Engaging India at Almedalen

Seminar 2

Energy Collaborations for a Sustainable Future

Visby, Gotland

5 July 2022

Opening Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Good morning everyone,

Thank you Rupali for this interaction,

I would like to thank the Content People and the University of Uppsala Campus Gotland for organising this series of seminars on Engaging with India here at Almedalen.

You have brought together a very eminent panel of experts on the subject of Energy.

I would like to share some thoughts briefly on the broader context and then look forward to hearing more from the experts on the areas of collaboration.

The overall theme for these seminars in sustainability. And the way we use energy is crucial to that objective.

Energy is central to life and is at the core of all human activity.

The journey of human civilization is also a journey of different energy sources being exploited, deployed and controlled.

We have used muscle energy, biomass like firewood, water for a long time, before the industrial revolution started based on extracting energy from coal and then oil and gas. This use of fossil fuels has also led to one of the most serious challenges of today that of global warming and climate change.

There is finally a huge push towards deployment of renewable energy including solar, wind, water and nuclear.

However, there is often a misperception based on lack of understanding about this climate action by various countries, especially in case of India. Some understanding of the different contexts and circumstances is helpful.

While Sweden is almost totally energy independent, thanks largely to its access to hydro power due to its geography and the deployment of nuclear energy, **the situation is different for India.**

India with its large economy, has limited oil & gas resources due to its geography and is currently hugely dependent on energy imports. India is among the fastest growing large economies globally and energy requirement is a big concern.

India is still a developing country having attained independence only seven decades back, and a large proportion of people still have far less energy access and use than the comparable levels in the developed economies. This has a direct impact on socio economic productivity besides ease of living.

A major continuing priority for India is, therefore, to provide affordable and reliable access to clean energy to its people. This is not the situation in Sweden.

At the same time, **India is making all efforts to see how the energy intensity of its economic growth can be reduced**. This means ever greater use of renewable energy sources. This will also reduce our import dependence and work towards climate action.

Ambitious renewable energy targets are being set and achieved.

India is among the few countries that achieved their Paris climate commitments. India's Prime Minister has announced even more ambitious climate action targets at the last year's COP26.

In the last few years, on the one hand rural electrification has been completed. At the same time deployment of renewable energy, especially solar energy is being scaled up.

400 million LED units have been distributed in the last few years. 40 million LPG connections for cooking fuel have been installed.

Delhi Metro is being run on solar power generated 1,000 km south of Delhi. Delhi Airport is run on renewable energy. Cochin airport is run on solar power. Railways are close to completing electrification. Solar power is being deployed on railway stations and coaches. Massive wind and solar parks have become operational.

The operating per unit cost of solar power has fallen below that of thermal in India. This is due to the advantages of scale that India offers. Just as the cost of mobile data usage is now the lowest in the world.

At COP26 in Glasgow a new bar was set. Prime Minister announced that by 2030 India aims to deploy 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy; half of total energy capacity will come from renewables; 1 billion tonnes of projected carbon emissions will be reduced; the energy intensity of India's economy will be reduced by 45%; 5 MT of Hydrogen will be produced annually.

A big push is being provided to electric mobility. Production linked incentives are being offered in areas like solar panels, semiconductors and hydrogen.

Prime Minister has also announced that India aims to become energy independent by 2047, when we will mark 100th anniversary of our independence.

All these ambitious actions mean that there are huge opportunities of collaborations in the field of clean energy and energy efficiency in many different ways.

I look forward to listening to the experts on the panel about how they view these areas of energy collaborations for a more sustainable future.

Thank You.

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