

6. 3rd India-Nordic Summit 2026 – Green Technology and Strategic Partnership – International Relation

1. Why in News

1. 3rd India-Nordic Summit held in Oslo, Norway with participation of India and leaders of Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Sweden
2. First visit by Indian PM to Norway in 43 years (since Indira Gandhi, 1983)
3. Leaders agreed to elevate ties into "Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership"
4. Nordic countries reiterated support for India's permanent UNSC membership and NSG application
5. 4th India-Nordic Summit will be hosted by Finland
6. Builds upon previous summits in Copenhagen (2022) and Stockholm (2018)

2. 3rd India-Nordic Summit 2026 Overview

Summit Evolution

1. **1st Summit** – Stockholm, Sweden (2018)
2. **2nd Summit** – Copenhagen, Denmark (2022)
3. **3rd Summit** – Oslo, Norway (2026)
4. **4th Summit** – Will be hosted by Finland (upcoming)
5. Progressive institutionalization of India-Nordic engagement

3. Historic Significance

1. PM's attendance marks first visit by Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 years (last – Indira Gandhi, 1983)
2. Demonstrates India's renewed focus on Nordic partnerships
3. Elevating bilateral ties to strategic level

Cultural Connections

1. PM noted word "Sambandh" (meaning relations) common in Indian and Nordic languages
2. Linguistic connection from Proto-Indo-European roots
3. Expressed hope for deeper, more meaningful ties going forward
4. Cultural affinity facilitating diplomatic warmth

4. Key Highlights of Summit

Green Technology & Innovation Strategic Partnership

Leaders agreed to elevate India-Nordic ties into "Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership"

1. **Drivers** – Geopolitical uncertainty, economic transformation, technological shifts
2. **Complements** – India's similar partnerships with Denmark and Norway (bilateral)
3. **Focus areas** –
 1. Blue economy (sustainable ocean resources, maritime industries)
 2. Digital infrastructure (5G/6G, AI, cybersecurity)
 3. Climate action (emissions reduction, adaptation)
 4. Energy security (diversification, renewables, green hydrogen)
 5. Water management (conservation, technology, governance)
4. Opens new collaboration avenues in critical emerging sectors

5. Support for UN Reforms

1. Leaders emphasized strengthening multilateralism
2. Reforming United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to make it –
 1. More representative (reflecting current geopolitical realities)
 2. Inclusive (developing countries, underrepresented regions)
 3. Effective (addressing 21st-century challenges)

3. Recognition that 1945 UNSC structure outdated (5 permanent members – US, UK, France, Russia, China)

Nordic Support for India in UNSC & NSG

1. **UNSC** – Nordic countries reiterated support for India's permanent membership in reformed UNSC
2. Consistent European support strengthening India's candidacy
3. **NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group)** – Welcomed India's application to NSG
4. NSG regulates nuclear trade; India seeks membership despite not being NPT signatory
5. Nordic backing significant for consensus-building

Commitment to WTO-Based Trade System

1. Summit underlined importance of World Trade Organization (WTO)
2. Supported fair, transparent, inclusive, rules-based multilateral trading system
3. Against protectionism, unilateral tariffs, trade wars
4. Commitment to dispute resolution through WTO mechanisms

India-EFTA TEPA & India-EU FTA

1. **India-EFTA TEPA** – Leaders welcomed implementation of Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)
2. **EFTA members** – Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein (not EU members but European Economic Area)
3. **EFTA commitment** – Aim to invest USD 100 billion in India, create 1 million direct jobs over 15 years
4. **India-EU FTA** – Welcomed conclusion of Free Trade Agreement negotiations (after years of negotiations)
5. Expanded market access for Indian goods/services, European investments

Strengthening Connectivity

1. Leaders stressed improving connectivity between Nordic region and Indo-Pacific
2. **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** –
 1. Launched at 2023 G20 Delhi Summit
 2. Rail/shipping corridor – India → Middle East (UAE, Saudi Arabia) → Europe (via Mediterranean)
 3. Alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)
 4. Nordic countries' interest in connecting to IMEC
3. Physical, digital, energy connectivity

Maritime Security Cooperation

1. Leaders agreed to deepen maritime security cooperation
2. Support free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)
3. **Address challenges** –
 1. Piracy (especially off Somalia, Gulf of Aden)
 2. Smuggling (drugs, arms, human trafficking)
 3. IUU (Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated) fishing depleting fish stocks
 4. Maritime pollution (oil spills, plastic waste)
4. **Cooperation under initiatives** –
 1. **MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions)** – India-led initiative
 2. **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)** – Launched by India 2019; 7 pillars (maritime security, ecology, resources, capacity building, disaster management, science-tech, trade-connectivity)

Climate Action & Sustainable Development

1. Leaders reaffirmed commitment to tackling climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution
2. **Frameworks** –
 1. Paris Agreement (limit global warming to 1.5–2°C)
 2. UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
 3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

3. **Nordic appreciation** – India's renewable energy commitments (500 GW non-fossil fuel by 2030)
4. **Emphasis** – Climate finance (developed to developing countries), technology transfer, capacity building for clean energy transitions
5. Just and equitable transition

