



## 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**.



### 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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