

Sustainability Dialogues

Decarbonizing Development

Automotive

18 April 2023

Remarks by Ambassador

Tanmaya Lal

- Good morning.
- It is good to join this year's edition of Sustainability Dialogues.
- I would like to thank the SIBC, Ambassador Jan Thesleff and other partners for this useful discussion.
- Sweden is a leader in sustainability.
- Swedish companies pioneer cleaner technologies; Swedish consumers support more sustainable products.
- India too is moving fast domestically and is an important voice on sustainability on global stage.
- More than 50 years ago, when Sweden took the lead in drawing global attention to Environment, India was the only other nation whose Head of Government joined the **Stockholm Conference**. Last year, India engaged actively at the **Stockholm+50** Conference.
- In 2019 India and Sweden jointly launched the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (**LeadIT**) at the Climate Summit hosted by UN Secretary General. *The LeadIT brings together governments and companies from hard-to-abate sectors to move towards Net Zero.* Its membership has now grown to include 18 countries and 18 important multinationals.
- It is good to see that Head of Secretariat of LeadIT Mr. **Per Andersson** is also participating in today's dialogue.
- Sweden has joined the **International Solar Alliance** that was launched by Prime Minister Modi and French President Sarkozy in 2015.

- A few months back, Prime Minister Modi and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres jointly launched **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment), a campaign that seeks to involve every individual across the globe.
- India has become the **fifth largest economy** today from being the eleventh largest only a decade ago.
- However, there is a **long way to go** since our per capita income is still fairly low.
- This shows both the **pace and scale of further growth and business opportunities** ahead.
- India is making all efforts to **decouple** its rapid economic growth from the energy requirement.
- **Decarbonization of Development** is, therefore, an apt theme for discussion.
- India is **setting and achieving** hugely ambitious climate action **targets**.
- The latest targets to be achieved by the end of 2030 are :
 - 500 GW of non-fossil energy
 - Half of total energy from renewables
 - Reduction of 1 billion tonnes of carbon emissions
 - Reduction of energy intensity of economic growth by 45%
 - And production of 1 million tonnes of Hydrogen annually
- This ambition provides a **clear policy path and a scale** that can determine **profitability** for **innovation and businesses**.
- The ongoing scale and speed of development in India is truly **transformational**.

- **Infrastructure & mobility** are leading the way.
- In the last few years alone, the number of **airports** in India has doubled to around 150 and the number is growing further.
- More than 11,000 km of **highways** are being built or expanded every year. 4,500 km of new **railway tracks** have been laid in last one year.
- At the same time, 6,000 route kms of railways have been **electrified** in the last two years.
- **Railways stations and coaches** are deploying solar energy. **Delhi Metro** runs on solar power that is generated 800 km away.
- **Airport** such as Cochin and Delhi are running on solar power.
- The Government of India is **incentivising** manufacturers for **electric vehicles, green hydrogen and biofuels** for use in mobility sector, including 2, 3 & 4-wheeler vehicles, buses, trucks, railways, and aviation.
- **Tax breaks and financing** options are being offered to customers.
- These are exciting times for change.
- Awareness is growing fast.
- A couple of months ago, Hyderabad hosted the first ever **Formula Electric race** in India. Mahindra and Tata group have teams in that high profile competition.
- During a recent visit to Delhi, I saw friends using only **electric mobility cab services** such as BluSmart.
- The sponsor car on display at the ongoing hugely popular **Indian Premier League** cricket venues is an electric vehicle.
- The number of **charging stations** is increasing and is projected to reach 22,000 next year from a current number of around 10,000.
- The number of **Battery swapping stations and services** is also increasing fast.

- In 2021 the number of **electric vehicle sales** in India was 1 million. Most of these are currently in 2 or 3-wheeler segment and this was only around 5% of total automobile sales at this stage.
- A media report today talks about the growing sales of EV in **Tier II and Tier III** cities. Sales of bigger 4-wheeler EVs from last year has already been matched in the first 3 months this year.
- Some projections indicate that by **2030 around 13 million** electric vehicles will be sold annually in India.
- This will represent a **USD 200 billion** opportunity.
- **Big businesses and startups** alike are showing huge interest in **EV segment and also green Hydrogen and bioethanols**.
- **Innovation for sustainability and green transition** remain the core areas of India Sweden partnership. The pace of engagement and collaboration continues to intensify.
- Before concluding, I may also mention that this is a **landmark year**. It marks **75** years of our diplomatic relations and **20** years of Sweden India Business Council.
- In the **last three months** Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Finance have visited India and met their counterparts.
- Minister of Infrastructure is expected to travel to India soon. Similar visits are expected from the Indian side.
- I would like to thank the **SIBC** for this useful initiative and dialogue.
- And I look forward to listening to professionals in this field for their experience, perspectives and plans.
- Thank you.