Cooperation in Green Technologies

1. Leaders agreed to accelerate cooperation in –
 1. **Green hydrogen** – Producing hydrogen using renewable energy (zero emissions fuel)
 2. **Carbon capture, utilization, storage (CCUS)** – Capturing CO₂ emissions preventing atmospheric release
 3. **Low-emission technologies** – Electric vehicles, energy-efficient buildings, sustainable manufacturing
 4. **Critical minerals** – Lithium, cobalt, rare earths for batteries, solar panels, wind turbines
2. Technology partnerships, joint R&D, pilot projects

Lead IT 2.0 Expansion

1. Leaders welcomed expansion of Lead IT 2.0 (Leadership Group for Industry Transition)
2. **Lead IT** – Multi-stakeholder initiative promoting low-carbon industrial transition
3. Co-led by Sweden and India
4. **Iceland joining** – Expanding membership demonstrating commitment to industrial decarbonization
5. Focuses on hard-to-abate sectors (steel, cement, chemicals)

Promotion of Blue Economy

India and Nordic countries agreed to cooperate in sustainable blue economy

1. **Areas** –
 1. **Low-carbon shipping** – Zero-emission vessels, alternative fuels (hydrogen, ammonia, LNG)
 2. **Shipbuilding** – Green ship design, efficient manufacturing
 3. **Ship recycling** – Environmentally sound dismantling
2. Nordic expertise in maritime technologies; India's shipbuilding capacity

Support for Hong Kong Convention

1. Leaders supported cooperation under Hong Kong Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships
2. **Convention** – International treaty regulating ship-breaking (adopted 2009, entered force 2025)
3. Addresses hazardous materials (asbestos, heavy metals) in ships
4. India major ship-recycling nation (Alang, Gujarat largest ship-breaking yard globally)
5. Nordic countries' environmental standards complementing India's industry

AI & Digitalization

1. Leaders emphasized inclusive and democratized access to Artificial Intelligence (AI)
2. **Focus** –
 1. Trusted computing infrastructure (secure, reliable AI systems)
 2. Human-centric AI applications (serving people, not replacing them irresponsibly)
 3. Inclusive, transparent, rights-based, safe AI governance frameworks
3. **India's AI Impact Summit 2026** – Welcomed India hosting in New Delhi
4. Collaboration on AI ethics, regulation, innovation

Science and Technology

1. Leaders encouraged joint cooperation in –
 1. **STEM research** – Science, technology, engineering, mathematics
 2. **Startup ecosystems** – Incubators, accelerators, funding
 3. **Innovation hubs** – Research parks, technology clusters
 4. **5G and 6G technologies** – Next-generation telecommunications
2. **Space cooperation** –

1. Agreement between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Norwegian Space Agency welcomed
2. **Swedish payload in India's Venus Orbiter Mission (Sukarman)** - Demonstrates collaborative space science
3. Satellite data sharing, launch services

Arctic Cooperation

1. Leaders acknowledged growing links between Arctic and Indo-Pacific
2. **Climate connection** - Arctic warming affecting global weather patterns, monsoons
3. Supported collaboration in -
 1. **Polar research** - Climate science, glaciology, oceanography
 2. **Climate studies** - Arctic amplification, sea ice decline, permafrost thawing
 3. **Environmental protection** - Preventing pollution, conserving Arctic biodiversity

India's Role in Arctic Council

1. Nordic leaders appreciated India's constructive participation as Observer in Arctic Council
2. **Arctic Council** - Intergovernmental forum (established 1996) promoting cooperation, protecting Indigenous communities
3. **8 Arctic states** - Canada, Denmark (Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA
4. **India's observer status** - Granted 2013; participates in policy discussions (non-voting)

Defence Industrial Cooperation

1. Leaders highlighted increasing momentum in defence cooperation
2. **Areas** -
 1. **Defence manufacturing** - Joint production, Make in India partnerships
 2. **Technology transfer** - Access to advanced defence technologies
 3. **Investment opportunities** - India's Defence Industrial Corridors (Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh)
 4. **100% FDI provisions** - Attracting Nordic defence companies
3. Nordic expertise in submarines (Sweden), missiles, naval systems

6. Challenges in India-Nordic Relations

Geographical Distance and Connectivity Constraints

1. Large geographical separation (India-Nordic ~6000-7000 km)
2. Limited direct transport connectivity -
 1. Few direct flights (mainly Copenhagen, Stockholm; expensive, long travel times)
 2. No direct shipping routes (transshipment through European hubs)
3. **Consequences** -
 1. Logistics costs increase
 2. Reduced business exchanges
 3. Limited people-to-people contact (tourism, student exchanges, cultural programs)

Limited Trade Volume and Economic Engagement

1. Despite growing cooperation, overall trade and investment levels modest
2. India-Nordic trade - ~USD 19 billion (2025-26)
3. **Comparison** - India-EU trade ~USD 130 billion; India-US trade ~USD 190 billion
4. Nordic countries small economies (Denmark ~6 million, Finland ~5.5 million, Norway ~5.5 million, Sweden ~10 million, Iceland ~0.4 million)
5. Limited market size constraining trade expansion

