

Press Release

An Indian Parliamentary led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Mr. Surenderjeet Singh Ahluwalia visited Sweden from May 28-31, 2017 for promoting and strengthening parliamentary relations between the two countries.

The Parliamentary delegation comprised of Members of Parliament Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, MP(LS), BJD, Shri Amdayala Paddu Jithender Reddy, MP(LS),TRS, Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, MP(LS),Shiv Sena, Shri Ram Kumar Verma MP(RS), BJP, Shri Manchacheri Kuppadakkath Raghavan MP(LS),INC, Shri Palanivel Kumar, MP(LS) AIADMK, Shri Chintakunta Munaiah Ramesh, MP(RS), TDP, Shri Mohammed Faizal Padippura MP(LS), NCP and Shri Yerram Venkata Subba Reddy, MP(LS), YSRCP and the Secretary, Parliamentary Affairs Shri Rajiv Yadav.

The Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Minister met Swedish Minister of Coordination & Energy Mr. Ibrahim Baylan on May 29, 2017 at the Prime Minister's Office, Speaker of the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) Mr. Urban Ahlin and Foreign Minister Ms. Margot Wallström on May 30, 2017.

The Ministerial delegation also visited Swedish Parliament on May 30, 2017 and met with the Chairman of the India-Sweden Parliamentary Association Ms. Asa Coenraads. Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Swedish Parliament Mr. Kenneth G. Forslund hosted a lunch in honour of the Indian Delegation.

Hon'ble Minister Shri Ahluwalia in his meetings with Swedish interlocutors thanked Sweden for its consistent and unequivocal support to India's candidature to the permanent membership of the UN Security Council and membership of the Nuclear Supplier Group. He expressed satisfaction at the continued strengthening of bilateral relationship between India and Sweden and underlined the importance of Parliamentary relations between the two democracies including the upcoming visit of Swedish Speaker to India. The Minister also

discussed the entire gamut of bilateral political and economic relations. in addition to other issues of global concern. The Minister emphasized the threat posed by international terrorism globally and especially in the South Asian region and the need for the international community to join hands to combat this global menace, including its state-sponsorship and funding. The Minister also emphasized that they were not small time anarchists; they were well-educated, well-motivated, well-trained, well-armed, well-connected and well-funded. The Minister sought Swedish support for the Global Convention against International Terrorism at the UN.

The Minister and Delegation also interacted with the Indian Community and representatives from Swedish Government, Parliament and representatives of business and industry at a Reception hosted by Ambassador of India Ms. Monika Kapil Mohta on May 28. They were also given a presentation on India-Sweden economic relations by Sweden-India Business Council.

The visit of this high-level Parliamentary Delegation from India is expected to re-energies the existing high-level contact and further strengthen India-Sweden relations.

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Stockholm, May 31, 2017