

Nordic-Baltic Cooperation

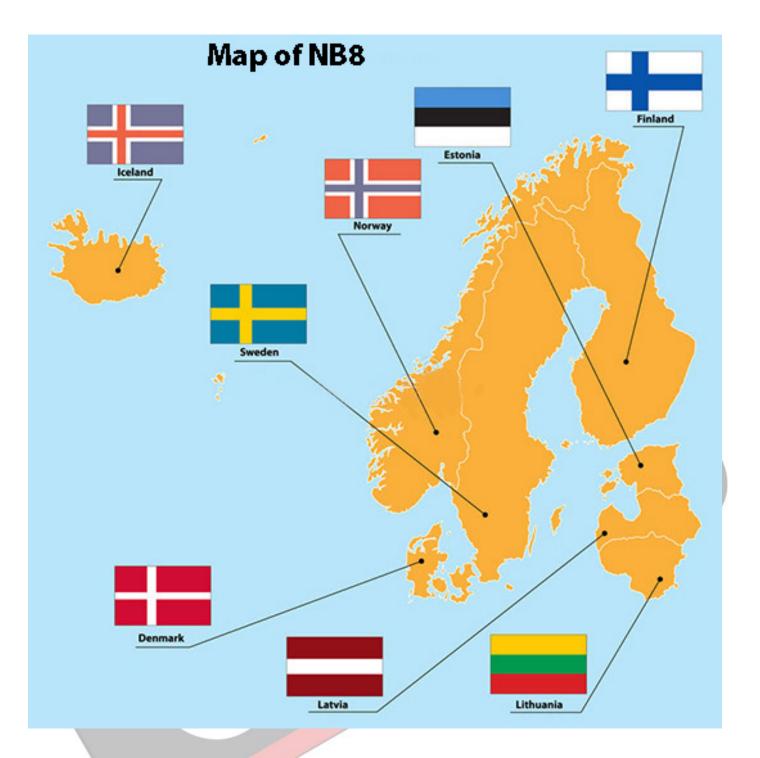
Source: TH

Why in News?

At <u>Raisina Dialogue 2024</u>, **8 Nordic-Baltic countries (NB8)** participated together as representatives of the **Nordic-Baltic cooperation**.

What is Nordic-Baltic Cooperation?

- About: The Nordic-Baltic cooperation is an informal regional cooperation format established in 1992, bringing together 5 Nordic (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland) and 3 Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania).
 - It was named the **Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8)** in 2000 on the initiative of Toomas Hendrik Ilves (former Estonian Foreign Minister).
 - Sweden holds the chairmanship of the NB8 in 2024.



- **Key Report:** One of the main documents on NB8 cooperation is the **NB8 Wise Men Report**, also known as the **Birkays-Gade Report**, which provides concrete guidelines for promoting cooperation between the eight countries.
- NB8 and India: Collaboration between Nordic-Baltic countries and India spans various fields including innovation, green transition, maritime affairs, health, intellectual property rights, technology, space and tourism.
 - In November 2023, the 2nd CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) India Nordic-Baltic Business Conclave was held in New Delhi, aiming to foster collaboration between India and the NB8.
- Outreach of NB8: Since 2003, there have been regular meetings at the political directors' level between the NB8 countries and the United States, known as the e-PINE format.
 - Additionally, in 2011, an agreement was reached to convene meetings between the prime ministers of the NB8 countries and the United Kingdom, evolving into what is now recognised as the Northern Future Forum.
- NB6: When the Baltic countries became members of the **European Union** in **2004,** the NB6

format was created.

- This includes the European Union member states of the NB8, namely **Denmark, Finland,** Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and provides a framework for informal meetings to discuss topical EU issues.
 - Iceland and Norway are not members of the European Union.



PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/nordic-baltic-cooperation