

INDIA-SWEDEN STRATEGIC COMPASS

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY ISDP'S STOCKHOLM CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AND INDO-PACIFIC AFFAIRS

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

PM Modi congratulates PM Ulf Kristersson

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Sweden's new Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on Twitter. He wrote *'Congratulations to H.E. Mr. Ulf Kristersson on his election as the next Prime Minister of Sweden. I look forward to working closely together to further strengthen our multi-faceted partnership. @SwedishPM'* India's External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar also congratulated his counterpart Minister of Foreign Affairs Tobias Billström on Twitter. He posted *'Congratulate @TobiasBillstrom on your appointment as the Foreign Minister of Sweden. Look forward to working closely to build upon our important partnership. Thank colleague @AnnLinde for her friendship.'* PM Modi had met Mr. Ulf Kristersson (when the latter was the Leader of Opposition) during his visit to Stockholm in 2018.

Deputy PM Ebba Busch & Minister of S&T Dr. Singh inaugurate India Sweden Innovation Day

The 9th India Sweden Innovation Day was jointly inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, Business and Industry Ms. Ebba Busch and Minister of S&T Dr. Jitendra Singh on October 27. The hybrid event supported by Embassy of India saw engaging discussions by a number of industry leaders and entrepreneurs. Ambassador of India to Sweden Mr. Tanmaya Lal and Ambassador of Sweden to India Mr. Jan Thesleff also participated. The sessions focused on a number of areas including sustainable urban development and safe transportation, life science, energy, environment, health, and science and technology.

Source: India Unlimited

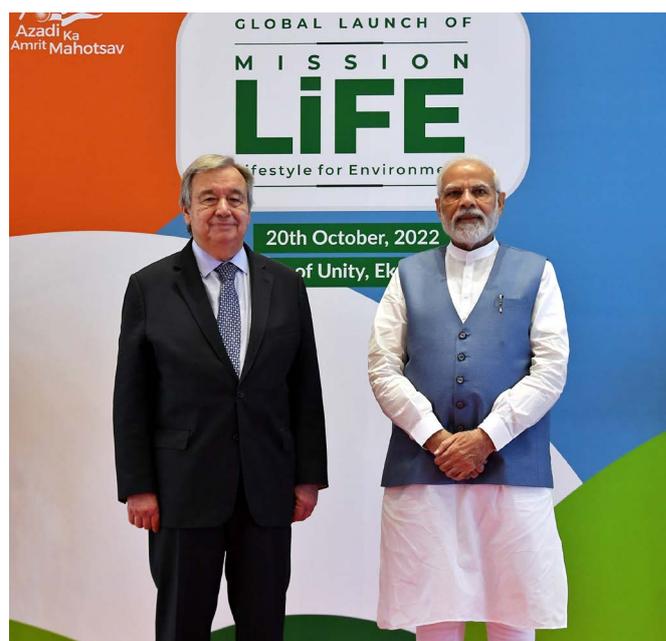
Dr. Jaishankar meets Ms. Ann Linde at UNGA

External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar had a brief meeting with Foreign Minister of Sweden

Ms. Ann Linde on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on September 25.

Mission LiFE launched ahead of COP27

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) was launched jointly by Prime Minister Modi and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in Kevadia, Gujarat, in India on October 20. Presidents and Prime Ministers of a number of countries including France, UK, Estonia, Mauritius, Maldives, Madagascar, Guyana, Argentina, Georgia, and Nepal gave messages on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Guterres said that overconsumption is at the root of the triple planetary emergency of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The UNSG also said that he was immensely encouraged by the commitments that India has made to pursue environmentally sound policies. PM Modi said that whenever India and UN have worked together, new ways of making the world a better place have been found, also referring to the International Day of Yoga and the International Year of Millets.



Saab's new defense manufacturing facility to come up in India

Swedish aerospace and defense company SAAB will construct a new facility in India to produce Carl-Gustaf M4 weapons system. This facility is expected to start manufacturing in 2024. The production will supply the Indian Armed Forces as well as export around the world. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India had increased annual defense exports around 13-fold over the last eight years, from INR10 billion (\$122 million) to INR130 billion (\$1.5 billion). By 2025, he said, India hopes to push defense exports up to INR350 billion (\$4.2 billion), and total production to INR1.75 trillion (\$21.3 billion).

