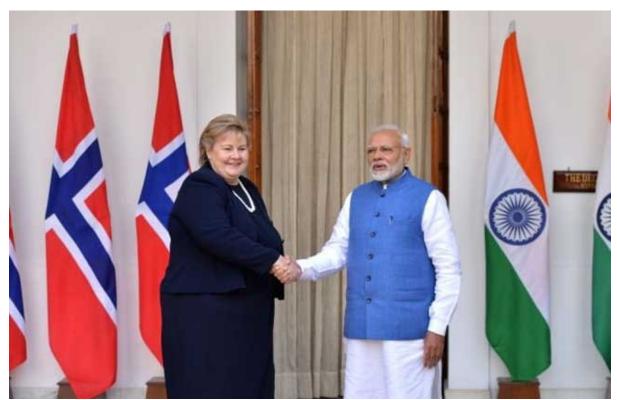
#### INDIA-NORWAY MARINE POLLUTION INITIATIVE - ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is leading a study in Agra as part of the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI) to tackle plastic pollution and enhance waste management practices.

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

## **India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative (INMPI)**

- The **INMPI** is a bilateral initiative jointly undertaken by **India** and **Norway** to tackle marine pollution, particularly the growing threat from plastic waste in oceans.
- The initiative is an important pillar under the India-Norway Ocean Dialogue, which



was established in 2019 to enhance maritime cooperation between the two nations.

# **Background and Institutional Framework**

- In January 2019, both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation on ocean affairs, including pollution control, sustainable marine economy, and ecosystem protection.
- Following this, in February 2019, a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) of India and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officially launching the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

# **Key Objectives of INMPI**

## 1. Combating Marine Pollution

- Target the reduction of marine pollutants, especially plastic debris, toxic chemicals, and microplastics, which are degrading marine habitats and biodiversity.
- