

## **Interaction with Indian Diaspora**

### **17<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas**

2 December 2022

Stockholm

### **Remarks by Ambassador**

Tanmaya Lal

- Thank you all for joining us this evening.
- We had invited you this evening to talk about the upcoming Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas to be hosted in Indore in January 2023.
- Counsellor has provided you with some information about this special event.
- This in-person special event for the Indian diaspora will take place after a gap of four years. I had the opportunity to attend the last PBD event hosted in Varanasi in 2019 when I accompanied the Mauritius Prime Minister and his delegation.
- 2023, which is now around the corner, will see several important landmarks including the continuing celebrations for the 75 years of our independence.
- We would strongly recommend you to explore the possibility of attending this next PBD session. And also to encourage your family, friends and colleagues to consider participating.
- This is the second such interaction with representatives of Indian diaspora that we have hosted here at the Embassy in recent days. Through you we hope to reach out to many more members of Indian Diaspora.
- As 2022 is drawing to a close, we thought that we would use this occasion also to share information on some of the recent developments in the context of India and Sweden, India's broader global engagement; the ongoing progress within India, and also about this Embassy's work, which may be of some interest to you.
- I had recently travelled to India to attend the Ambassadors' Conference. This Conference was taking place after a gap of four years.
- This year it was organized in Kevadia, Gujarat and coincided with the global launch of Mission LiFE for Lifestyle for Environment jointly by Prime Minister Modi and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. Several world leaders including from France, UK and Estonia joined the launch virtually.
- In recent years, India has taken the lead in several important global initiatives.
- For instance, the launch of the UN International Day of Yoga at the UN General Assembly in 2014; and the International Solar Alliance jointly launched by Prime Minister Modi and President Hollande at Paris COP21 in 2015.

- In 2019 Prime Minister Modi launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Climate Summit hosted by UN Secretary General.
- The same year India alongwith Sweden, launched the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT). LeadIT now has US, France, UK, Germany, Japan among its growing list of members. And a number of multinationals.
- Mission LiFE is another major global initiative. This focuses attention on how all of us, irrespective of where we live across the globe, can help by adopting more sustainable lifestyles.
- Yet another global initiative, given the backdrop of global warming and food crisis, is regarding the use of Millets. At India's initiative the UN General Assembly has designated 2023 as the UN International Year of Millets.
- If we look at any of the mega global trends today, for instance - Digital transformation, Decarbonisation, Demographic developments or the selective Deglobalisation push - India is an important factor to be considered.
- The sheer scale and speed of the transformation that is underway in India is significant.
- Less than 10 years ago, India's economy was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> when collectively EU was the largest. In this 75<sup>th</sup> year of our independence, India has become the world's 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy. EU collectively is 3<sup>rd</sup> largest economy.
- Indian economy is growing faster than other large economies despite the global headwinds. FDI and exports are at record levels.
- A Digital transformation is catalysing economic growth and financial inclusion.
- India is also climbing rapidly in terms of Innovation, Startup ecosystem, Ease of Doing Business and other rankings, for instance in terms of scientific papers published and patents.
- The list of unicorns coming out of India has crossed the 100 mark.
- Mega investments are going into semiconductor production. 5G is being rolled out in big way. Indigenously developed 5G technology is also being tested.
- In September Apple started manufacturing iPhone 14 in India.
- Defence, Space, Drones, and Geospatial sectors have been opened up. Private sector rocket launches have started.
- Fighter aircraft to Aircraft carrier to private sector rockets to high-speed railways made in India are coming on stream.

- A massive green transition is also underway.
- It is against this important backdrop that India took over the G20 Presidency yesterday.
- India plans to shape the global narrative on a number of the critical global challenges at an important time in recent history.
- Another significant development is the resumed negotiations on India EU Trade and Investment agreements.
- Our engagement with Sweden, which takes over EU Presidency in less than one month, and the European Union is also to be seen in this context.
- India Sweden partnership continues to intensify. Next year marks the 75 years of India Sweden diplomatic relations.
- This year alone there have been a series of high-level interactions including at the level of Prime Minister.
- Even in recent weeks, shortly after the formation of new government in Sweden, we have had a few events, where the new Swedish leadership has engaged with India including Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Busch and Climate Minister Romina Pourmokhtari.
- I called on Minister for Foreign Trade Johan Forssell this week. He is scheduled to visit India next week where he will co-chair the India Sweden Joint Economic Commission along with Minister Piyush Goyal.
- Two MoUs have been signed this year. One on Aviation and another on Financial regulation sector. Three JWG meetings have been held on Defence, IT and Health.
- A lot is happening.
- We would like to share some small clips on some of the aspects that I have mentioned, which we hope would be of some interest.
- We would also like to share some glimpses of the Embassy's engagement with a range of stakeholders in Sweden on the transformation underway in India and the immense potential for further collaboration.
- We would welcome any comments or suggestions later in the program.
- Thank You.