

Embassy of India
Oslo

India–Norway Bilateral Relations

Part I- Political:

India and Norway established bilateral relations in February 1947. Both countries have been enjoying a cordial and friendly relationship since then. The two countries respect each other for their commonly shared values of democracy, human rights and rule of law.

2. The bilateral ties are marked by regular exchanges of visits – high level, parliamentary, ministerial and official. The Hon'ble President of India, Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee, paid a State Visit to Norway from 12-14 October 2014, the first-ever State Visit by the Hon'ble President of India to Norway. During the visit, several Agreements/MoUs were signed for cooperation in areas such as Earth Sciences, Culture, Scientific Research, Medicine, Defence as well as Visa waiver for Diplomatic Passport holders.

3. H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Norway, paid a State Visit to India from 7-8 January 2019. During the visit, a MoU on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue was signed.

4. H.E. Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, along with a business delegation, visited India on 25-27 April 2022. During the visit, the Foreign Minister participated in the *Raisina Dialogue 2022* and held bilateral talks with Dr.S.Jaishankar, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, and Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister of New and Renewable Energy. The Foreign Minister announced that Norway will become a member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

5. During the second India-Nordic Summit held in Copenhagen on 3-4 May 2022, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Mr. Jonas Gahr Store, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Norway held a bilateral meeting. Both leaders discussed the potential for deepening engagement in areas like blue economy, renewable energy, green hydrogen, solar and wind projects, green shipping, fisheries, water management, rainwater harvesting, space cooperation, long-term infrastructure investment, health and culture.

6. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture visited Norway on 16-18 August 2022 and held talks with H.E. Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway and

H.E. Mr. Tore Hattrem, Secretary General, as well as Mr. Erling Rimestad, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. During these meetings, cooperation in trade and investment, blue economy, energy, the Arctic region, cultural and people-to-people ties were discussed. Regional and global issues of mutual interest were also discussed. Hon'ble MoS also participated in a panel discussion on India-Norway Green Energy Cooperation, together with H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Hon'ble Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway. Hon'ble MoS highlighted the significant progress made by India in achieving climate action targets during this interaction. MoS also interacted with members of the Sikh community during her visit to Gurdwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, and also with prominent members of the vibrant Indian diaspora at a community event. Hon'ble MoS also participated in a yoga event and planted a tree in the historical Botanical Gardens.

7. **UNSC:** India and Norway were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the period 2021-22 and have started their tenure from January 2021.

8. **Dialogue mechanisms:** The institutional mechanisms for bilateral dialogue include the (a) India-Norway Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) which is held under the chairmanship of the respective Foreign Ministers. The Sixth Session of India-Norway Joint Commission was held on virtual platform on 13 October 2020, (b) Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the two Foreign Ministries at the level of Secretaries. The last FOC was held in November 2022 in Oslo.

9. **JWGs:** Under the auspices of the Joint Commission, a number of Joint Working Groups (JWG) have been established for cooperation in the field of (i) Hydrocarbons; (ii) Fisheries & Aquaculture; (iii) Maritime Matters; (iv) Education; (v) Science and Technology; (vi) Environment; (vii) Local Governance and (viii) Culture.

10. **MoUs/Agreements:** India and Norway have signed MoUs/Agreements covering trade and economic relations, avoidance of double taxation of income, prevention and mitigation of geo-hazards, culture, education including higher education, academic research and collaboration, exchange of faculty and students between universities, training of diplomats, science and technology, fisheries, local governance, social security, cooperation in banking supervision, health research, exemption of visa for diplomatic passports, scientific and technical cooperation, earth system sciences, defence research and development, geotechnical engineering and material sciences, roads and highways, ocean dialogue and blue economy.

Cooperation in other sectors:

11. **Arctic:** India is an Observer State in the Arctic Council. There is some collaboration between Indian and Norwegian institutions in the area of research. India had set up its first permanent research station 'Himadri' in the Arctic in July 2008 at Ny Alesund, Svalbard, Norway. The research station focusses on polar scientific research covering the major themes of biological, glaciological and atmospheric sciences. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) carries out multiple scientific expeditions to the Arctic every year.

12. **Space:** There has been ongoing collaboration between India and Norway in the space sector.

