

**India Sweden Defence Industry Cooperation
Capitalizing Opportunities for Growth and Security**

8 June 2021

Remarks by Ambassador

Tanmaya Lal

Thank you Mr. Shukla,

Hon'ble Ministers of Defence from India and Sweden,
Ambassador Klas Molin,
Representatives of the Swedish and Indian Defence Industry associations
Security & Defence Industry Association (SOFF), and
the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), CII and
Other industry leaders,
Colleagues from DRDO and Ministries of Defence,

- India and Sweden are longstanding partners. And defence remains an important area of our cooperation.
- The Swedish defence industry is rooted in its expertise in mining and metallurgy, mechanical, electrical & electronics engineering. Its capabilities in terms of production of combat aircraft, heavy artillery, and submarines are well known.
- India has also developed strong industrial manufacturing and design capacities in the production of various defence platforms.
- Our cooperation has so far ranged from supplies of various equipment, ammunition and other services, to licensed manufacturing of certain items in India.
- There are a number of technology, manufacturing and R&D collaborations between Swedish and Indian partners. For instance, the Ordnance Factory Board of India has had technology collaboration with SAAB for over four decades.
- Major Swedish companies have established their presence in India over the last two decades.

- The Virtual Summit between Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Löfven three months ago in March this year, highlighted that defence and security is an important area of our longstanding collaboration, with great scope for increased activities.
- Our recent engagement in this sector builds upon the Joint Action Plan, which was agreed to during the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Sweden in 2018.
- This Joint Action Plan envisaged the signing of a General Security Agreement on Protection of Classified Information; holding of Defence Industry seminars; and development of supply chain links.
- The General Security Agreement was signed during 2019. This builds upon a 2009 MoU that also set up a Joint Working Group, which last met in December 2018.
- India is a fast-emerging defence manufacturing hub. Foreign participation in the Indian defence sector has been increasingly liberalized. Two Defence Industrial corridors are being set up. A number of foreign players are increasing their business presence in India.
- There are a number of complementarities between our defence industries.
- And there is considerable mutual interest between Indian and Swedish stakeholders in developing capabilities jointly, especially in view of the very large scale of operations.
- This includes Making in India. It also includes investment in joint R&D as also developing the broader ecosystem supporting the academic base and training for the knowledge and skill sets required.
- This is a win-win situation and there are immense opportunities going forward.
- At the defence forces level, there is regular and good interaction.
- Earlier this year, the Swedish Air Chief attended the first ever Chiefs of Air Staff Conclave at the Aero India 2021 in a virtual format. India's Chief of Air Staff had visited Sweden in 2019. This followed the visit of Sweden's Air Chief to India in 2018.

- If we recall more than five decades ago, both Indian and Swedish forces served the UN Peacekeeping efforts in Congo. Today, there are institutional exchanges between the Delhi-based Centre for UN Peacekeeping CUNPK and the Swedish Armed Forces International Centre SWEDINT.
 - A delegation from the National Defence College of India visited Sweden in 2019. Currently, one officer from the Indian Coast Guard is attending a Post Graduate programme at the World Maritime University in Malmö.
 - In 2019 an Indian Navy ship visited Sweden. Another Indian Naval ship is expected to visit Sweden in coming months.
 - Research, innovation and clean technology collaborations are the basis of the India Sweden partnership in a number of areas such as Smart Grids, Smart Cities, Life Sciences, Water, and Circular Economy. Our countries are also working closely together on joint global initiatives such as the LeadIT – the Leadership Group on Industry Transition - to promote Climate Action.
 - Industry linkages in security sector are part of the rapidly growing India Sweden partnership.
 - An SIDM industry delegation visited Sweden in 2019 and a Swedish Defence Industry delegation had visited India in 2017 to explore avenues of cooperation.
 - Today’s seminar will build upon the interactions during these visits. It will help build new partnerships in light of the large scale opportunities serving our mutual interest.
 - We look forward to the perspectives of the Hon’ble Ministers and exchanges between industry leaders on the road ahead.
 - Thank you.
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