

India Sweden Space & Geospatial Industry
1st Joint Working Group Meeting
Sweden India Business Council
Geospatial World Chamber of Commerce

Stockholm
13 March 2024

Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal

Mr. Sanjay Kumar,

Mr. Robin Sukhia,

Friends,

We at the Embassy are **happy to host** this hybrid first meeting of the Joint Working Group of the India Sweden Space & Geospatial Business Industry.

Complements to the GWCC and SIBC for making **swift progress** on setting up this Joint Working Group within three months of the first ever Business Conclave in this field organised in Stockholm in December last.

This has already been a good example of the close **public-private engagement between India and Sweden** in an area that is witnessing rapid transformation and expansion and where our companies and other stakeholders are increasingly active.

While Big Space exploration milestones are attracting global attention, the **commercial opportunities** of space tech for use on applications on earth are multiplying.

Technological disruptions, policy reforms and private sector participation are completely transforming the space and geospatial domains.

By its very nature, spacetechnology requires **transboundary collaboration**.

This is a trans-global business with **cross-border innovation, supply chains, customers, investors and partnerships**.

Therefore, the **scope of public-private and international collaboration** is expanding multi-fold.

Exciting developments are taking place in both India and Sweden in space sector.

Last August, India became only the fourth nation, and the first non-P5 country, to land a spacecraft on the **moon** with its Chandrayaan-3 Mission.

Last month, **Marcus Wandt** excited imagination here becoming Sweden's third astronaut and traveling to International Space Station, nearly two decades after Christian Fuglesang.

Two weeks ago, Prime Minister Modi awarded **Astronaut Wings** to four Indian Air Force pilots who are training to fly on India's upcoming first Human Space Mission Gaganyaan.

Also two weeks ago, **Swedish Space Corporation** and the Indian Space startup **Dhruva** Space announced their cooperation in Satellite Ground Station Network domain.

Just three weeks ago, Swedish **Foreign Minister** Tobias Billström was at ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru discussing space cooperation with ISRO Chairman Mr. Somnath.

I recall my own participation at the **Space Tech seminar** organised by the **Business Stockholm Region** last month where I learnt a lot about ongoing and future trends in this sector from **ReOrbit** and AAC Clyde Space.

Interestingly, later that night in another historic development the US company Intuitive Machines landed its spacecraft Odysseus on the moon. And **AAC Clyde Space** was part of that Mission as a supplier of power & communication equipment.

The first ever **India Sweden Space & Geospatial Business Conclave** held three months ago, where this Embassy worked closely with SIBC and Geospatial World Chamber of Commerce, has been a good catalyst.

The visit of the Indian business delegation to **Kiruna Spaceport** during the long polar night was also an especially memorable occasion. It was good to see the ongoing expansion of launch and other facilities.

Space Tech is already being deployed extensively for a **wide range of uses back on earth**. It is constantly adding value through a number of applications.

Indian and Swedish companies have growing competence and experience in these domains that are based on extensive innovation.

There is clearly a lot to explore in terms of **complementarities** in these fields between our businesses.

There are around **200 Space startups** in India. **400 companies** have already been involved in Indian space programme over the years.

An **Indian Space Association** has been established as an industry body to act as a bridge between the private space industry and the government.

In India, Space, Geospatial and Drone sectors have now been liberalised. **Policy reforms** are continuing to facilitate private enterprise and investment in these growing sectors.

An **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre** (IN-SPACe) acts as a single-window, independent, nodal agency to enable and facilitate the participation of private players in space sector.

Ten days back, Government of India amended its **FDI policy in space sector** to liberalise this sector for foreign participation further.

The **Joint Working Group** being established, therefore, is a very **timely** and **positive** step to facilitate greater engagement between businesses from both sides.

Embassy is happy to facilitate this interaction.

This India Sweden Joint Working Group will be a good contributor to the wider India Europe business engagement in Space & Geospatial domains.

We look forward to an ever-closer collaboration between Indian and Swedish companies.

Our Best Wishes,

Thank You.