



Article from Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Successful State Visit from Tunisia

Published 06 November 2015 Updated 09 November 2015

Tunisia's President Béji Caïd Essebsi concluded his three-day State Visit to Sweden today. The President and his wife were here at the invitation of the King and Queen. Tunisia's Minister for Foreign Affairs also took part in the visit and was received by Margot Wallström at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It was announced during the visit that Sweden would open an embassy in Tunisia, and a number of bilateral cooperation agreements were signed.

Following a welcoming ceremony for the President and his delegation at the Royal Palace on the first day of the State Visit, the two foreign ministers met to discuss Swedish–Tunisian relations. Democratic development in the country, anti-terrorism efforts, gender issues and trade were the topics discussed between the two ministers.

On day two of the visit, President Essebsi met Prime Minister Stefan Löfven. It was announced following the meeting that Sweden would open an embassy in Tunisia. A broad cooperation agreement was signed between Sweden and Tunisia. The President, the King and Minister for Infrastructure Anna Johansson also took part during the day in a trade forum organised by the Tunisian Embassy and Business Sweden.

On Friday, the President visited Ericsson in Kista. The visit then continued to Uppsala, where the President laid a wreath on Dag Hammarskjöld's grave in the presence of the King, Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Information Technology Mehmet Kaplan and Minister for Public Administration Ardalán Shekarabi. A cooperation agreement concerning decentralisation was also signed during the day between the Swedish

Association of Local Authorities and Regions and their Tunisian counterparts.

Press release: Sweden to open Embassy in Tunisia



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Indian State Visit concluded

Published 04 June 2015 Updated 04 June 2015

On the evening of 2 June, India's President Shri Pranab Mukherjee left Sweden following a State Visit of three days. The President was in Sweden at the invitation of HM the King. The Government was represented, with the majority of ministers participating. The main themes of the visit were innovations and sustainable development, with a focus on urban development, science and research.

India is one of the leading countries in Asia, the world's fourth largest economy and an emerging global actor. The State Visit by the Indian President – the first ever – was therefore an important milestone in our bilateral relations.

The State Visit began on Sunday with the traditional welcoming ceremony at the Inner Courtyard of the Royal Palace. The King and the President inspected a guard of honour from the Life Guards and many members of the Government, as well as other Swedish public representatives, were present to welcome the President.

Monday began with a visit to the Riksdag, where the President was received by the Speaker of the Riksdag and met with Members of the Riksdag.

In the morning, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven also received the President for talks at Rosenbad. Mr Mukherjee and Mr Löfven discussed issues such as growing trade between Sweden and India and broad bilateral cooperation covering such areas as the environment, renewable energy and health. Minister for Climate and the Environment Åsa Romson, Minister for Foreign

Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for Defence Peter Hultqvist and Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan also took part in the talks.

In connection with the meeting at Rosenbad, a number of agreements between India and Sweden were signed, including a memorandum of understanding on sustainable urban development. The aim of the memorandum of understanding is to promote cooperation on matters concerning sustainable and integrated urban planning and land use, waste management, sustainable transport systems, water and sanitation.

Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan joined the President and the King later in the afternoon for a boat tour of Hammarby Sjöstad. During the boat tour, a roundtable discussion was held with business representatives on how cities can be built in more sustainable and environmentally friendly ways.

Sustainable cities in focus during the Indian State Visit

Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research, was present at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, when a number of cooperation agreements were signed between Indian and Swedish higher education institutions.

On Monday evening, the King and Queen hosted a gala dinner for the President.

Visit to Karolinska Institutet and Uppsala University

The theme on Tuesday, the final day of the visit, was mainly research and science. Minister Helene Hellmark Knutsson was in attendance when the President and the King and Queen visited Karolinska Institutet. The focus lay on scientific cooperation, and included visits to Nobel Forum and Aula Medica. The President was also given a presentation of Nya Karolinska Solna (NKS) and Hagastaden.

Before lunch, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg took part in a roundtable discussion between representatives of the Swedish and Indian business sectors. The President and the King were also present.

Mr Damberg gave a speech entitled *India-Sweden Partnership – Co-creating a Brighter Future*.

In connection with the business forum, the President announced that Swedish passport holders will now be granted an 'eTourist visa' when visiting India, leading to more expedient visa handling for Swedish citizens.

