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## **India–Norway Bilateral Relations**

### **Political**

India and Norway established bilateral relations in February 1947. Norway opened its Embassy in India in 1952 (*at the time when it started its Fisheries Project in Kerala*) and a Consulate in Mumbai in 2015. India opened its Embassy in Norway in 1957. Norway was one of the first countries to recognize India. Both countries have been enjoying a cordial and friendly relationship since then. The relations are based on shared values of democracy, diversity, empowerment of women, human rights and rule of law. The bilateral ties are marked by regular exchanges of visits and interactions at the highest level and at parliamentary, ministerial and official levels.

### **Important visits/meetings/interactions:**

2. Rashtrapatiiji (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) visited Norway in October 2014 and Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi visited Norway in June 1983. PM Shri Jawaharlal Nehru visited Norway in 1957. From the Norwegian side, King Harald V as Crown Prince, visited India in February 1986. Crown Prince Haakon visited India officially in 2006.
3. Norwegian Prime Ministers have also visited India and PM Erna Solberg was the last to visit in January 2019. The India-Nordic Summit format allowed a more regular and structured interactions at Prime Ministerial levels in Stockholm (on the sidelines of the first India-Nordic Summit) in 2018 and in Copenhagen (for the Second India Nordic Summit) in May 2022. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store have also spoken telephonically in September 2022 and met on the sidelines of G20 meeting in Rio on 18 November 2024.
4. At Foreign Minister level, the last visit by EAM to Norway was in 2013 (Mr. Salman Khurshid) while Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Norwegian Foreign Minister visited India for Raisina Dialogue in March 2025. In addition, the Foreign Ministers have also met on the sidelines of multilateral events and other conferences. MoS Kirtivardhan Singh visited Oslo in August 2024 for the first Nordic-India Dialogue. Former MoS Meenakshi Lekhi visited Norway in August 2022 to attend Arendalsuka, an annual political gathering in Norway.
5. Other recent Ministerial level visits include that of Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman in February 2026 to Oslo and Norwegian Minister of Digitalization and Public

Governance, Ms. Karianne Oldernes Tung, to Delhi to attend the AI Impact Summit in February 2026. (see Annexure 1 for list of visits)

### **Dialogue mechanisms:**

6. Several institutional dialogue mechanisms exist between India and Norway, covering various sectors of cooperation. The Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between the Foreign Ministers is the high level mechanism of coordination between the two countries, covering the entire gamut of relations. Last meeting (6<sup>th</sup>) was held virtually in October 2020.

7. Foreign Office Consultations are held at the level of Secretary. The last FOC was held in Oslo on 01 February 2026 and was co-chaired by Secretary (West) from Indian side and Secretary General from Norwegian side. There are several Joint Working Groups and two Task Forces on various areas. The latest addition is a Maritime Security Dialogue held at official level in Oslo in September 2025.

### **MoUs/Agreements:**

8. 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, geo-technical engineering and material sciences, roads and highways, ocean dialogue and blue economy.

### **UN reforms:**

9. Norway has been supporting India's pursuit to become a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council.

### **Areas of bilateral cooperation:**

10. **Maritime:** As maritime nations, India and Norway collaborate in the maritime sector, with several Norwegian shipowners having offices in India. About 10% of crews in Norwegian vessels are Indian seafarers. Some of the large Norwegian vessels have been built in India, mostly in Cochin Shipyard. In November 2025, Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited (SDHI) signed a Letter of Intent with Norway-based ship owner Rederiet Stenersen AS for the construction of six IMO Type II chemical tankers of 18,000 DWT each. Valued at

approximately USD 220 million, the deal marks a significant milestone for India's shipbuilding exports and includes an option for six additional vessels.

11. **Blue Economy:** There has been several initiatives, including technical and research projects on marine spatial planning; research on persistent organic pollutants (POPs); ocean ecosystem services and accounting (INECO); people centric Tsunami early warning for the Indian coastlines; and deep-sea mineral exploration and test mining. India and Norway have also established a Joint Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development in 2019, which last (8<sup>th</sup> meeting) met on 16 December 2025.

12. **Renewable Energy:** Several Norwegian companies have established themselves in the Indian renewable space. In addition, Norwegian shipowners have used Cochin Shipyard Ltd to build two autonomous battery operated coast cargo ferries and another hydrogen carrier is currently being constructed. Norwegian Climate Investment Fund has invested in India. There is scope to collaborate in renewable energy and CCS technology with Norway. A new Task Force on Energy has also been started.

13. **Arctic/ Polar:** India set up its first permanent research station 'Himadri' in the Arctic in July 2008 at Ny Alesund, Svalbard, Norway. The research station focuses on polar scientific research covering 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. India started the winter expedition at India's Arctic research station, Himadri from December 2023 and effectively made Indian presence at Svalbard round the year from 2024 onwards. India is also an Observer State in the Arctic Council since 2013.

14. **Space:** ISRO uses Norway's Svalbard ground station on commercial terms to receive data from IRS satellites. KSAT is also setting up ISRO's antenna in Svalbard. KSAT and NSIL are working closely on various space and satellite mission support activities.

15. **Education and Research:** MoUs on education and research cooperation have been signed between premier institutions of India and Norway. In October 2015, Norway included India in its strategy for cooperation on higher education and research ('*Panorama*') for the period 2016-2020. This was extended for the period 2021-2027 with the addition of few more countries. Collaborative activities have increased following the visit of DG, CSIR to Norway in March 2024. Similarly, several of the Rectors of Norwegian Universities regularly visit India to renew their collaborations.