13. **Blue Economy:** Norway launched its strategy for cooperation with India "*Norway – India 2030*" in December, 2018 prior to the State Visit to India in January 2019 by H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Norway. One of the strategies for cooperation is the oceans and the broad objectives are to support sustainable use of marine resources in India, and efforts to reduce marine litter. India and Norway signed a MoU on Ocean Dialogue and established a Task Force on Blue Economy in 2019.

14. **Health:** In pursuance of the commitment to achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5, the 'Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI)' was established in 2006 based on an agreement between the Governments of Norway and India to make sustainable efforts to reduce Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in India. NIPI's aim is to provide strategic, catalytic and innovative support to the National Health Mission of India (NHM). The first phase during 2006-2011, as part of the 'Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI)', particularly helped to bring forward the focus on new born health in India, which culminated in the launch of the National Health Mission (NHM) of India. The second phase of the programme was carried out in 2013-17 and the third phase from 2019 is currently underway.

15. **Higher Education & Research:** A number of MoUs on education and research cooperation have been signed between premier institutions of India and Norway. In October 2015, Norway in its strategy for cooperation on higher education and research called '*Panorama*' for the period 2016-2020, included India along with Brazil, China, Japan, Russia and South Africa. Norway unveiled its *Panorama* strategy for the period 2021-2027 which includes India, Brazil, Canada, Japan, China, Russia, South Africa, South Korea and the USA. The Research Council of Norway, under the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, has research cooperation with Indian institutions on various subjects.

16. **Science and Technology:** India signed an Agreement on Science and Technology with Norway in 2006 for promotion of cooperation in the field of S&T. Joint research projects have been undertaken in areas of

climate research, glaciology, water resource management, studies of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, freshwater biodiversity, renewable energy, etc.

17. **Culture:** India and Norway signed a Cultural Cooperation Exchange Agreement in May 2010 to cooperate in the fields of fine arts, archives, architectural heritage, archaeology, films and audio visuals, etc. A MoU was signed between the Indian Ministry of Culture and the Munch Museum during the visit of the Hon'ble President of India to Norway in October 2014. Indian dance, music, yoga and cuisine are popular in Norway.

Part II- Economic Relations:

Bilateral Trade

18. There has been growth in economic and commercial relations between India and Norway in recent years, especially in areas such as oil and gas, shipping and maritime industries, renewable energy, offshore projects and service sectors. The bilateral trade figures are as under in USD million:

S. No		2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-22
1.	Export	359.98	313.05	421.61	322.48	379.72
2.	Import	842.08	366.47	630.79	673.66	2092.36
3.	Total Trade	1,202.06	679.53	1,052.40	996.14	2472.08

(Source: Ministry of Commerce, GOI)

The main exports from India to Norway include articles of apparels and accessories, textile yarns fabrics, organic chemicals, manufactures of metals, medicinal & pharmaceutical products and electrical machinery and apparatus, while imports from Norway to India are include non-ferrous metals, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, plastic in primary form, organic chemicals, chemical material and products,

Investments / Companies:

19. The Government Pension Fund Global (GPF) of Norway has a net value of approx US\$ 1.3 trillion. GPF's total investment in India is around US\$ 15 billion.

20. FDI inflows from Norway through RBI/FIPB during April 2000 to December 2019 amounted to Rs.1,632.63 crores (US\$ 280.88 million) and were in the sectors of power generation, financial services, food processing, maritime, aquaculture and IT.

21. Over 140 Norwegian companies are engaged in India either through joint ventures with Indian partners or through wholly owned subsidiaries in areas such as ship building, petroleum related services, marine/sub-sea drilling equipment, hydropower, clean energy, and IT services. Major Norwegian investors in India are Statkraft, Norfund, Jotun, DNB Nor, Kongsberg and Yara.

22. Indian companies have also invested in Norway over the last few years. ONGC and Reliance Industries have tie ups with Norwegian companies in the petroleum and energy sector. Indian IT majors - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, HCL, L&T Infotech, Cognizant and Tech Mahindra - are present in Norway.

Indian Community:

23. The Indian community in Norway number around 26,900 out of which 19,135 are PIOs and 7,765 are NRIs. Most of them are professionals.

Visa:

24. Norway was included in the E-visa scheme in 2014. Diplomatic passport-holders are exempt from visa requirement for official meetings following the signing of an Agreement on exemption of visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passport in October 2014.

22 November 2022.