Source: Reuters & Saab, September 27, 2022

India's first private manufacturing facility for aircraft

The TATA Consortium and Airbus are partnering for India's first ever private state-of-the-art Transport Aircraft (C-295) manufacturing line at Vadodara in India. The foundation stone for the manufacturing plant was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 30.

PM Modi 'drives car in Sweden' from Delhi

At the India Mobile Congress held in Delhi on October 1, PM Modi tested an automated guided vehicle (AGV) remotely by driving a 5G enabled car in Sweden at the Ericsson stall. Earlier, he launched indigenous 5G technology at the IMC event.

Source: India Today on Twitter



Sweden India Startup Match Day

Sweden India Startup Match Day was held on September 29. A number of startups and corporates participated in the online event. Around 30 startups were introduced to around 10 large companies to work on specific solutions.



A number of Swedish and Indian agencies including Ignite Sweden, Business Sweden, CII, Invest India, NASSCOM Center of Excellence – IoT & AI, Sweden India Innovation Partnership, Swedish Institute, Vinnova, Swedish Incubators & Science Parks, Sweden India Business Council and Embassy of Sweden partnered the event.

India-EU FTA a priority for Swedish Confederation of Enterprises

The Swedish Confederation of Enterprises announced its five recommended priorities for future Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January-June 2023. Among the five priorities, the second particularly stood out to Indian interests. Known as "Pursuing leadership for free trade globally", this priority encourages greater trade between India and European countries. The Swedish Confederation of Enterprises states that it wants to initiate and promote negotiations about a free trade agreement with India, Australia, Indonesia, and other countries during its presidency and underlines that Sweden should take an active role in these negotiations.

Source: Svenskt Näringsliv & Twitter, October 4, 2022

Indian External Affairs Minister at UNGA

India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar expressed his concern about the deteriorating global politics not just in Ukraine but also in the international landscape. In front of the UN General Assembly, he reiterated India's position to resolve the war on Ukraine with dialogue and diplomacy. Jaishankar also referred to the alarming backlashes of the conflict as "rising costs and shrinking availability of fuel, food and fertilizers". He called for an immediate cessation of all hostilities as "the world is already struggling with challenges of post-pandemic economic recovery."

Source: The New Indian Express, September 25, 2022

Namaste Stockholm and India at Gothenburg Kulturkalas

'Namaste Stockholm', the flagship Indian cultural festival in Sweden returned after a gap of two years with a highly successful edition on September 17. The day-long outdoor cultural festival first started in 2015. This year's festival featured more than 20 dance and music performances by Indian and Swedish artists along with yoga, handicrafts and food. The festival drew an estimated 20,000 visitors. India also featured at the prestigious Gothenburg Kultur Kalas held on September 3-4. The programs featured Indian dance performances, Bollywood workshop and Ayurveda.



INDIA-EU

French Foreign Minister visits India

Catherine Colonna, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, undertook an official trip to India from September 14-15. The goal was to maintain and deepen the India-France strategic partnership and to address common solutions to global disorder in the background of a multipolar rules-based world order.

Source: French Embassy in New Delhi, September 21, 2022

PM Modi congratulates UK PM Rishi Sunak

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Rishi Sunak on assuming office as UK Prime Minister. Modi is looking forward to implementing Roadmap 2030 and transforming the historical ties between UK and India into a modern partnership. Strengthening bilateral ties and the current FTA negotiations between the UK and India were important during former prime minister Boris Johnson's tenure. Modi said, Rishi Sunak is now expected to be the 'living bridge' between the two countries.

Source: The Indian Express, October 24, 2022 & Financial Times, October 25, 2022

First EU-India Green Hydrogen Forum

The First EU-India Green Hydrogen Forum was held in New Delhi on September 8. Since the 2016 EU-India Clean Energy and Climate Partnership, India and the EU have intensified their bilateral cooperation on energy and sustainable development. This Green Hydrogen Forum centered on exchanging practices, policy frameworks, as well as production and application technologies for renewable hydrogen. Importantly, the forum created a platform for further cooperation relating to sustainable energy, a growing trend and necessity in the era of climate change.

Source: Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan, September 8, 2022

Council of EU Chambers of Commerce meets in India

The 30th Annual General Meeting of the Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India was held in Mumbai on September 28. The attending members were EU diplomats from various countries including Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, Poland, Portugal, and Latvia. The meeting celebrated thirty years of the chamber's activity of promoting economic cooperation between EU and India. Main topics of the meeting were geopolitical relations, India's improving infrastructure and strengthening strategic cooperation.

