

India–Norway Relations

Political

India and Norway established their first official contact on 21 February, 1947 through a telegraphed message from Foreign Minister Halvard Lange to India's Special Envoy V.K. Krishna Menon in Stockholm confirming the Norwegian Government's 'in principle' agreement to establish bilateral relations. India and Norway have been enjoying a cordial and friendly relationship. The two countries respect each other for their commonly shared values such as democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Bilateral visits

2. Bilateral ties are marked by regular exchanges of high level visits between the two countries. President Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid a State Visit to Norway on 12-14 October 2014, first ever State Visit of President to Norway. PM Erna Solberg of Norway paid a State Visit to India on January 7-8, 2019. PM Modi and PM Solberg also met on the side lines of G-20 Summit in Hamburg, on 08 July, 2017 and again on April 17, 2018 on the side lines of the first India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm. During the visit of President Pranab Mukherjee to Norway in 2014 and PM Erna Solberg's visit to India in 2019, a number of Agreements/MoUs were signed. A list of bilateral visits is at **Annexure-I** and a list of Agreements/MoUs with Norway is at **Annexure-II**.

Foreign Office Consultations

3. Foreign Office Consultations between the two Foreign Ministries are held alternately in New Delhi and Oslo, at the level of Secretaries. The 7th FOCs were held in Oslo on November 24, 2016. Indian delegation was led by Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) while Norwegian delegation was led by Mr. Wegger Strommen, Secretary General, MFA. The 8th FOCs was held on April 9, 2018 in New Delhi. Indian side was led by Mrs. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West) and Norwegian side by Mr. Wegger Strommen, Secretary General, MFA.

Commercial

Joint Commission Meeting

4. India-Norway Joint Commission sessions are held under the chairmanship of the respective Foreign Ministers. The Fifth Session of India-Norway Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 2 November, 2015. The Indian side was led by EAM, Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Norwegian side was led by Foreign Minister Mr. Borge Brende. **Eight Joint Working Groups** on Hydrocarbons, Marine Resources, Maritime Matters, S&T, Environment, Education, Culture and Local Governance have been set up to foster sectoral ties in a focused manner. A **Joint Task Force on Blue Economy** has also been set up in January 2019 and a **Dialogue on Trade and Investment** is being initiated with the first meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2020 in New Delhi.

Trade

5. 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. However, the current level of our bilateral trade is not a true reflection of the size of the economies and the potential that exists between the two countries. Total bilateral trade increased from US\$ 974.22 million in 2013-14 to **US\$ 1202.06 million in 2017-18**. However, there has been some decrease in bilateral trade in 2018-19 which is at US\$ 679.53 million. Exports from Norway to India include nonferrous metals, plastics in primary forms, chemical materials and products, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, crude fertilizers and crude minerals, while the main items of export from India to Norway include articles of apparels and accessories, textile yarns, fabrics and made up articles, feeding stuff for animals (not cereals), manufactures of metals, organic chemicals, medicinal and pharmaceutical products and electrical machinery and apparatus.

Investment

6. **GPFG**: The Government of Norway invests in India through its Government Pension Fund Global (GPFG). The Fund has a market value of NOK 9162 billion (approx. USD 1064 billion) as of June 2019 which makes it the largest sovereign fund in Europe. The Fund has invested 69.3% in equities, 28.0% in fixed income and 2.7% in unlisted real estate. Investments by GPFG in India have reached approximately **USD 9.49 billion in 2018** (in 253 companies and 6 bonds). India accounted for 1.2% of the Fund's equity investments and 0.7% of the Fund's fixed-income investments in 2018.

7. **FDI** : FDI inflows from Norway through RBI/FIPB during April 2000 to March 2019 amounted to Rs.13,971.35 million (US\$ 247.62 million). Norway ranks 39th position, representing 0.06% of total cumulative inflows into India. FDI inflows are in the sectors such as power generation, financial services, food processing, maritime, aquaculture and IT.

8. Over 100 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 and Yara. 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. Chennai-based Aban Offshore took over Norwegian drilling company Sinvest in early 2007, in a deal worth around US\$ 1.3 billion. Another Chennai-based company, Siva Ventures acquired the Norwegian shipping company, J.B. Ugland Shipping AS for US \$ 300 million in 2008; it also acquired a Norwegian bottled-water company, Isklar AS, in 2010. Indian IT majors such Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, HCL, L&T Infotech, Cognizant and Tech Mahindra have increased their presence in Norway during the last five years.

Science and Technology

9. India set up its first permanent research station called 'Himadri' on the Arctic in July 2008 at Ny Ålesund, Svalbard in Norway. The research station focuses on polar scientific research covering the major themes of biological, glaciological and atmospheric sciences. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has launched multiple scientific expeditions to the Arctic every year.

