

## Engaging India at Almedalen

### Scaling Climate Action - LeadIT

Uppsala University Gotland Campus

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#### Remarks by Ambassador

**Tanmaya Lal**

State Secretary Daniel Westlen

CEOs from CemVision and Steel Authority of India Ltd.

Colleagues from LeadIT Secretariat at Stockholm Environment Institute

Friends

It is great to join another important session of Engaging India at Almedalen.

This session is made even more **special** as we have two new members – one each from India and Sweden - joining the LeadIT, the India Swedish joint climate action global initiative, at this platform.

Our special thanks to **State Secretary** Westlen for joining us today. We are happy to partner the Swedish Ministry of Climate & Enterprise and SEI at this session on Scaling Climate Action.

LeadIT is a **good example** of real international collaboration for a collective low carbon future.

Only a few months back **Prime Ministers** Modi and Ulf Kristersson jointly launched the LeadIT2.0 during COP28 at Dubai for the next three years. This was a recognition, at the highest level, of the useful contribution that LeadIT has been making since its inception around five years ago in 2019 at the United Nations.

**New members** – both companies and countries - continue to join this initiative.

**Decarbonization of Steel and Cement** production, essential ingredients of buildings, bridges, dams, skyscrapers and cars, with very high carbon emissions, is a key focus of LeadIT.

Therefore, it is exciting to have **two more** important engineering companies – one each from **Steel and Cement** sectors – join the LeadIT coalition today.

**Steel Authority of India** is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking that traces its origins 70 years ago. Today SAIL is one of the largest steel producers in India. It is also focused on reducing its GHG emissions significantly by 2030.

**CemVision**, a five years young Swedish Tech company, is focused on drastically reducing carbon emissions in the cement making process by replacing limestone with industrial byproducts including from steel making process. A very exciting prospect.

Our **complements** to SAIL and CemVision for their decision to join LeadIT family and for their commitment to help global industrial decarbonization efforts.

**India Sweden cooperation** on environment and climate is unique and has long history. In fact, it goes back more than five decades to the 1972 Stockholm Conference, which was the first ever UN Conference on Human Environment.

On a **personal note**, I may mention that my first professional experience was as a Chemical engineer at a 1MT cement plant that was being operationalised in India more than 35 years ago in 1987.

That was the year when the **Montreal Protocol** on countering Ozone depletion was finalised. A Treaty which has since proved successful through collaborative efforts.

This was before the first **IPCC** Report on Climate Change was published and the commencement of **UNFCCC** negotiations. 25 years later I had the opportunity to serve as one of India's Climate negotiator in those negotiations. UNFCCC continues to be a work in progress and has had mixed success.

In this context, **working now with Swedish friends** and LeadIT is very special due to the focus on collaborative climate action through concrete engineering solutions & leveraging investment to help the transition towards a Global Net Zero.

I may add that the **scale and speed** of the ongoing transformation in India is not only essential for India but is also **critical for the global success** on climate action.

At the same time, this **transformation** in the world's fastest growing large economy provides **huge business opportunities** and avenues for global economic growth going forward.

Today, **clean technologies and sustainability** solutions are a key and growing aspect of **India Sweden** business, technology, innovation and talent linkages.

**Engaging India at Almedalen platform** has grown in its scope and content over the last few years. This is its fifth edition. I have engaged with three previous editions.

Our **complements** to the team at Content People – led by Ms Rupali Mehra and Mr. Swaminathan for their efforts.

We wish you all the best.

Thank You.