

## An inspiration for India from Sweden



While the Prime Minister of India has landed in Stockholm for his two-day-trip, India has inspirations to take from the Swedes regarding holding simultaneous elections - which possibly could be a thing in India too.

Being one of the largest democratic nations of the world, elections are always a big deal - but with such a humongous population, elections always need to be conducted in hierarchic series instead of entire nation all at once. One of the reasons was management and counting of ballot papers for a population of 1.3 billion people - all at once, is impossible without even exaggerating. However, today, India has embraced the EVMs with wide arms since years and the simultaneous election dream can possibly turn into a reality. The thought has always been around in Indian political diaspora but we now have an inspiration - Sweden.

Indian PM Narendra Modi is currently in Sweden for a two-day trip with all different purposes like 'discussing' trade, growth, global security and climate in Europe. But beyond all these small-talks, it seems like Modi government's idea to conduct simultaneous elections have been drawn from the European land of Sweden - besides South Africa and Belgium. The economic and innovation powerhouse nation holds elections for its county and municipal councils simultaneously with the general elections (elections to Riksdag), every four years.

Besides conducting all elections on the very same day, Sweden has a proportional electoral system - which means, parties are provided with a number of representatives in the elected assembly which is proportional to their share of votes. It is an inspiration worth taking for India. But before that, one must consider the geographical size of India, the out-burst population, the widely dividend and polarised India culture, the 'incorrupt' governance bodies and the 'civilised and absolutely honest' political leaders - it makes simultaneous elections a far-fetched idea for India.