Source: Free Press Journal, October 3, 2022

India as a potential export hub for Mercedes

The ongoing free trade agreement negotiation between India and the EU aims to be completed by the end of 2023. The EU is seeking more opportunities to access the Indian car market as part of the agreement. Mercedes

may take India as its export hub in South Asia and make India a place of producing Mercedes vehicles with high competitiveness.

Source: Reuters, September 30, 2022

INDIA-NORDIC

Norway to invest in Indian solar project

Norway's Climate Investment Fund will invest roughly \$35 million and acquire a 49 percent stake in Thar Surya 1 – a ground-mounted solar project in Rajasthan. This plant will start operating in 2023. Additionally, the Climate Investment Fund plans to invest \$1 billion in similar projects as the Norwegian Embassy believes India will be one of the top options for its investment. Through this investment, India and Norway have strengthened their cooperation on energy transition and sustainable development.

Source: Ornate Solar, August 26, 2022

TSE Clinical Trial in Jodhpur

TSE clinical trial have started at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Jodhpur. Tumour-Specific Electroporation™ (TSE) is a technology owned by ChemoTech – a Swedish medical technology company. TSE technology provides an alternative option for patients unsuitable for regular methods. This study aims to collect data from head and neck cancer patients to explore TSE's potential in treating different kinds of tumors.

Source: ChemoTech, October 3, 2022

PROFILING INDIA

India rises in Global Innovation Index

In this year's Global Innovation Index, India entered the top 40 for the first time, ranking 40th. In 2015 and 2019, India ranked 81st and 52nd, respectively. India entered the top 50 in 2020. The rapid rise of India's innovation performance demonstrates the country's promising potential in its innovation landscape. India also ranked top in Central and Southern Asia and Lower-middle income countries. The Index also ranked India's market sophistication as 19th in the world, further evidencing the country's growing influence on the global markets with high competitiveness.

Source: WIPO, September 29, 2022

ISRO launches 36 commercial satellites

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has successfully deployed 36 OneWeb satellites through the Indian space agency's heaviest rocket – Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3). It was a historic flight for the LVM3 as it is the first time it carried nearly 6 tons of payload and it was the first commercial launch with New Space India Limited (NSIL). This mission is part of OneWeb's plan for creating a constellation with 588 satellites, aimed at providing high-speed and global connective internet service.

Source: The Indian Express, October 23, 2022

India's semiconductor push

Foxconn of Taiwan and Vedanta of India have announced a nearly \$20 billion investment to manufacture semiconductor chips in Gujarat in India. The Government of India has also signed an agreement with Belgium-based research and innovation hub, Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (IMEC), which will provide the technology to manufacture chips of 28 nanometres and above, for which the user has to pay a royalty. India plans to invest at least \$25 billion in its semiconductor incentive scheme. The Indian government has not only raised its financial support for the semiconductor industry but also plans to remove the ceiling of permitted investment. This ambitious scheme will cover 30-50 percent of the cost of building semiconductor fabrication plants and 50 percent of the construction costs of packaging facilities.

Source: Reuters, September 21, 2022

The first Made-in-India Combat Helicopter inducted in Indian Air Force (IAF)

"Prachand" is the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) indigenously developed in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is a special moment that represents India's strong self-defense capacity. Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, also mentioned in the induction ceremony speech that he believed it shows the mutual trust between the nation and IAF. The LCH is claimed to be the only attack helicopter in the world that can both fly and take off at an altitude of 5,000 meters with considerable weapons and fuel load, as explained by HAL Chairman and Managing Director C B Ananthakrishnan.

Source: The Indian Express, October 4, 2022

Cellphones made in India

Today, over 97 percent of cellphones in India are made domestically. In 2014 India imported 90 percent of global cellphones. On September 30, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar attended an opening ceremony for a mobile manufacturing facility at Chengalpattu. With such a fast-paced increase in domestic production capacity, India aims to bring all of its population onto the Internet by 2025-26.

