

Sustainability Dialogues
Sweden India Business Council (SIBC)
8 March 2022

Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

- Good morning everyone.
- Thank you Arati. May I first offer greetings on the International Women's Day today.
- Compliments to the SIBC team for initiating these Sustainability Dialogues.
- Modern economies have been built on an unsustainable resource extraction and carbon footprint.
- Sustainability is not only a responsible act but also makes sound business sense.
- Sustainability is a cross cutting theme linked intimately with climate action, energy, circular economy, technologies and competitiveness.
- Sweden is a global leader in sustainability. Swedish companies are pioneers in coming up with innovative solutions to develop cleaner technologies and Swedish consumers contribute by opting for sustainable products.
- Sustainability has a long tradition in India and is now regaining momentum.
- This Green transition presents a huge opportunity for collaboration, while contributing to a more sustainable economy and lifestyles.
- Sweden and India have been partners in this field for a long time, be it businesses or government or academia.
- This partnership is not only at a bilateral level but also at a global level and goes back a long time.
- Five decades ago in 1972, India was the only country invited that participated at the Head of Government level at the first ever UN Conference on Human Environment hosted by Sweden in Stockholm, the first such global effort. This was two decades even before the start of Climate Change negotiations.
- A few weeks back, Foreign Minister Ann Linde, in a special video message on the occasion of India's Republic Day said that 'India had raised the profile' of that Conference and that 'India ensured its success'.
- Today, this partnership is reflected strongly in our joint global initiative of LeadIT - Leadership Group on Industry Transition - that promotes cleaner technologies for the industrial sectors that have a far more intense carbon footprint such as cement or steel manufacturing.

- This coalition is growing fast. US joined the group some months back.
- Last year Sweden joined the International Solar Alliance, an Indo-French initiative that now has nearly 100 countries as its members. Only yesterday, the Wall Street Journal carried an article on this ambitious initiative.
- Both countries are pushing for a cleaner transition for the hard-to-abate industrial sectors. This will require innovative technology solutions.
- Pioneering actions are underway in Sweden in achieving cleaner production of both steel and cement.
- Some months back, I visited the new HYBRIT Steel Plant in Luleå in north Sweden. It was exciting to see the breakthrough being achieved to produce steel with clean hydrogen instead of coking coal, at scale, to provide this cleaner solution.
- I also had the opportunity to visit Aditya Birla Domsjö Fabriker Bio-refinery near Örnsköldsvik that produces cellulose and learn about their sustainable practices including the production of bio-ethanol.
- More recently at TATA Steel Surahammars Bruk, one of the oldest companies in Sweden, I learnt about the emerging technology trends and sustainable solutions in terms of ultra-thin electrical steel being produced for electric vehicles, aviation and medical sectors.
- Indian firms and professionals are also deeply engaged in the ongoing digital transformation and offering sustainable solutions in the Swedish economy and society.
- A number of think tanks and other institutions such as the IVL, the Swedish Environmental Research Institute, or the KTH Royal Institute of Technology and its industry partners are working on projects relating to water and waste management sectors with Indian partners.
- Indian and Swedish government agencies are funding joint R&D projects on areas such as smart grids or smart city solutions, circular economy or energy efficiency.
- India is not only ahead on meeting its Paris commitments but at the recent COP26 in Glasgow, India once again hugely raised the bar of our climate action targets.
- 500 GW of non-fossil energy by 2030. Half of our total energy from renewables by 2030. Reduction of 1 billion tonnes of Carbon emissions by 2030. Reduction of the energy intensity of our economic growth by 45% by 2030. And 1 MT of Hydrogen annually by 2030.
- These are huge targets for any economy. Impacting all sectors.
- In India 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 been recognized for the EarthShot Prize.
- Many such innovators and startups are supported by government.
- Innovation, sustainability and green transition remain the core areas of India Sweden partnership.

- A few days back our Environment and Climate Change Ministers met in Nairobi at the 50th anniversary of the UN Environment Programme. Establishment of UNEP was one of the major outcomes of the 1972 Stockholm Conference. At their recent meeting our Ministers discussed the upcoming Stockholm + 50 Conference that Sweden will host in June this year.
- We look forward to continued collaboration between India and Sweden, especially on sustainability.
- I would like to thank the SIBC for organizing these Sustainability Dialogues.
- And I look forward to listening to professionals in this field about their vision, experience and initiatives.
- Thank you.