Regulatory and Market Access Barriers

1. **Differences creating hurdles** -
 1. Regulations (product standards, certifications, testing requirements)
 2. Taxation systems (VAT vs GST, corporate tax rates)
 3. Labor laws (Nordic strong unions, high labor costs; India flexibility)

4. Quality standards (Nordic very high; Indian exporters sometimes struggle to meet)
2. Compliance costs high for businesses
3. Mutual recognition agreements limited

Slow Progress in India-EU Free Trade Agreement

1. India-EU FTA negotiations began 2007, stalled, restarted 2022
2. Delays indirectly affect India-Nordic economic engagement
3. **Impact areas -**
 1. Technology transfer (regulatory harmonization pending)
 2. Digital trade (data localization, privacy rules)
 3. Market access (tariff reductions, non-tariff barriers)
4. Nordic countries EU members (except Iceland, Norway in EEA); India-EU FTA benefits spill over

Differences on Climate and Sustainability Standards

1. Nordic countries maintain very high environmental, labor, sustainability standards
2. **Nordic expectations -**
 1. Carbon footprint reduction
 2. Circular economy practices
 3. Labor rights, fair wages
 4. Sustainable sourcing
3. **Compliance challenges for Indian industries/exporters -**
 1. Textile sector (environmental regulations, chemical use)
 2. Manufacturing (emissions standards)
 3. Agricultural products (organic certification, pesticide limits)
4. Cost of upgrading to Nordic standards high

Limited Public and Strategic Awareness

1. India-Nordic relations face low public visibility
2. **Gaps -**
 1. **Academic engagement** - Limited research, courses, conferences on India-Nordic relations
 2. **Business awareness** - SMEs unaware of mutual opportunities
 3. **Media coverage** - Infrequent, focused on bilateral (India-Sweden, India-Norway) not collective
3. Lack of people-to-people understanding

Competition from Other Global Powers

1. Nordic countries maintain strong ties with major powers -
 1. **United States** - NATO allies (Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland joined 2023, Sweden 2024); security dependence
 2. **China** - Major trading partner; Nordic-China trade exceeds Nordic-India trade
 3. **Leading EU economies** - Germany, France (geographic proximity, economic integration)
2. **India competes for -**
 1. Strategic attention (limited diplomatic bandwidth)
 2. Investment flows (Nordic sovereign wealth funds have global options)
 3. Technology partnerships
3. Geopolitical uncertainties (Russia-Ukraine war) making Nordic countries prioritize European security over Indo-Pacific engagement

7. Significance of 3rd India-Nordic Summit

Need for Deeper India-Nordic Partnership

1. Amid global geopolitical flux (Russia-Ukraine war, US-China rivalry, Middle East instability)
2. Rapid economic transformation (digital economy, green transition, supply chain shifts)
3. Accelerating technological change (AI, quantum computing, biotechnology)
4. India and Nordic countries agreed to deepen cooperation based on -

1. Shared interests (democracy, trade, innovation, climate)
2. Shared democratic values (rule of law, human rights, transparency)
3. Collaboration in addressing global challenges (pandemics, climate change, terrorism)

Pragmatic and Trust-Based Relations

1. India shares no historical baggage or major disputes with Nordic nations
2. **Contrast** – India-UK (colonial history), India-China (border disputes), India-Pakistan (conflicts)
3. Partnership rests on –
 1. Common commitment to democracy
 2. Multilateralism (UN, WTO, Paris Agreement)
 3. Rules-based international order
4. Relationship largely pragmatic rather than ideological
5. Low friction, high trust

Institutionalization of Strategic Ties

1. Summit reflects growing institutionalization of partnerships
2. Between India and some of world's most innovation-driven, technologically advanced democracies
3. During period of deep global uncertainty (pandemic, wars, climate crises)
4. Regular summit format (every 2-3 years) ensuring sustained engagement
5. Joint working groups, ministerial dialogues emerging

Strategic Diversification in Fragmented World

Era marked by –

1. Global fragmentation (US-China decoupling, regional blocs)
2. Supply-chain disruptions (pandemic, geopolitical tensions)
3. Intensifying great-power rivalries (US vs China, Russia vs West)
2. India expanding strategic options through low-friction, practical partnerships
3. **Nordic partnership delivers** –
 1. Economic gains (technology, investment)
 2. Technological gains (green tech, AI, 5G/6G)
4. Without geopolitical complications (unlike US-China-Russia entanglements)

Evolution of Indian Foreign Policy

1. Summit highlights India's shift from largely reactive foreign policy to –
 1. Increasingly selective (choosing partners based on interests)
 2. Interest-driven (economic, technological, strategic benefits)
 3. Strategically diversified (multiple partnerships across regions)
2. No longer confined to non-alignment or binary choices
3. Proactive shaping of international environment