16. **Healthcare:** There are pilot projects under Norway-India Partnership Initiative for maternal and child health in few states of India (Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh). There

are also exchange visits by few nurses from each others' health system to understand about critical care treatment.

### **Economic Relations:**

17. Bilateral trade between India and Norway was US \$ 1.05 billion in 2024-25. India exported goods worth US\$ 630 million and imported goods worth US\$ 420 million. Trade in services has been around USD 1 billion. 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 include non-ferrous metals, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, plastic in primary form, organic chemicals, chemical material and products. 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.

18. India and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which includes Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein, signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) in New Delhi on 10 March 2024. TEPA entered into force in October 2025. Over 160 Norwegian companies are present in India. They are active in sectors such as food processing; ship building; petroleum related services; marine/sub-sea drilling equipment; hydropower; renewable energy; and IT services. Indian IT majors such as TCS, Infosys, HCL, L&T Infotech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra are present in Norway. There are several entrepreneurs amongst the Indian diaspora, who are gradually establishing themselves in Norway.

19. The Government Pension Fund Global (GPF) of Norway has invested close to US\$ 28 billion (till December 2025) in Indian capital market. In addition, FDI inflows from Norway during April 2000 to September 2025 was US\$ 764 million.

### **Indian Community:**

20. Nearly 1053 Indian seafarers were employed in Norwegian merchant navy during the second world war and 94 of them had lost their lives. Subsequently more that 1000 Indians came to Norway in late 1960s and early 70s, specially from Punjab to work in factories and agricultural fields. The next wave of Indians came to Norway in the late 1990s till now, who were mainly IT and oil & gas professionals. Presently, the Indian community in Norway is around 30,000. There are also sizable Indian students and faculty members in different universities. There are more than 40 Indian Associations in Norway, organized on various

basis. Since 2010, Turbandagen (Turban Day) and Oslo Colour Festival (since 2022) have been the two most popular cultural events in Norway.

21. Norway was included in the E-visa scheme in 2014. Diplomatic passport-holders are exempt from visa requirement for official meetings as per Agreement signed in October 2014. In 2025, 11,626 visas were issued compared to 11,425 visas in 2024.

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**Important recent visits from India to Norway:**

- (i) State visit by the Hon'ble President of India, Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to Norway in October 2014;
- (ii) Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, in August 2022;
- (iii) a delegation led by Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, in October 2022;
- (iv) Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) and Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary (CE), MEA, in November 2022 for Foreign Office Consultations;
- (v) Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of Earth Sciences in June 2023;
- (vi) Shri Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and Dr. L.Murugan, Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and Information & Broadcasting, in August 2023;
- (vii) a delegation led by Shri Gian Chand Gupta, Hon'ble Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly, in September 2023;
- (viii) a delegation led by Shri Pasang Dorjee Sona, Hon'ble Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, in October 2023;
- (ix) a delegation led by Shri Nilkanthramnath Halarnkar, Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries, Government of Goa, in February-March 2024;
- (x) a five-member delegation led by Dr. N.Kalaiselvi, Secretary, DSIR and DG, CSIR, in March 2024;
- (xi) a delegation led by Shri Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways for co-chairing the 9<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting on Maritime in May 2024;
- (xii) Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs in August 2024 for the India-Nordic Track 1.5 Dialogue;
- (xiii) Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry from 29-30 April 2025;
- (xiv) Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways from 1-6 June 2025; and
- (xv) Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, from 7-8 July 2025.
- (xvi) Shri Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Minister of Environment and Industries, Government of Delhi from 03-04 August 2025.
- (xvii) Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs from 16-18 February, 2026.
- (xviii) Shri Sibi George, Secretary (West) for the 12<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations on 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.

**Important recent visits from Norway to India:**

- (i) State visit of H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Norway, to India in January 2019;
- (ii) H.E. Ms. Anniken Huitfeldt, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, along with a business delegation, in April 2022;
- (iii) Mr. Ottar Ostnes DG, Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry & Fisheries in November 2022 for JWG on Maritime;
- (iv) a delegation from the Standing Committee on Energy and Environment of the Storting (Parliament of Norway) headed by Ms. Marianne Sivertsen Naess, Committee Chair, in January 2023;
- (v) H.E. Mr. Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway, in February 2023, April 2023, December 2023, and March 2024;
- (vi) a Parliamentary delegation from EFTA countries led by Ms. Trine Lise Sundnes, Chair of EFTA Parliamentary Committee and Head of the Norwegian Parliamentary delegation, in April 2023;
- (vii) H.E. Ms. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Minister of International Development of Norway, in November 2023;
- (viii) H.E. Mr. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, in November 2023 and February 2024;
- (ix) a Norwegian Parliamentary delegation to the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership (ASEP) led by Ms. Aslaug Sem-Jacobsen, Member of Parliament, in February-March 2024;
- (x) Mr. Torgeir Larsen, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway in May 2024 for co-chairing India-Norway Foreign Office Consultations;
- (xi) Parliamentary delegation of Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence of Norwegian Parliament in September 2024;
- (xii) Mr. Tomas Norvoll, State Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Trade in February 2025 for EFTA desk opening in India;
- (xiii) Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway to India in March 2025 for Raisina Dialogue 2025; and
- (xiii) Ms. Marianne Sivertsen Næss, Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Policy of Norway to India in October 2025 for the India Maritime Week 2025.
- (xiv) Ms. Karianne Oldernes Tung, Minister of Digitalisation and Public Governance, from 19-20 February 2026 at the AI Impact Summit 2026.
- (xv) Mr. Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik, Deputy Foreign Minister (State Secretary) from 05-07 March 2026 at the Raisina Dialogue 2026.