

**Visit of EAM
Interaction with Diaspora**

14 May
Stockholm

**Remarks by Ambassador
Tanmaya Lal**

Hon'ble Minister
Members of Indian Diaspora
My colleagues from the Ministry

It is a privilege to welcome Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar in Stockholm. The visit is special as it comes during a landmark year marking 75 years of our diplomatic relations with Sweden.

His visit comes at an important time when India and Sweden have assumed significant responsibilities in chairing two of the most influential groupings - the G20 and the European Union - at a time of serious global and regional challenges.

Our partnership is intensifying. In the last few months alone, there have been nearly 10 ministerial interactions including twice between the Foreign Ministers.

The contribution of the significant Indian diaspora to the Swedish economy is well recognized and appreciated by the Swedish leaders.

The last 8-10 years have seen a rapid increase in the numbers of Indian professionals and engineers working for Swedish and Indian companies across Sweden. Sweden is keen to attract more Indian talent for the cutting-edge technology ventures in green industrial & digital transition.

Today we are happy to welcome members of the Indian diaspora not only from Stockholm but also from cities like Luleå which is located 150 kms north of Arctic Circle, 900 kms from here; and from Gothenburg and Malmö in the south around 500-600 kms from Stockholm. They have also come from many other cities including Umeå, Blekinge, Västerås, Helsingborg, Almhult, Uppsala and Dalarna region.

Many of you have spent decades here and others are more recent arrivals. There are many researchers and students from leading Swedish universities including KTH, Karolinska and Chalmers.

One can hear many Indian languages on Swedish streets now. Yoga and colours of Indian festivals, songs & dances are enthusiastically received across Swedish cities. The Swedish Minister of Foreign Trade recently expressed his wonder of how the Indian festival Namaste Stockholm filled the central square in Stockholm with Swedes.

It is great to welcome you all here today.

May I now request Hon'ble Minister to address the audience on the occasion.