

**India's G20 Presidency**  
**Project for Nordic-India Relations**  
**Utrikespolitiska institutet**  
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**Remarks by Ambassador**  
**Tanmaya Lal**

Good morning everyone,  
A warm welcome to all of you,

I would like to thank the UI and Mr. Henrik Chetan for this timely discussion on India's G20 Presidency. We are happy to host this interaction at our Embassy.

A warm welcome to Mr. Mihir Sharma from the ORF who is the main speaker for today's discussion.

Friends,

**Let me try and explore briefly as to why there should be interest in this topic here in Sweden at this stage.**

We could look at the current global context; and the relevance of G20 grouping itself.

We could look at India of 2023 and what value an Indian Presidency brings in this context.

And how this may be of interest in Sweden.

As we begin 2023, the global outlook is full of serious challenges.

All of us are aware of these.

The **conflict** raging in Europe has a cascading global effect on **energy & food supplies and state of economies**.

**Pandemic** has impacted public health and economies.

**Supply chain disruptions, serious protectionist measures, Inflation & recessionary tendencies, debt crises** are causing huge concern.

**Global warming** and extreme weather events continue to accelerate.

These **global challenges** show our **mutual interdependence** and require **collective responses**.

But there is **little common ground** on **trade** or **climate** or **vaccines** or even **security**.

**Global South** is far more affected by these **multiple crises that are not even of their making**.

Yet there is **no effective forum to address their concerns**.

**United Nations** is beset with deep divides.

Constructive and effective **multilateral** action is missing.

It is against this context that we can place the **relevance of G20**.

Despite the steadily **declining share of G7** members in global economy to now around 40%, the G20 continues to account for 80% of the global GDP and 75% of global exports.

G20 has emerged as an **important** platform with greater **flexibility** as compared with several other multilateral institutions.

G20 platforms have resulted in meaningful advances on a range of **global issues** in the past.

This is the **first ever G20 Presidency by India**.

This comes at a time when despite severe global headwinds, **India's trajectory is looking up**.

The scale and speed of ongoing transformation in India is changing lives of one sixth of global population. And this also presents huge opportunities of collaboration.

India is emerging as one of the drivers of global economy.

In the last decade India has gone from being the 11<sup>th</sup> largest to now **5<sup>th</sup> largest economy**.

India now has world's **third largest startup ecosystem** and is rapidly climbing other indices.

All this is the result of a series of ongoing **reforms**.

Government has created an extensive **digital infrastructure** as public goods that is transforming financial inclusion and unleashing entrepreneurial energies.

Massive investment is boosting **infrastructure, renewable energy, semiconductors, Hydrogen** and many other sectors.

Space startups are launching rockets and satellites.

**India today is full of confidence.**

## What does India bring to the table?

India's **uniqueness** is not easily grasped.

Millennia long experience of a bewildering **diversity** of ethnicities, faiths, languages and cultures coexisting across different geographies and climates has hardly any parallel.

Building upon this tradition, India's constitution provides a modern **democratic framework**, which is one of our greatest strengths.

India is not a member of any alliance or bloc.

But if we consider any **global challenge** - climate change or pandemic or security or sustainable development, **India is a part of solution**.

During Covid pandemic India's **vaccines** reached nearly 100 countries.

Indian **generic drugs** are lifeline for a very large number of developing economies.

At a time of food crisis, India is sending **foodgrains** to a number of countries.

India is stepping in to assist partner countries facing severe **debt** crises.

India is **helping build** roads, Metros, Irrigation systems, dams, power transmission lines and human resource capacities in nearly 80 partner countries.

Some of these efforts are in collaboration with UN; other southern partners such Brazil and South Africa; or US, Japan and Germany.

India is among the **first responders in a range of humanitarian emergencies** in our extended neighbourhood.

The largest number of **UN Peacekeepers** come from India.

India has taken the lead through several global climate initiatives – the **International Solar Alliance**, **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure** CDRI and with Sweden the Leadership Group on Industry Transition **LeadIT**.

Prime Minister Modi and UN Secretary General have recently launched the Lifestyle for Environment **LiFE** global campaign.

In the context of food security, at India's initiative, the UN has designated this year as the **International Year of Millets** to focus on these climate smart superfoods.

Analysts have acknowledged India's constructive contribution in finalising the G20 **Bali Declaration**, especially on international peace & security related issues.

India also brings forth the voice of the **Global South**. So that discussions are more meaningful.

A recent **Global South Summit** hosted by India drew participation from 125 countries.

Therefore, India brings with her a unique capacity to **build bridges** across blocs.

If we look at India's **G20 Presidency theme** and **priorities**, they reflect the global and collective nature of our challenges and solutions, and highlight broad and collective concerns, especially those of the Global South.

An inclusive growth, green and sustainable development, technological transformation, digital public infrastructure, strengthening multilateral institutions, and women empowerment.

### **Is this of interest to Sweden?**

Sweden has always been an **externally oriented nation**.

Sweden's prosperity is largely based on the success of **trade & investment**. Sweden has always been active on **peacekeeping, development partnership, climate, humanitarian action, refugee flows** etc.

Since 1995 Sweden's foreign policy is also largely aligned with the **EU** priorities and Sweden currently holds the **EU Council Presidency**. EU is also a G20 member.

And now, Sweden is also in the process of joining **NATO**.

Therefore, we feel that Sweden has an active interest and role in the global trends and challenges including the deliberations at the G20.

To sum up, G20 is a useful platform especially in these difficult times and India is well positioned with its unique strengths to try and shape serious discussions among leaders across divides.

Sorry for taking so much time, we now look forward to Mihir's presentation.

Thank You.