



India Norway Relations

For Prelims: Geography of Norway, India Norway Relations

For Mains: History of India Norway Relations, Recent Developments in India Norway Relations

Why in News?

Recently, **Norway's Ambassador to India** has reported that the bilateral trade between India and Norway has **doubled to \$2 billion in the last two years.**

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What are the Upcoming Areas of Cooperation in India Norway Relations?

- Norway would invest \$1 billion from its **climate investment fund** in five years worldwide, how much of the funds would be invested in India **would depend on the projects.**
- Norway is working with the **National Institute of Wind Energy** for [Wind Energy](#) related projects.
 - However, the problem in India is that **only Tamil Nadu and Gujarat** had stable wind to make it viable.
- Norway is working closely with India to find a way to get **enough countries to ratify the [Hong Kong Convention](#).** It will be a **binding international legal instrument.**

How has India's Relations with Norway been?

▪ History:

- India and Norway have been enjoying a cordial and friendly relationship since the **establishment of relations in 1947**.
- Norway's first Consulates in India opened in **Kolkata and Mumbai in 1845 and 1857, respectively**.
- In 1952, the **"India fund"** was established" with the aim to provide development assistance with a **focus on fisheries**.
 - The same year, **Norway opened its Embassy in New Delhi**.
- Norway has supported **India's membership to export control regimes the [Missile Technology Control Regime \(MTCR\)](#), the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA) and the Australia Group (AG)**.
- India signed a **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Norway** in 1986 which was revised in February 2011.

▪ Developments:

◦ Consulate General of Norway:

- The Consulate General in Mumbai re-opened its doors in 2015.
 - It had been closed since the 1970s.
 - It was joined by Innovation Norway, the Norwegian government's official trade representative, which now has offices both in Mumbai and New Delhi.

◦ India Strategy:

- In December 2018, the Norwegian government launched a new **'India Strategy'**. **The strategy sets clear priorities for the Norwegian government** until 2030 and gives **renewed impetus** to develop the bilateral cooperation.
 - **The India Strategy outlines five thematic priorities:**
 - Democracy and a rules-based world order
 - The oceans
 - Energy
 - Climate and Environment
 - Research, higher education and global health

- To achieve these objectives, Norway focuses on political contact and cooperation between the authorities, business cooperation, and research cooperation.

◦ Task Force on Blue Economy:

- In 2020, the **India-Norway Task Force on [Blue Economy](#) for Sustainable Development** was inaugurated jointly by both the countries. This task force was launched during Norwegian Prime Minister's visit to India earlier in 2019.
- The purpose of the task force is to **develop and follow up joint initiatives** between the two countries.
- It also intends to **mobilise relevant stakeholders from both Norway and India at the highest level**, and ensure continued commitment and progress across ministries and agencies.

◦ Norway's PM Visit to India:

- In 2019, the Prime Minister of Norway visited India and **[a number of MOUs were signed](#)**.
- The Prime Minister also delivered the inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue and inaugurated the India-Norway Business Summit.

◦ Economic Relations:

- As of 2019, more than 100 Norwegian companies have established themselves in India.
 - Another 50 are represented by agents.
 - The Norwegian Pension Fund Global is likely one of India's largest single foreign investors. In 2019, its investments amounted to USD 9.5 billion.
- **Exports from Norway to India** include Nonferrous metals, gas natural manufactured, plastic in primary form, crude minerals, chemical material and products.
- The main items of export from India to Norway include articles of apparels and accessories, textile yarns, manufactures of metals, rice and miscellaneous manufactured articles.

◦ Cooperation in Various Fields:

- Norway has the **fifth largest commercial ship fleet in the world**, and ship

recycling was crucial to keep up a modern fleet, both for environmental as also for competitive reasons. Norway is **cooperating closely with India in “Ship recycling and shipbuilding”** activities.

- **Academic collaborations exist** between the Indian **Institute of Technology-Madras** and the **Institute of Wind Energy in Chennai** with institutions in Norway.
- The Norwegian company, Piql, was involved in creating a **digital archive for Indian monuments such as the Taj Mahal**. The company was also involved in digitalising historical monuments, **Dholavira** in Gujarat and the **Bhimbetka Caves** in Madhya Pradesh.

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