Source: *The Interview Times*, October 3, 2022

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee meets in India

India hosted a special meeting of the UN Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee in Mumbai and Delhi on October 28-29. The theme of the meeting was 'countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorism purposes'. In Mumbai, the participants paid tributes at the 26/11 memorial. The meeting was attended by ministers of several countries including Albania, Gabon, Ghana, UAE, and the UK. The Committee unanimously adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' as the outcome document.



2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress held in Hyderabad

The 2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress was hosted by India in Hyderabad on October 11. More than 700 international delegates participated. The theme of the conference was 'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind'. The conference focused on how to support sustainable development and wellbeing

of society; embrace digital transformation and technology development; and address environmental and climate action. PM Modi spoke on how geospatial technology has been driving inclusion and progress in national development projects in India. A report on 'Indian Experience in Alignment with United Nations: Integrated Geospatial Information Framework' was also released at the conference.

India hosts Democracy Cohort on 'Elections Integrity'

The Election Commission of India hosted an international conference on 'Role, Framework, Capacity of Elections Monetary Bodies' under the Democracy Cohort on 'Elections Integrity'. Election authorities from a number of countries including Australia, Chile, Greece, Nepal, Mauritius, Mexico, and the Philippines attended the conference. Secretary General of the Stockholm-based International IDEA Dr. Kevin Casas-Zamora co-chaired a session on 'Future Challenges'.

Interpol General Assembly held in Delhi

India hosted the 90th meeting of the Interpol General Assembly in New Delhi on October 18-21. The meeting was attended by representatives of 166 member-states. The conference saw the launch of 'Interpol Metaverse', the first virtual world specifically designed for law enforcement worldwide. Interpol's first ever Global Crime Trend Report was also presented. Financial crime was among the focus areas at the discussions.

Source: *Interpol Press Release*

The Voice of Global South – India's Upcoming G20 Presidency

India will assume the G20 presidency from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. This period correlates with ongoing clashes between major powers and economic stagnation in the world. India will grasp this chance to seek opportunities for developing countries to build an equal economy and relations with developed countries. During this presidency, India plans to organize more than 200 G20 meetings. Moreover, the G20 Leaders' Summit will be held on September 9-10, 2023 in New Delhi.

Source: *Ministry of External Affairs*, September 13, 2022 & *The Indian Express*, October 4, 2022

Challenges Annual Forum in New Delhi

The 2022 Challenges Annual Forum (CAF22) was held in New Delhi on October 6-7. The forum brought key stakeholders together to discuss the future of peace operations in the background of upcoming geopolitical challenges. The Secretariat for Challenges Forum is based at Folke Bernadotte Academy in Stockholm. Together with the United Service Institution of India (USI), the CAF22 provided a platform for high-level conversations as well as dialogue-driven workshops. Per Ohlsson Fridh, Director General of the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development gave the keynote speech. CAF22 created space for fruitful debate on ongoing issues of politics and peace while allowing India to highlight its vitality in these global conversations.

Source: Twitter, October 6, 2022

FLASHPOINTS

Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

September 2022 – MoU between Danish Ministry of Environment and Indian Ministry of Jal Shakti for Water Resources Development & Management.

EDITOR'S NOTE

India and Sweden are strengthening bilateral relations by cooperating in multifaceted fields. In September and October, the TSE study in healthcare and defense manufacturing industry highlighted the bilateral collaboration between India and Sweden. Norway and Denmark, as Sweden's neighboring countries, are also building stronger ties with India through investing capital and technology in the green energy industry and signing memorandums of understanding to deepen bilateral cooperation. The ongoing FTA negotiations between India-EU and India-UK are also in progress, and are expected to widen cooperation and bilateral trade growth opportunities. The upcoming G20 presidency and India's stance in the UN zeroes in the spotlight on India for the upcoming months. As the fifth largest economy in the world, India's technologies and innovation capabilities are rapidly rising along with the increase of made-in-India products across different industries. These positive movements promote India's rising position in global society, not only diplomatically but also economically and technologically. India's vast and diversified potential is a crucial asset for deepening India-Sweden, India-Nordic, and India-EU cooperation and partnerships.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed here are as published in the original sources and not of the ISDP or the SCSA-IPA.

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The Institute for Security and Development Policy is a Stockholm-based independent and non-profit research and policy institute. The Institute is dedicated to expanding understanding of international affairs, particularly the interrelationship between the issue areas of conflict, security and development. The Institute's primary areas of geographic focus are Asia and Europe's neighborhood.

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