Expansion of Multi-Alignment Strategy

1. India's multi-alignment strategy now goes beyond balancing major powers (US, Russia, China)
2. Increasingly focuses on building issue-based coalitions in –
 1. Technology (AI governance, 5G/6G, semiconductors)
 2. Green growth (renewable energy, carbon markets, climate finance)
 3. Innovation (startups, R&D, patents)
 4. Resilient supply chains (de-risking from China, friend-shoring)
3. Nordic partnership example of issue-based, values-based coalition

Collective Engagement with Nordic Region

1. By bringing together all five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden)
2. India engages entire Nordic sub-region collectively
3. **Benefits** –
 1. Efficiency (single summit instead of five bilateral meetings)
 2. Synergy (coordinated Nordic positions on UNSC, NSG, climate)

3. Comprehensive approach (leveraging each country's strengths – Norway maritime, Sweden defines, Finland telecom, Denmark wind energy, Iceland geothermal)
4. Rather than isolated bilateral mechanisms

8. India's Engagement in Arctic

India's Connection with Arctic

1. India does not share land or maritime border with Arctic nations
2. Yet maintained long-standing engagement with Arctic region
3. **Rationale –**
 1. Climate connection (Arctic warming affects Indian monsoon)
 2. Shipping routes (Northern Sea Route shortening Europe-Asia distance)
 3. Resources (hydrocarbons, minerals, fisheries)
 4. Scientific research (polar studies, climate science)

Svalbard Treaty, 1920

1. India signed Svalbard Treaty in February 1920 (one of earliest signatories among non-European nations)
2. **Treaty provisions –**
 1. Norway has sovereignty over Svalbard archipelago (Arctic islands)
 2. Signatory nations receive rights –
 - Fishing
 - Hunting
 - Mining
 - Commercial activities
 - Property ownership
 - Mineral rights
3. **Benefits for India –** Enabled scientific research activities in Arctic region
4. Svalbard – Strategically located archipelago; unique legal status

First Indian Arctic Expedition (2007)

1. 2007 – India launched first scientific expedition to study Arctic region
2. Marked beginning of sustained Arctic presence
3. Multi-disciplinary research (glaciology, oceanography, atmospheric science)

Establishment of Himadri Research Station (2008)

1. 2008 – India established Arctic research station named Himadri
2. Located at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard, Norway (one of northernmost human settlements globally)
3. Permanent research facility operating year-round
4. **Research focus –** Climate change, glaciers, atmospheric science, biodiversity

Deployment of IndARC Observatory (2014)

1. 2014 – India deployed IndARC (India's Arctic Research Centre), first underwater moored observatory
2. Deployed in Kongsfjorden at depth ~180-192 meters
3. **Purpose of IndARC –**
 1. Studies Arctic region's climate system
 2. Ice melt patterns
 3. Impact on Indian monsoon (Arctic-monsoon teleconnection)
4. Real-time data collection on ocean temperature, salinity, currents

India's Strategic Interest in Arctic

1. Beyond scientific research, India increasingly seeking to expand strategic and economic footprint
2. **Reasons –**
 1. Arctic resources (25% undiscovered global oil/gas estimated in Arctic)
 2. Shipping routes (Northern Sea Route 40% shorter than Suez Canal route)

3. Geopolitical competition (China's "Polar Silk Road," Russia's Arctic dominance, US interests)
4. Climate impact (Arctic changes affecting Indian agriculture, water resources)

Importance of Arctic Resources

1. Arctic rich in –
 1. Natural gas (massive reserves)
 2. Hydrocarbons (oil, gas condensates)
 3. Critical mineral resources (rare earths, copper, nickel, zinc)
2. Strategically and economically important for India (energy security, industrial needs)

9. Arctic Council

Establishment and Purpose

1. Intergovernmental forum established in 1996 (Ottawa Declaration)
2. **Purpose –**
 1. Promote cooperation, coordination, interaction among Arctic states
 2. Protect Indigenous communities and inhabitants (respecting traditional knowledge, rights)
 3. Address environmental protection, sustainable development

Membership Structure

1. **8 Arctic states (members)** – Canada, Denmark (Greenland, Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, USA
2. **Permanent Participants (6)** – Indigenous organizations (Inuit Circumpolar Council, Saami Council, etc.)
3. **Observers** – 13 non-Arctic states (including India, granted 2013) + intergovernmental/inter-parliamentary organizations + non-governmental organizations

India's Observer Status (2013)

1. India granted observer status in 2013
2. Allowed country to participate in Arctic policy discussions (non-voting)
3. **Observer role –**
 1. Attend meetings, access documents
 2. Contribute expertise, propose projects
 3. Collaborate with Arctic states on research
 4. Cannot vote on decisions (consensus among 8 Arctic states)
4. Enhances India's Arctic engagement, influence