Education and Research

10. Cooperation on education and research between India and Norway has seen an increase after the State Visit of President of India in October 2014. 13 MOUs on education and research cooperation have been signed between various institutes from India [such as Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); IIT Kanpur; Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Thiruvananthapuram; National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad; University of Hyderabad and SINTEF, Norway, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim; University of Oslo; University of Bergen, Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), Kjeller. Research Council of Norway (RCN), under Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, has entered into research cooperation with India on various subjects including Mathematics & Science, Social Sciences, Humanities, Agriculture & Fisheries etc. RCN has signed an MOU with our Ministry of S&T and Earth Sciences and Indian Council for Medical Research. In October 2015, Norway in its strategy for cooperation on higher education and research, called 'Panorama', included India along with Brazil, China, Japan, Russia and South Africa (2016–2020).

Health

11. In pursuance of the commitment to achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5 to bring down infant mortality and improve maternal health, Norwegian Government supported programmes in Indian states to the tune of US\$ 80 million over the 2006-2011 period, as part of the **Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI)**. NIPI has particularly helped to bring forward the focus on newborn health in India, which culminated in the launch of the Indian Newborn Action Plan in 2014. NIPI is a valuable partner to our National Health Mission (NHM) as several of the innovations tried out under NIPI are now being scaled up under the NHM. The third phase of NIPI is in progress in India at present.

Culture

12. India and Norway signed the Cultural Cooperation Exchange Agreement during the Joint Commission Meeting on Culture held in May 2010 in Oslo to cooperate in the fields of fine arts, archives, architectural heritage, archaeology, films and audio visuals, etc. for the period 2010-15. It was also agreed that the Cultural Exchange Cooperation Agreement would get automatically renewed in December 2015 until the next programme is agreed upon. An MoU was signed between the Indian Ministry of Culture and the Munch Museum during the visit of the President of India in October 2014.

Indian Community

13. The size of the Indian community in Norway is 22480 in September 2019, out of which 13748 PIOs besides 8732 NRIs. Most of the Indians living in Norway are professionals. According to the Norwegian Immigration Department figures, India has become one of the leading sources of foreign skilled professionals working in Norway.

Visas

14. E-Visa for Norway has been operationalized with effect from 27 November 2014. There is a significant increase in e-visas with 8820 issued in 2017 and 3824 from January to July 2018 (the latest period for which figures have been made available by the Ministry). Mission issued 5349 visas in 2017 and 3491 in 2018 respectively.

Diplomatic passport-holders are exempt from visa requirement for official meetings following signing of Agreement on exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports in October 2014.

Useful Links

Embassy Website : www.indianembassyoslo.gov.in

Twitter : https://twitter.com/Indemb_Norway

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/indiainnorway/?ref=hl>

Bilateral Visits

Visits to India from Norway

- 2010: Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of Norway (Delhi Sustainable Development Summit)
- 2010: Mr. Lars Peder Brekk, Minister of Agriculture and Food
- 2010: Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Foreign Minister (to co-chair India-Norway Joint Commission Session)
- 2010: Mr. Erik Solheim, Minister of Environment and International Development
- 2010: Mr. Trond Giske, Trade and Investment Minister
- 2011: Ms. Tora Aasland, Minister of Higher Education and Research
- 2012: Ms. Liv Signe Navarsete, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development
- 2012: Ms. Rigmor Aasrud, Minister of Government Administration, Reform and Church Affairs
- 2012: Mr. Trygve S. Vedum, Minister of Agriculture
- 2012: Mr. Erik Solheim, Minister of Environment and International Development
- 2012: Mr. Trond Giske, Trade and Investment Minister
- 2013: Mr. Arvinn Gadgil, Deputy Minister for International Development (Delhi Sustainable Development Summit)
- 2013: Mr. Borge Brende, Foreign Minister (11th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting)
- 2013: Mr. Oystein Bo, State Secretary, Ministry of Defence
- 2013: Mr. Torre Hattrem, Director General, Department of Regional Affairs and Development (Foreign Office Consultations)
- 2014: Director General of UN Department in the Norwegian Foreign Office (First Official UN Consultations)
- 2015: Mr. Vidar Helgesen, Minister for European Affairs and Chief of Staff to the Norwegian PM and Mr. Morten Høglund, State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry (Norway-Asia Business Summit in Delhi)
- 2015: Mr. Geir Pollesand, Chairman of Standing Committee on Business and Industry, along with 11 Members of Parliament from Storting
- 2015: Mr. Børge Brende, Foreign Minister (5th Joint Commission Meeting)
- 2017: Mr. Jon Georg Dale, Minister of Agriculture and Food visited India on 13–16 February for bilateral cooperation in fisheries, agricultural commodities and dairying.
- 2018: Ms. Marianne Hagen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited India on 19-20 March 2018 to attend the WTO informal meeting in New Delhi.
- 2018: Mr. Nikolai Astrup, Minister of International Development visited India on 25-27 June to attend the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in Mumbai and met Acting Finance Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, MOS for Housing and Urban Affairs.

2019 : Prime Minister Erna Solberg visited India on a State Visit from January 7-8, 2019; apart from bilateral talks, also delivered the inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue.

2019 : State Secretary, MFA, Ms. Marianne Hagen visited India from 8 to 12 February, 2019 and launched the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative under the India-Norway Ocean Dialogue and also attended the World Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI.

