

Nordic for India
Nordic Solutions in Sewage & Sludge Treatment and MSW for India

9 March 2021

Stockholm

Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

- Greetings to all of you
- I would like to thank this initiative by IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and Nordic Innovation for this interaction.
- I wish to also thank Nordic Innovation, the various companies participating and my colleagues from India who are present in this interaction.
- As all of you would know last Friday Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Löfven of Sweden had a very substantive virtual Summit. In fact, this was their 5th interaction in the last five years.
- In addition, we have had His Majesty King of Sweden visiting India in December 2019 and our President Pranab Mukherjee visiting Sweden in 2015.
- A very significant thing to note is that despite 2020 being the Covid year, there were a range of ministerial interactions between our countries.
- This also included the first-ever India Nordic Baltic Conclave which had a strong participation by the private sector.
- You may also remember that Prime Ministers Modi's visit in 2018 to Stockholm was when Sweden hosted the first India Nordic Summit. I understand that the next such summit is under discussion.
- In the virtual Summit between our leaders three days ago, the leaders again stressed that the core of our partnership is about innovation and technology for finding sustainable development solutions for mutual interest.
- The requirement for close collaboration between research, industry and the government
- In recent years and especially in the last one year partly in the wake of the pandemic challenge, we are witnessing a much closer collaboration between research institutes, industry partners and policy makers.
- Sewage and sludge treatment and municipal solid wastes are huge challenges, especially for a country the size of India which is undergoing rapid urbanization and industrialization.

- These are important aspects for moving towards sustainable and smart cities and urban spaces while they pose big challenges, they are also huge business opportunities.
- The India-Sweden or India-Nordic partnership remains focused on finding solutions for sustainability and clean technologies and they have great synergy with the requirements and priorities of the Government of India. My colleagues from India will be able to provide more information and context to the scale of challenge and various initiatives such as Clean India Mission which is making a strong headway.
- I look forward to the discussion and learn more about possible synergies on this issue.