

Interaction with Indian Diaspora

17th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

25 November 2022

Remarks by Ambassador

Tanmaya Lal

- Thank you all for joining us this evening.
- The main area of our conversation today is, of course, the upcoming Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas to be hosted in Indore in January 2023.
- Counsellor has provided you with some information about this special event.
- This in-person special event for the Indian diaspora is taking place after four years. I had the opportunity to attend the last PBD event hosted in Varanasi in 2019 when I accompanied the Mauritius Prime Minister and his delegation.
- 2023, which is now around the corner, will see several important landmarks including the continuing celebrations for the 75 years of our independence.
- We would strongly recommend you to explore the possibility of attending this next PBD session.
- We will be hosting two more similar interactions with representatives of Indian diaspora here at the Embassy in coming days.

- Since we are now close to the year ending, we thought that we would use this occasion also to share information on some of the recent developments in the context of India and Sweden, India's broader global engagement; the ongoing progress within India, and also about this Embassy's work which may be of some interest to you.

- I had recently travelled to India to attend the Ambassadors' Conference. This Conference was taking place after a gap of four years.
- This year it was organized in Kevadia, Gujarat and coincided with the global launch of Mission LiFE for Lifestyle for Environment jointly by Prime Minister Modi and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. Several world leaders including from France, UK and Estonia joined the launch virtually.
- You are aware that in recent years, India has taken the lead in several important global initiatives.
- For instance, the launch of the UN International Day of Yoga at the UN General Assembly in 2014; and the International Solar Alliance jointly launched by Prime Minister Modi and President Hollande at Paris COP21 in 2015.

- In 2019 Prime Minister Modi launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) at the UN Climate Summit hosted by UN Secretary General. And the same year with Sweden, India launched the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT). LeadIT now has US, France, UK, Germany, Japan among its growing list of members.
- Another major global initiative has been the Mission LiFE. This focuses attention on the critical importance of individuals across the globe, adopting more sustainable lifestyles. It also focuses on sustainable consumption and production to tackle the root cause global challenge of climate change.
- Yet another global initiative, given the backdrop of global warming and food crisis, is regarding the use of Millets. At India's initiative the UN General Assembly has designated 2023 as the UN International Year of Millets.
- If we look at any of the mega global trends today, for instance - Digital transformation, Decarbonisation, Demographic developments or the selective Deglobalisation push - India is an important factor to be considered.
- The sheer scale and speed of the transformation that is underway in India is significant.
- Less than 10 years ago, India's economy was ranked 11th when collectively EU was the largest. In this 75th year of our independence, India has become the world's 5th largest economy. EU collectively is 3rd largest economy.
- Indian economy is growing faster than other large economies despite the global headwinds. FDI and exports are at record levels.
- Within the Indian economy, digital economy is the fastest growing sector.
- India is also climbing rapidly in terms of Innovation, Startup ecosystem, Ease of Doing Business and other rankings, for instance in terms of scientific papers published and patents.
- The list of unicorns coming out of India is growing fast and has crossed the 100 mark.
- Mega investments are going into semiconductor production. 5G is being rolled out in big way. Indigenously developed 5G technology is also being tested.
- In September Apple started manufacturing iPhone 14 in India.
- Defence, Space, Drones, and Geospatial sectors have been opened up. Fighter aircraft to Aircraft carrier to private sector rockets to high-speed railways made in India are coming on stream.
- A massive green transition is also underway.
- It is against this important backdrop that India will be taking over the G20 Presidency in less than a week's time.

- India plans to shape the global narrative on a number of the critical global challenges at an important time in recent history.
- Another significant development is the resumed negotiations on India EU Trade and Investment agreements.
- Our engagement with Sweden, which takes over EU Presidency in one month, and the European Union is also to be seen in this context.
- India Sweden partnership continues to intensify. Next year marks the 75 years of India Sweden diplomatic relations.
- This year alone there have been a series of high-level interactions including at the level of Prime Minister.
- Even in recent weeks, shortly after the formation of new government in Sweden, we have had a few events, where the new Swedish leadership has engaged with India including Deputy Prime Minister Ebba Busch and Climate Minister Romina Pourmokhtari.
- Minister for Foreign Trade Johan Forssell is scheduled to visit India in less than two weeks where he will co-chair the India Sweden Joint Economic Commission along with Minister Piyush Goyal.
- Two MoUs have been signed this year. One on Aviation and another on Financial regulation sector.
- A lot is happening.
- We would like to share some small clips on some of the aspects that I have mentioned, which we hope would be of some interest.
- We would also like to share some glimpses of the Embassy's engagement with a range of stakeholders in Sweden on the transformation underway in India and the immense potential for further collaboration.
- We would welcome any comments or suggestions later in the program.
- Thank You.