Visits to Norway from India

- 2007: Shri P. Chidambaram, Finance Minister
- 2008: Shri Anand Sharma, MoS for External Affairs (3rd India-Norway JCM)
- 2008: Shri Kapil Sibal, Minister of HRD
- 2010: Shri Prithviraj Chavan, MoS for S&T and Earth Sciences
- 2010: Dr. C.P. Joshi, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- 2011: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Earth Sciences, Science and Technology & Parliamentary Affairs
- 2011: Shri G.K. Vasan, Minister for Shipping
- 2011: Shri Pallam Raju, MoS for Defence
- 2011: Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Minister for New & Renewable Energy
- 2012: Shri Kishore Chandra Deo, Minister of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development (Follow up on MoU on Local Governance)
- 2013: Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member, Planning Commission (High Level Meeting on Energy and the Post-2015 Agenda)
- 2013: Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, MoS (IC) for Environment and Forests (7th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity and COP Bureau Meeting)
- 2013: Shri Salman Khurshid, External Affairs Minister
- 2013: Shri V.S. Sampath, Chief Election Commissioner (to observe Norwegian Parliamentary Elections)
- 2014: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India. (First ever State visit by the Hon'ble Rashtrapatiji from 12-14 October, 2014)
- 2014: Shri Dinkar Khullar, Secretary (West) (Foreign Office Consultations)
- 2015: AS (IO), MEA, New Delhi (Second Official UN Consultations)
- 2016: Ms. Sujata Mehta, Secretary (West) for Foreign Office Consultations
- 2017: Dr. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) along with a delegation visited Oslo on 26-28 February 2017 to chair the third meeting of the Board of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- 2017: Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary and Dr. J. S. Sandhu, DDG (Crop Sciences), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare visited Svalbard Global Seed Vault from 26-28 February 2017 and deposited seeds (100 accessions of sorghum and 100 accessions of paddy) from India at the vault.
- 2017: A Goodwill Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia visited Norway from May 31 to June 03, 2017 for promoting and strengthening of Parliamentary relations between India and Norway.
- 2018 : Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council, Mr. Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar, led a delegation of Maharashtra Legislature on study tour of Norway from April 20-21, 2018.
- 2018 : Comptroller and Auditor General, Mr. Rajiv Mehrishi visited Oslo from June 25-28, 2018 to attend the INTOSAI Regions Coordinating Platform Meeting.
- 2018: Mr. Yudhvir Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways visited Oslo from October 29, 2018 to November 2, 2018 on Study Visit arranged by NGI.

- 2019: Mrs. Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Secretary, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying visited Trondheim, Norway from August 22-25, 2019 to attend the 6th Meeting of JWG on Marine Resources. and Aqua Nor 2019.
- 2019: Dr. Sumita Misra, Joint Secretary, NITI Ayog visited Oslo from September 11-13, 2019 along with a delegation from Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change at the invitation of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to study Norwegian Integrated Ocean Management and Green Transformation (Green Shipping).

Agreements and MOUs

S.No	Agreements/MoUs	Signed in
1.	MoU between Foreign Service Institutes of the two countries	2005
2.	MoU on Science & Technology	2006
3.	MoU on Norway–India Partnership Initiative (NIPI)	2006
4.	MoU on Polar Research	2008
5.	MoU on Education and Research	2008
6.	Air Services Agreement	2008
7.	MoU on Cooperation on Climate Change and CDM	2009
8.	MoU on Cooperation in Fisheries	2010
9.	MoU for Mutual Cooperation on Local Governance	2010
10.	Cultural Exchange Programme for 2010-2015	2010
11.	Agreement on Social Security	2010
12.	Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement	2011
13.	MoU between RBI and Financial Services Authority of Norway on cooperation in banking supervision	2012
14.	Agreement on exemption of visa requirement for holders of diplomatic passports	2014
15.	MoU between Ministry of Culture and Munch Museum of Norway	2014
16.	MoU between Ministry of Earth Sciences and Research Council of Norway on Earth System Sciences	2014
17.	MoU between IISER, Thiruvanthapuram and SINTEF Materials and Chemistry	2014
18.	MoU between University of Oslo and University of Hyderabad	2014
19.	Statement of Intent between DRDO and Norwegian Defence Research Establishment	2014
20.	MoU between University of Oslo and IIT Kanpur	2014
21.	MoU between Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and SINTEF	2014
22.	MoU between Indian Council for Medical Research and Research Council of Norway	2014
23.	MoU between IIT Kanpur and NILU	2014
24.	MoU between University of Hyderabad and University of Bergen	2014
25.	MoU between University of Hyderabad and NTNU	2014
26.	MoU between University of Agder and Indira Gandhi Tribal University	2014
27.	MoU between Norwegian Geotechnical Institute and (NGI) And Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL)	2018
28.	MoU between IIT Kharagpur and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) on cooperation on research and education in October 2018	2018
29.	MoU on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue in January 2019	2019