10. Nordic Strengths in Critical Sectors

Technological Sophistication, Stability, Credibility

1. Nordic economies possess –
 1. High technological sophistication (R&D spending ~3-4% GDP; global leaders)
 2. Political stability (strong democratic institutions, low corruption, rule of law)
 3. Regulatory credibility (transparent, predictable business environment)
2. **Expertise in sectors crucial for India's transformation –**
 1. **Green technologies** – Renewable energy (Denmark wind power world leader 50%+ electricity from wind), energy storage, grid integration
 2. **Digitalization** – E-governance (Estonia model influencing Nordics), digital identity, cashless societies
 3. **Advanced manufacturing** – Automation, robotics, precision engineering
 4. **Artificial Intelligence** – AI ethics, applications (healthcare, education), governance
 5. **Circular economy models** – Waste-to-energy, recycling, sustainable consumption
 6. **Maritime innovation** – green shipping, offshore wind, subsea technologies

Support for India's Green Transition

1. Indian policymakers increasingly recognize achieving green economy transition requires –

1. **Trusted capital** – Long-term, patient investment (not short-term speculative)
2. **Advanced technologies** – Proven, scalable green tech
3. **Strong innovation ecosystems** – R&D collaboration, pilot projects, commercialization
2. **Nordic pension funds** – Among world's largest sovereign wealth funds (Norway's Government Pension Fund Global ~USD 1.6 trillion)
3. **Technology partnerships** – Hold significant strategic value (technology transfer, joint ventures, capacity building)

Arctic Cooperation and Strategic Relevance

1. As geopolitical competition intensifies over –
 1. **Arctic shipping routes** – Northern Sea Route (Russia-controlled), Northwest Passage (Canada); climate change melting ice opening year-round navigation
 2. **Energy resources** – Oil, gas reserves
 3. **Critical minerals** – rare earths, cobalt, nickel
2. India's role as observer in Arctic Council gains importance
3. **Cooperation with Nordic nations offers** –
 1. **Technical expertise** – Polar research, cold-climate technologies, Arctic navigation
 2. **Influence in emerging Arctic governance structures** – Rules for shipping, resource exploitation, environmental protection
4. Nordic countries (5 of 8 Arctic states) key to India's Arctic strategy

Europe and Nordic Region in India's Strategic Vision

1. Amid uncertainties in policies of United States (Trump administration's transnationalism, tariffs) and China (economic slowdown, geopolitical assertiveness)
2. Europe emerging as major source of –
 1. **Technology** – Advanced manufacturing, green tech, digital infrastructure
 2. **Investment capital** – Patient capital, ESG-compliant funds
 3. **Regulatory influence** – Standards (privacy, AI, sustainability) shaping global norms
3. In India's strategic thinking
4. **Within this framework** – Nordic nations viewed as key partners in achieving India's **Viksit Bharat** (Developed India) vision by 2047
5. Nordic model (welfare state, sustainability, innovation) aligning with India's inclusive development goals

11. Benefits from Nordic Countries for India

Norway – Deep-Sea Mining and Maritime Expertise

1. **Advanced expertise in** –
 1. **Offshore engineering** – Oil/gas platforms, subsea technologies
 2. **Deep-sea mining** – Extracting minerals from ocean floor (Norway licensing deep-sea mining in Arctic, controversial but technologically advanced)
 3. **Shipping** – World's largest shipping nations per capita; tanker, LNG carrier expertise
 4. **Ocean resource management** – Sustainable fisheries, marine protected areas
2. **Support for India** –
 1. Critical mineral exploration (India's deep ocean mission)
 2. Blue economy (India's 7500 km coastline, 2 million sq km EEZ)
3. Norway's sovereign wealth fund major investor in India

Denmark – Critical Minerals and Green Shipping

1. **Indirect access to rare earth and critical mineral resources through Greenland** –
 1. Greenland (Danish autonomous territory) has massive rare earth deposits
 2. Lithium, graphite, rare earth elements
 3. India-Denmark collaboration could facilitate access

2. Global leader in -

1. **Wind energy** - Ørsted (Danish company) world's largest offshore wind developer; turbine technology (Vestas)
2. **Green ports** - Copenhagen carbon-neutral port operations; shore power for ships
3. **Sustainable maritime technologies** - Zero-emission ferries, hybrid vessels
3. **Benefits for India** - Offshore wind (Gujarat, Tamil Nadu coasts), port modernization (Sabarimala), shipping decarbonization

Sweden - Innovation, Defence, Advanced Manufacturing

1. Cutting-edge innovation in -

1. **AI** - Ericsson AI/ML applications in telecom
2. **5G/6G** - Ericsson global telecom leader
3. **Defence technologies** - Saab (fighter jets, submarines, missiles), Bofors (artillery)
4. **Smart mobility** - Volvo (electric vehicles, autonomous driving)
5. **Automation** - ABB (robotics, industrial automation)
6. **Sustainable industrial systems** - SSAB (fossil-free steel)

2. Support for India -

1. Digital transformation
2. Manufacturing transformation (Industry 4.0)
3. Defence indigenization (Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat)

3. Sweden-India joint ventures in defence, automotive sectors

Finland - Telecom, Cybersecurity, Education

1. Leader in -

1. **Telecommunications** - Nokia (5G equipment, network infrastructure)
2. **Semiconductors** - Chip design, testing
3. **Cybersecurity** - F-Secure, Stonesoft (cybersecurity firms); national cyber defense capabilities
4. **Quantum technology** - VTT (research institute) quantum computing research
5. **Digital governance** - E-government, digital identity, data privacy

