

India Sweden Innovation Day

26 October 2021

Stockholm

Remarks

Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

- Good morning everyone, Greetings from Stockholm
- Welcome to the 8th edition of the India Sweden Innovation Day.
- We are honoured that Hon'ble Ministers Mr. Baylan and Dr. Jitendra Singh are joining this inaugural session.
- I would like to thank Dr. Renu Swarup, Secretary to Departments of S&T and Biotechnology and Ms. Darja Isaksson, DG Vinnova as also Ambassador Klas Molin for also joining this session.
- We are finally witnessing successes in the fight against the global pandemic through vaccines and diagnostics. This has been driven by the speed of scientific research and innovation and close collaboration of researchers with entrepreneurs and government agencies.
- Last week, India crossed an historic landmark – that of 1 billion vaccine doses administered in just 9 months. Among other things, it is a testimony to India's innovation and ability to manufacture at scale.
- The large Indian economy is bouncing back strongly and registered a growth of 20% in the first quarter of 2021-22.
- As economic growth returns, the battle against global warming resumes in earnest.
- Accelerating an inclusive green transition is the key.
- This requires innovative sustainable solutions for cleaner technologies, circular economy, smart grids, AI & digitalization and life sciences and healthtech.
- These are also the areas of our ongoing collaboration and partnerships.
- Sweden continues to be ranked among the top 2 on Global Innovation Indices and is a leading economy on competitiveness and sustainability. India too is rapidly improving on all these measures.
- Innovation, research and cleaner technologies, therefore, form an important basis of our partnership.

- It is in this context that this annual Innovation Day brings together researchers, businesses and investors alike. We thank all business leaders and other participants joining today's interaction.
- Despite pandemic, our political engagement has further intensified.
- This year our Prime Ministers have interacted twice – once in March in a virtual Summit and then in May at the India-EU Summit. Trade Ministers had a substantive engagement in April. Defence Ministers interacted with industry from both sides in June.
- The India Sweden joint international initiative on Climate Action – the LeadIT (Leadership Group on Industry Transition) launched a couple of years ago continues to attract important new members. The US joined earlier this year. The group aims to work on transition to cleaner technologies.
- Sweden has joined the International Solar Alliance.
- Joint calls for co-funding industrial R&D projects have been announced by both countries in areas such as smart cities, smart grids, internet of things and digitalization.
- India and Sweden are among the few countries who have extensive defence manufacturing capabilities and who are engaged in space & polar research.
- New avenues of collaboration in space technologies are being actively explored by Government agencies, research institutions and private sector.
- Fresh collaboration is being pursued in polar research.
- Here in Sweden, major new industrial innovations are underway, for instance producing greener steel and greener batteries at a very large scale.
- In India too, extensive reforms are catalyzing startups and innovation.
- Despite pandemic, the number of unicorns emerging from India is multiplying.
- Drones are delivering vaccines. Space tech companies are testing 3D printed rocket engines. World's first DNA vaccine for Covid19 has been developed and approved in India. Other major AI-assisted health tech solutions are being commercialized. FinTech is booming.
- Geospatial data acquisition, use and applications have been liberalized. Startups are demonstrating fast charging of electric vehicles.
- An Indian startup that has developed low-cost portable technology converting agricultural waste biomass into usable fuel while reducing pollution, has just been recognized for the EarthShot Prize.

- Many such innovators and startups are supported by government including, for instance, the Departments of Science & Technology and Biotechnology.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO is also helping with incubation of space startups.
- India is well on its way to meeting its Paris commitments through investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- India's ability to scale is reducing the cost of solar power significantly.
- Prime Minister Modi has also announced a National Hydrogen Mission to make India as one of the global hubs for producing green Hydrogen. This too offers enormous opportunities of collaboration.
- Indian companies are working with Swedish partners to develop and deliver sustainable solutions here in Sweden.
- All this makes for exciting times where technology is being deployed for innovative solutions and scaling up the response to meet development challenges, something that India offers.
- The future is promising as this is a win-win situation.
- I would like to thank the India Unlimited, the Sweden India Business Council SIBC and the Confederation of Indian Industry for organizing this event.
- We are grateful that Hon'ble Minister Baylan and Dr. Jitender Singh have spared their valuable time to join this edition of India Sweden Innovation Day.
- We look forward to their insights and guidance on the theme for today's interactions - Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition.
- Thank you