

**India Sweden
Space & Geospatial
Business Summit**
Stockholm
13 Dec 2023

**Remarks
Ambassador Tanmaya Lal**

Hon. State Secretary Jevrell
Friends

A warm welcome to all of you.

It is great to see technology and business leaders from India and Sweden coming together to discuss opportunities in space and geospatial domains!

These are exciting times as disruptive Technologies, policy changes and enterprise are transforming these domains.

Affordable access to high quality imagery, Big data analytics and insights provided by AI & ML increasingly offer innovative solutions across sectors.

The scope of public-private and international collaboration is expanding multi-fold.

India has liberalised both space and geospatial sectors. A new Geospatial policy adopted last December and a new Space Policy announced this year, both encourage thriving private enterprise.

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.

India offers scale.

Huge opportunities are opening up in India in these sectors.

India's space ecosystem has **extensive collaboration** with international partners, especially in US and France.

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

It ranges from ongoing telemetry, tracking & command operations to the research payload SARA that flew on India's first Moon mission Chandrayaan-1 fifteen years ago. We are also exploring avenues on India's future Venus mission.

Our Prime Ministers have called for greater cooperation in space sector.

Our collaboration in the digital services sector is flourishing.

2023 began with the high-profile inauguration of **mainland EU's first orbital launch site** in Kiruna in Sweden's Arctic region.

In August India's **Chandrayaan-3** mission landed Vikram lander on the moon and Pragyan rover went for a drive on the lunar surface.

Preparations are underway 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**.

Both space & geospatial domains are transboundary and require international cooperation.

The global discourse on these sectors at UN is evolving. I have had the opportunity to learn some of these themes at UN-**COPUOS** (Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space) in Vienna, and the Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-**GGIM**) deliberations in New York.

Shortly after coming to Sweden, I had the opportunity to visit **Estrange, IRF and LTU in Kiruna**. Earlier this year with SIBC we interacted with some Space startups in **Luleå**. An SIBC Innovation delegation also interacted with **ISRO** recently.

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

The **timing** of today's interaction is special, as this year we are celebrating **75 years** of our diplomatic relations.

Another landmark this year was our parallel Presidencies of the **G20 and the EU. Digitalisation and Technology for development** have been major themes.

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

India, of course, provides scale and huge opportunities of co-development and technology collaboration.

The latest **India Business Climate Survey** by Swedish Chamber of Commerce in India and Business Sweden show unprecedented levels of optimism. Sweden is a priority partner for India.

A large percentage of Swedish companies in India also have R&D operations in India.

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

In the last nine years, our **Heads of Government and State** have interacted around 10 times.

More than **15 ministerial interactions** over the last one year. Four ministerial visits from Sweden and the visit of our External Affairs Minister.

Hon. State Secretary Jevrell has led visits to India twice this year.

Our **Prime Ministers** met two weeks ago in Dubai where they also launched our joint global initiative LeadIT2.0 for industry transition.

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

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

This meeting is a step forward to tap these opportunities.

Some of the Indian guests may not know. Today is **St. Lucia Day** here in Sweden. Symbolising light over darkness. So, definitely an auspicious beginning!

We are grateful to Hon. State Secretary Jevrell for sparing his time to join us today.

Thanks to all partners who have contributed to making this interaction possible. Special thanks to Mr. Sanjay Kumar and **Geospatial World Chamber of Commerce** and Mr. Robin Sukhia and **Sweden India Business Council**. It is also great to have with us Mr. **Tushar** Phadnis of ISRO who is based at our Embassy in Paris.

Looking forward to an insightful discussion.

Thank you.