2. World-renowned education and skilling models -

1. Finnish education system consistently top PISA rankings
2. Vocational training, lifelong learning
3. **Valuable lessons for India** - NEP 2020 implementation, skill development

3. Finland-India collaboration in telecom (Nokia operations in India), digital governance

Iceland - Geothermal and Climate Resilience Expertise

1. Globally recognized expertise in -

1. **Geothermal energy** - ~90% heating, ~30% electricity from geothermal; world leader
2. **Volcanic studies** - Volcanology, seismology (Iceland sits on Mid-Atlantic Ridge)
3. **Climate adaptation** - Glacier monitoring, sea-level rise adaptation

2. Knowledge for India -

1. **Sustainable energy generation** - Himalayan region (geothermal potential in Ladakh, Chumathang, Puga valley)
2. **Tectonically active regions** - Seismic monitoring, early warning systems
3. **Climate resilience** - Glacier-fed River management, disaster preparedness

3. Small population (~400,000) but specialized expertise

Nordic Model - Sustainable Development and Governance

1. Nordic nations collectively offer best practices in -

1. **Welfare governance** - Universal healthcare, education, social security
2. **Gender equality** - Highest gender equality indices globally; women in workforce, leadership
3. **Urban planning** - Sustainable cities (Copenhagen cycling infrastructure, Helsinki public transport)

4. **Circular economy** – Waste reduction, recycling, reuse (Sweden imports waste for energy)
5. **Clean technology** – Carbon-neutral ambitions (Finland 2035, Sweden 2045)
6. **Climate-resilient development** – Adaptation strategies, green infrastructure
2. **Alignment with India's sustainable growth objectives** – SDGs, Paris Agreement, Panchami pledges

12. What India Offers to Nordic Countries

Massive Consumer Market

1. India provides one of world's largest and fastest-growing consumer markets
2. 1.4+ billion population; ~400 million middle class (growing)
3. **Opportunities for Nordic companies in –**
 1. **Green technology** – Solar panels, wind turbines, energy storage, smart grids
 2. **Healthcare** – Pharmaceuticals, medical devices, telemedicine, elderly care solutions
 3. **Telecom** – 5G rollout, digital infrastructure, IoT applications
 4. **Mobility** – Electric vehicles, public transport, urban mobility solutions
 5. **Renewable energy sectors** – Solar, wind, green hydrogen, biofuels
4. Rising disposable incomes, urbanization driving demand

Skilled Human Capital and IT Strength

1. India offers vast pool of –
 1. Engineers (1.5+ million engineering graduates annually)
 2. IT professionals (5+ million in IT/ITES sector)
 3. Startup talent (100+ unicorns, vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem)
 4. Research manpower (STEM PhDs, scientists)
2. **Supporting Nordic innovation ecosystems –**
 1. R&D centres in India (cost-effective, skilled talent)
 2. Addressing skill shortages in Europe (aging populations, talent gaps)
3. English proficiency, cultural adaptability, cost competitiveness

Manufacturing and Supply Chain Diversification

1. **India's initiatives –**
 1. **"Make in India"** – Attracting manufacturing investments
 2. **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes** – 14 sectors including electronics, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, textiles, solar modules
2. **Making India attractive alternative manufacturing and supply-chain hub –**
 1. Amid global overdependence on China ("China+1" strategy)
 2. Geopolitical risks (US-China tensions, Taiwan crisis potential)
 3. Resilience, diversification
3. Large domestic market + export potential

Strategic Indo-Pacific Partner

1. India viewed as stable and trusted democratic partner in Indo-Pacific region
2. **Attributes –**
 1. **Strategic autonomy** – multi-alignment, not aligned with any bloc
 2. **Growing geopolitical role** – G20 presidency (2023), UNSC candidate, Quad member, BRICS member
 3. **Naval capabilities** – Indian Navy ensuring regional stability (anti-piracy, disaster relief)
3. Important for Nordic countries seeking diversified partnerships in Asia
4. **Balancing China** – Indo-Pacific strategy countering Chinese assertiveness
5. Nordic countries (especially Denmark, Sweden, Iceland) traditionally focused on Europe/Atlantic; now recognizing Indo-Pacific importance

Green Energy Transition Opportunities

1. India's ambitious renewable energy targets –

1. 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030
2. Net-zero by 2070
2. **Green hydrogen mission** - National Green Hydrogen Mission (production, applications)
3. **Electric mobility push** - FAME subsidies, EV manufacturing
4. **Climate initiatives** - International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), Lead IT
5. **Creating significant investment and technology collaboration opportunities for Nordic firms -**
 1. Wind energy projects (offshore wind potential ~70 GW)
 2. Solar manufacturing (PLI incentives)
 3. Energy storage (battery manufacturing, grid-scale storage)
 4. Green hydrogen (electrolyser manufacturing, applications in steel, fertilizers)

