rice pudding**.

These spices or even rice is not native to this region. In fact these spices come from India and our region. This use of spices in Sweden that goes back centuries recalls ancient **global trading networks** and the **awareness** of these cherished items.

Indian items like 2,000 years old **coins** and **beads & gemstones** have also been discovered in ancient Viking settlements.

I may point out that on most of the topics included in your articles, there is **lot of ongoing engagement** between India and Sweden.

For instance, on **transport & mobility and environment**.

In fact on **Climate**, India and Sweden have a joint global initiative called **LeadIT** which aims at industrial transition – in sectors such as steel and cement. Nearly 40 countries and multinationals have joined LeadIT.

Our companies are collaborating on **clean technologies**.

Some of our leading IT companies are providing **sustainability** and other solutions for big Swedish companies.

A lot is going on in **Safety** aspects in mobility.

A large number of bright students coming out of leading Indian academic institutions are doing their **Master's or PhD** in Sweden. They are also sought after by Swedish businesses.

I saw a reference to **Arctic Council** in one of the Q&As included in the publication.

**Polar research** is one of the areas of collaboration being pursued.

A big **meeting** on Arctic is scheduled in India in a few months' time.

A few weeks ago, we took an Indian delegation from **SpaceTech and Geospatial** sectors to **Espace** spaceport in Kiruna to explore collaboration.

I was happy to meet some **young Indians working there and also studying** at the LTU Space University in Kiruna.

I am sure **many of you will join sectors where India and Sweden are working together**.

All of you will form **excellent cultural and professional Bridges** between India and Sweden.

**You can help fill in gaps of knowledge** in both countries about each other. And **build friendships**.

You will be able to develop a **more fuller personality** and hopefully take best of both worlds.

Our **best wishes**.