

**India Sweden  
Space & Geospatial  
Business Summit**  
Kiruna  
14 Dec 2023

**Remarks  
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal**

Hon. Mayor Mats Taaveniku  
IRF DG Olle Norberg  
Ms. Victoria Barabash of LTU  
Friends

Thank you for hosting this interaction.

I would like to thank Hon. Mayor for his introduction to Kiruna and the beautiful video that was shown.

The upcoming large scale requirements of human resources, schools, infrastructure that was mentioned by Hon. Mayor are reflective of the shift in economic geography of Sweden towards the north.

It is wonderful to join this gathering of technology and business leaders from Sweden and India in space & geospatial domains here in the **Arctic city of Kiruna!**

We had a great interaction yesterday in **Stockholm. State Secretary Jevrell** had also joined for some time. We are looking forward to the discussion here.

**Kiruna is one of my favourite places in Sweden.**

I was here first two years ago alongwith SIBC when we had an India Sweden Space Seminar.

Kiruna is a **unique** city.

**A big contributor to Swedish engineering economy and technology.**

The site of **EU mainland's first orbital launch facility.** Esrange and SSC have long partnered ISRO on TTC operations.

Kiruna hosts the **IRF Institute** that built the SARA research payload which flew on board India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1.

Sweden's **Space University** is also here at the Luleå University of Technology LTU. I remember my interaction with Ms. Barabash and some Indian students.

Kiruna is also the **world's largest underground iron ore mine** !  
It is amazing to be able to drive 500 m deep into the mine and learn about advances in **autonomous and sustainable mining** operations, as area where some Swedish companies are working in India.

Sweden has also announced the discovery of large deposits of **rare earths** in Kiruna, which will have global implications.

It was also in Kiruna in 2013 that India joined the **Arctic Council** as an Observer under Swedish Presidency of the Council.

I have visited the **Polar research** centre outside Kiruna. An area where our scientists have collaborated.

So, it is great to have this interaction here today !

**These are exciting times for space & geospatial sectors as disruptive Technologies, policy changes and enterprise** are transforming these domains.

**Both are transboundary domains and require international cooperation.**

**The scope of public-private and international collaboration is multiplying.**

**India has liberalised both space and geospatial sectors.**

**India's space economy** aims to reach **10% of global share by 2030.**

**India's geospatial** market potential is expected to grow to USD 20 billion by 2025.

**Huge opportunities** are opening up in India in these sectors.

India's space ecosystem has **extensive collaboration** with international partners.

**Cooperation between space programmes of India and Sweden**, though relatively limited, goes back at least four decades.

Our Prime Ministers have called for greater cooperation in space.

This has been an **exciting year** for space ecosystems both in India and Sweden.

2023 began with the high-profile inauguration of **orbital launch site** at Esrange.

In August **India landed on the moon**.

Preparations are underway in India for a Human Spaceflight mission Gaganyaan.

Last week India's **Aditya L-1** spacecraft started transmitting remarkable full-disk images of the sun.

Earlier in March, 36 satellites of **OneWeb** were successfully deployed in a single ISRO/NSIL launch.

These high-profile successes have seen **extensive private sector contribution**.

**Around 400 industry partners** are already involved in India's space programme. The number of **space startups** has grown to around **200**.

Earlier this year in **Luleå**, SIBC had arranged an interaction with some Space startups. An SIBC Innovation delegation also interacted with **ISRO** recently in India.

**There are clearly a lot of areas where we can work together.**

This year we are celebrating **75 years** of our diplomatic relations.

We also had our parallel Presidencies of the **G20 and the EU** this year. **Digitalisation and Technology for development** have been major themes.

**Our technology, trade, investment and talent linkages are flourishing.**

There is a **strong momentum** in our partnership.

More than **15 ministerial interactions** over the last one year. Including several ministerial visits.

Our **Prime Ministers** met two weeks ago in Dubai.

They launched our joint global initiative LeadIT2.0 for industry transition, which focuses especially on steel sector.

Prime Minister Modi said that they discussed deepening cooperation in **futuristic sectors of development**.

**Talking of future, Space & Geospatial technologies will increasingly influence every sector of economy.** Offering **new innovations, solutions and opportunities**.

These discussions should help tap these opportunities.

Yesterday we celebrated **St. Lucia Day**. Symbolising light over darkness.

Kiruna is, of course, also known for Northern Lights ! When solar winds light up the dark polar skies. Let us see whether we can also catch a glimpse of this magic.

**Thanks to all partners** who have contributed to making this interaction possible.

Looking forward to an insightful discussion.

Thank you.