Research, Innovation, Startup Collaboration

1. India's rapidly expanding startup ecosystem -
 1. 100+ unicorns (3rd globally after US, China)
 2. 90,000+ recognized startups
 3. Vibrant innovation hubs (Bengaluru, Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Hyderabad)
2. **Digital public infrastructure (DPI) -**
 1. Aadhaar (digital identity)
 2. UPI (payments)
 3. Digi Locker (document storage)
 4. Cowin (vaccination platform)
 5. Models for global replication
3. **Research institutions** - IITs, IISc, CSIR labs, DRDO, ISRO
4. **Opportunities for joint innovation in -**
 1. AI (applications in agriculture, healthcare, education)
 2. Fintech (digital payments, financial inclusion)
 3. Biotech (genomics, drug discovery, vaccines)
 4. Semiconductors (design, testing, packaging)
 5. Health-tech (telemedicine, diagnostics, wearables)
 6. Smart infrastructure (smart cities, IoT, urban management)

13. Areas of Cooperation - India-Nordic

Bilateral Trade

1. Bilateral trade between India and Nordic region - Nearly USD 19 billion (2025-26)
2. More than 700 Nordic firms already operate in India (IKEA, Volvo, Ericsson, Nokia, H&M, Tetra Pak, ABB, etc.)
3. **India-EFTA TEPA (2025) implementation** - Further expanded scope for investment and technology flows
4. Particularly from Norway and Iceland (EFTA members)

Green Technology and Clean Energy Cooperation

1. Elevated to "Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership"
2. **Focus -**
 1. Renewable energy (solar, wind, hydro, biomass)
 2. Green hydrogen (production, storage, applications)
 3. Carbon capture, utilization, storage (CCUS)
 4. Sustainable urban solutions (smart cities, green buildings, public transport)
 5. Energy transition initiatives (phasing out coal, electrification)

Digital Technology, AI, 6G Research

1. Cooperation in advanced digital infrastructure -

1. AI (governance, ethics, applications)
 2. 5G/6G technologies (standards, deployment, use cases)
 3. Cybersecurity (threat intelligence, defense systems)
 4. Telecom innovation (Open RAN, edge computing)
 5. Trusted digital systems (data privacy, secure communications)
2. **Joint STEM research** - Collaborative projects, funding
 3. **Startup collaboration** - Incubators, accelerators, market access

Blue Economy and Maritime Cooperation

1. **Collaboration in -**
 1. **Sustainable shipping** - Zero-emission vessels, alternative fuels (hydrogen, ammonia), energy-efficient designs
 2. **Fisheries** - Sustainable practices, aquaculture technology, fish processing
 3. **Offshore renewable energy** - Offshore wind, wave/tidal energy
 4. **Maritime infrastructure** - Port modernization, smart ports, logistics
 5. **Ocean governance** - Marine spatial planning, pollution prevention
 6. **Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation** - Freedom of navigation, anti-piracy, search and rescue

Arctic and Polar Research

1. India, as Arctic Council observer, expanding cooperation with Nordic countries
2. **Areas -**
 1. **Polar research** - Glaciology, ice core analysis, permafrost studies
 2. **Climate science** - Arctic amplification, teleconnections with monsoon
 3. **Environmental monitoring** - Pollution, biodiversity, ecosystem changes
 4. **Arctic governance** - Shipping regulations, resource management, Indigenous rights
3. Joint expeditions, data sharing, capacity building

Defence and Security Cooperation

1. Deepening cooperation in -
 1. **Defence manufacturing** - Joint production (submarines, artillery, radars)
 2. **Defence technology** - Transfer, co-development
 3. **Cybersecurity** - Information sharing, capacity building
 4. **Maritime security** - Naval exercises, port calls, interoperability
 5. **Industrial partnerships** - Opportunities under India's defence corridors (Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh) and FDI framework (100% FDI in defence under automatic route for most sectors)
2. Sweden's Saab, Norway's Kongsberg, Finland's Patria exploring partnerships

Space Cooperation and Innovation

1. Expanded cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space
2. **Partnerships involving -**
 1. ISRO and Nordic space agencies (Norwegian Space Agency, Swedish National Space Agency, Finnish Meteorological Institute)
 2. Satellite payloads (Swedish payload in India's Venus Orbiter Mission Shukrayaan)
 3. Space research (remote sensing, climate monitoring, astronomy)
 4. Private-sector innovation (startups, commercial launches, satellite services)
3. ISRO using Norwegian ground stations (Svalbard) for satellite data reception

Education, Research, Mobility

1. Promoting -
 1. **Academic exchanges** - Student exchanges, faculty visits, joint degrees
 2. **Joint research in STEM fields** - Collaborative projects, publications, conferences
 3. **Innovation ecosystems** - University-industry partnerships, technology parks
 4. **Student mobility** - Indian students in Nordic universities (engineering, business, design); Nordic students in IITs, IIMs

5. **Collaboration among startups and incubators** – Matchmaking, funding, mentorship
2. Nordic education model (Finland) inspiring India's NEP 2020