In the afternoon, the President visited Uppsala University together with Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström. Ms Wallström gave the opening address and the President held a lecture on the theme 'Tagore and Gandhi: Do they have contemporary relevance for Global Peace?'

Speech by Margot Wallström at Uppsala University

On Tuesday evening, Ms Wallström was in attendance when Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel bid farewell to the President at Arlanda airport.



Article from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Historic State Visit from India

Published 28 May 2015 Updated 28 May 2015

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, will pay a State Visit to Sweden from 31 May to 2 June 2015 at the invitation of His Majesty the King. The Government will be represented, with the majority of ministers participating. The main themes of the visit are innovations and sustainable development, with a focus on urban development, science and research.

India is one of the leading countries in Asia, the world's fourth largest economy and an emerging global actor. The State Visit by the Indian President – the first ever – is an important milestone in our bilateral relations.

Focus of the State Visit

The focus of the State Visit will be on creating conditions for greater exchange in the areas of trade and science, and strengthening Sweden's presence in the Indian market.

There is growing demand in India concerning issues such as innovation, urban development and sustainable development. The State Visit will provide the opportunity to promote potential business opportunities in these areas in both directions.

Sweden already has broad cooperation with India in a number of areas: environment, renewable energy, research, health, etc. This cooperation will be deepened further in connection with the visit, which will include the signing of a number of cooperation agreements.

Programme points

India's President will land in Stockholm on Sunday afternoon and will be welcomed at Arlanda Airport by Crown Princess Victoria and Prince Daniel. The King and Queen will receive the President at the Royal Mews for a horse-drawn cortège to the Royal Palace, where the traditional welcoming ceremony will take place. Representatives of the Riksdag and the Government will be present.

Monday's programme will begin with a visit to the Riksdag and a meeting with Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will then welcome the President at Rosenbad. Stockholm City will host a lunch at Stockholm City Hall, during which sustainable urban development will be the focus of discussions. The afternoon programme will continue along the same theme with a visit to Hammarby Sjöstad. Minister for Housing and Urban Development Mehmet Kaplan will take part. In the evening, the King and Queen will host a banquet at the Palace.

The theme for Tuesday will be research and science, with a visit to Karolinska Institutet, with Minister for Higher Education and Research Helène Hellmark Knutsson in attendance. This will be followed by seminars and meetings with Swedish and Indian business representatives. Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg will also take part in the programme.

The programme will continue in the afternoon in Uppsala, where the President will deliver a speech at Uppsala University. Crown Princess Victoria, Prince Daniel and Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström will be present.

The State Visit will conclude late on Tuesday afternoon.

Follow the visit on social media: use #sweindia2015



Press release from Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to receive President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in Stockholm

Published 16 October 2015 Updated 16 October 2015

On Monday 19 October, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will receive the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, in Stockholm. They are meeting to discuss economic exchanges between Sweden and Brazil, climate and sustainability, and defence.

During her visit to Sweden, President Rousseff will also participate with Mr Löfven in a business forum and a meeting with representatives of the City of Stockholm. She will also go to see Norra Djurgårdsstaden and visit companies in Kista and Linköping.

Programme points, 19 October

09.30 Business Forum

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff address a business forum at Grand Hôtel.

10.00 Reception by the Prime Minister at Rosenbad

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff arrive at Rosenbad.

Photo opportunity at the entrance.

Discussions.

Photo pool – meeting room.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Minister for Housing, Urban Development

and Information Technology Mehmet Kaplan will also take part in the discussions.

11.15 Press conference at Rosenbad

Mr Löfven and Ms Rouseff hold a joint press conference in Bella Venezia.

The press conference will be webcast live on www.regeringen.se.

Lunch at City Hall

The City of Stockholm hosts a lunch for Mr Löfven and Ms Rouseff at City Hall.

Photo pool.

15.50 Visit to Saab in Linköping

Ms Rouseff and Mr Löfven visit Saab in Linköping.

