

**Introductory Remarks by Ambassador
Tanmaya Lal**

**Ministerial Round Table Meeting
with Swedish Aerospace and Defence Industries**

28 April 2023

- Hon'ble Minister of Industries of Tamil Nadu Shri Thangam Thennarasu
- Additional Chief Secretary Mr. Krishnan
- MD & CEO, Guidance, Mr. Vishnu
- I would like to thank our Swedish friends to join us here this morning.
- India and Sweden are longstanding partners. And Defence remains an important area of our cooperation.
- This is a special year for India Sweden relationship as we celebrate 75 years of our diplomatic relations. We are also meeting at a time when India and Sweden hold Presidencies of G20 and EU in very challenging global times.
- Tamil Nadu is one of the leading states within India being the second largest contributor to India's GDP, the largest manufacturing ecosystem and the third largest power generation capacity. Its per capita income is much larger than the Indian overall average.
- Among the various industrial promotion mechanisms, the upcoming defence corridor in Tamil Nadu is an important development.
- India Sweden business linkages date back to more than 100 years. There are a number of technology manufacturing and R&D collaborations between Swedish and Indian partners.
- Capabilities of Swedish defence companies is well known and India is also a fast-emerging defence manufacturing hub. Foreign participation in India's defence sector has been increasingly liberalized.
- Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor is one of the two corridors coming up in India.
- There are a number of complementarities between our defence industries. There is a considerable mutual interest in developing capabilities jointly, especially in view of the very large scale of operations, which includes manufacturing in India.
- This also includes investment and joint R&D and developing the broader defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- This is a win-win situation and there are immense opportunities going forward.
- Today's discussions build upon recent defence industry deliberations from both sides in the last few years. We are looking forward to a useful exchange today.