14. Way Forward

Expand Trade and Investment

1. Leverage India-EFTA TEPA fully (implementation, awareness among businesses)
2. Target USD 50 billion bilateral trade by 2030 (from current ~USD 19 billion)
3. EFTA's USD 100 billion investment commitment in India (ensure timely deployment)
4. Address regulatory barriers (mutual recognition agreements, streamlined approvals)

Accelerate Green Technology Partnerships

1. Joint ventures in renewable energy manufacturing (solar panels, wind turbines, batteries)
2. Green hydrogen pilot projects (production, transportation, applications)
3. Carbon capture demonstration projects
4. Smart grid, energy storage deployments

Deepen Digital and AI Collaboration

1. AI governance frameworks (ethics, safety, inclusivity)
2. 5G/6G testbeds, standards development
3. Cybersecurity cooperation (threat intelligence sharing, capacity building)
4. Digital public infrastructure models (India's DPI stack inspiring Nordic digital governance)

Strengthen Arctic Engagement

1. Expand India's Arctic research (more expeditions, upgraded Himadri station)
2. Joint research projects (climate-monsoon linkages, Arctic shipping)
3. Participate actively in Arctic Council working groups
4. Commercial engagement (Arctic shipping routes, resource exploration, sustainable tourism)

Defence Industrial Cooperation

1. Fast-track joint production projects (submarines, artillery, aircraft)
2. Technology transfers in critical areas (AIP, radars, electronic warfare)
3. Encourage Nordic firms to invest in India's defence corridors
4. Joint R&D in future technologies (drones, AI, cyber, space)

People-to-People Ties

1. Increase student exchanges (scholarships, simplified visas)
2. Cultural programs (festivals, exhibitions, film collaborations)
3. Tourism promotion (India's heritage sites for Nordic tourists; Nordics' natural beauty, design for Indian tourists)
4. Business delegation exchanges (sectoral missions, trade fairs)

Institutionalize Engagement

1. Regular India-Nordic Summit (every 2 years)
2. Ministerial dialogues (Foreign, Trade, Environment, Defence Ministers)
3. Joint working groups (sector-specific – green energy, AI, maritime, Arctic)
4. Think tank collaborations (Track II dialogues, policy research)
5. Business councils (B2B networking, investment facilitation)

15. Nordic Countries vis-à-vis Scandinavian Countries

Basis	Nordic Countries	Scandinavian Countries
Meaning	Broader regional grouping of Northern European countries	Narrower cultural-geographical grouping
Countries Included	Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden	Denmark, Norway, Sweden
Language Group	Includes North Germanic and Finno-Ugric languages	Mainly North Germanic (Scandinavian) languages

Geographical Scope	Covers entire Nordic region including North Atlantic islands	Primarily Scandinavian Peninsula and Denmark
Political Cooperation	Cooperate through Nordic Council	No exclusive Scandinavian political institution
Associated Territories	Includes Greenland, Faroe Islands, Åland Islands	Usually does not include these territories
Usage	Used in political, economic, regional cooperation contexts	Used mainly in cultural, linguistic, historical contexts
Key Features	Strong welfare states, high living standards; advanced green technology, sustainability practices; high innovation, digital development; strong democratic governance, gender equality	Known mainly for shared Scandinavian cultural and linguistic heritage

Key Distinction -

1. All Scandinavian countries are Nordic, but not all Nordic countries are Scandinavian
2. Finland and Iceland are Nordic but NOT Scandinavian (different language families - Finnish is Finno-Ugric, Icelandic is North Germanic but geographically isolated)

16. Conclusion

3rd India-Nordic Summit 2026 in Oslo elevated ties to "Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership" amid geopolitical uncertainty and technological shifts. Key outcomes include Nordic support for India's UNSC permanent membership and NSG application, India-EFTA TEPA implementation (USD 100 billion investment, 1 million jobs target), strengthened maritime security cooperation under MAHASAGAR and IPOI, climate action commitment, cooperation in green technologies (hydrogen, carbon capture, critical minerals), AI governance frameworks, Arctic cooperation with India as Arctic Council observer, and defence industrial partnerships. Challenges include geographical distance, limited trade volume (USD 19 billion), regulatory barriers, slow India-EU FTA progress, high Nordic sustainability standards, limited awareness, and competition from major powers. Significance lies in pragmatic trust-based relations without historical baggage, strategic diversification in fragmented world, evolution of India's multi-alignment strategy building issue-based coalitions, and collective Nordic engagement leveraging each country's strengths (Norway maritime, Sweden defense, Finland telecom, Denmark wind energy, Iceland geothermal). India offers massive consumer market, skilled IT talent, manufacturing alternative to China, strategic Indo-Pacific partnership, green energy opportunities, and startup collaboration; Nordic countries offer green technology expertise, patient capital, advanced manufacturing, welfare governance models, and Arctic access. Way forward requires expanding trade to USD 50 billion, accelerating green technology partnerships, deepening digital-AI collaboration, strengthening Arctic engagement, institutionalizing cooperation through regular summits and ministerial dialogues, and enhancing people-to-people ties ensuring resilient technology-energy-supply chain cooperation beyond crisis management and power balancing.

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