Advance registration

Advance registration and/or application for a place in the photo pool is required. Please register/apply via the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 16.00 on 16 October. More detailed information about times and venues of meetings will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool



Press release

Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete to visit Sweden

Published 29 May 2015 Updated 29 May 2015

On Wednesday 3 June, Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete will arrive in Stockholm for a visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Programme points include an audience with HM The King and talks with the Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Housing, Urban Development and Information Technology. President Kikwete will also have lunch talks with the Speaker of the Riksdag and will visit Karolinska Institutet, Sida and Business Sweden.

The programme will have a special focus on promoting trade relations between Tanzania and Sweden, especially in the areas of ICT, energy, and infrastructure. The agenda for the visit also includes development cooperation, and domestic policy and regional development in Tanzania's neighbourhood.

Photo opportunity

17.15: Prime Minister Löfven receives President Kikwete at the entrance to Rosenbad. Photo opportunity.

17.20: Bilateral talks. Rosenbad Dining Room. Photo pool.

Photographers enter via Kopparporten between 16.45 and 17.00. Please bring your press credentials.

Please notify Dan Lundqvist Dahlin if you wish to attend.



Speech from Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Speech by Mehmet Kaplan at COP21

Published 03 December 2015 Updated 03 December 2015

Ladies and gentlemen, dear participants!

I am very happy to be invited here today. The issues we are going to discuss today are questions close to my heart – and responsibilities as a minister for housing and urban development.

Cities and urban areas are becoming increasingly important for our environment, for economic development and for the security, welfare and quality of life for a growing share of the world's population. Holistic and sustainable urban planning is needed to meet both present and future challenges.

The challenge is twofold. We must continue to improve the sustainability of existing cities. And we must also do our best to make sure that new cities and neighbourhoods are sustainably built from the very outset. However, the Swedish experience is that cities, if planned and managed correctly, also hold possible solutions to many of these problems, for example through efficient infrastructure, energy and transport solutions.

Sustainable urban development can not only help boost local economies and quality of life, but also be an important part of the transformation into a global, competitive and welfare-producing zero-carbon economy. Striving towards sustainable urban development thus makes sense, not only from an environmental perspective but also for economic reasons. Knowledge and environmental technology can play important roles in shaping sustainable urbanisation. In fact, sustainable urban development can be an important part of achieving competitive and thriving societies.

Sweden has a long history of focusing on the environment. The Swedish municipalities have played an important part in this development.

Sustainable development is nowadays mainstreamed into a normal part of their ordinary activities. Swedish industry has also been at the forefront in developing energy-efficient technology solutions. Important applications have, for example, included urban infrastructure solutions for water, energy and waste. Close and long-term co-operation between different municipal departments, housing organisations, planning and engineering consultancies and the manufacturing industry has been a key factor in delivering many of the solutions that are established today.

However, cities and municipalities shall not be given the whole responsibility for development. Collaboration is needed between major actors like local, regional and national authorities, energy suppliers, building industry and – last but not at least – the local community. A good example of a project where smart solutions are supported is the "Stockholm Royal Seaport" area in Stockholm, covering a wide area of former harbour and industrial district. For this area, the local planning administration has set up a certain environmental program that sets up the means of collaboration for every part of the process.

As sustainable urban development must tackle various different problems simultaneously, an integrated approach is needed. Therefore, the Swedish Government has involved several governmental agencies in a commission aiming to strengthen collaboration, coordination, knowledge development, dissemination and exchange of experience in issues related to urban development. We call it the "Platform for Sustainable Urban Development" .

Public transport has a key role to play in any successful city development, both relating to reduced carbon footprint and the possibilities for new housing and construction. With good access to public transport, new locations become more attractive to live in, which in turn attracts new investments in housing construction. In order to promote sustainable urban environments the government offers co-financing of local and regional investment in urban public transport.

Many Swedish companies are world leaders within the field of Sustainable Urban Development. I believe that there could be potential interest for other countries as well.

Sweden will become one of the world's first fossil-free welfare countries. Leading the way in this transition is not only morally right, it is economically smart as well. Together with companies, municipalities and organisations, we challenge other countries and actors to become fossil-free and to raise the

bar in the near future, for example by taking steps towards a circular and bio-based economy.

For the first time, we can have a climate change agreement to which all the countries of the world contribute. However, it will not reduce emission levels sufficiently. For this reason, the pace of transition must increase. Paris marks the start, not the finish line.

Thank you.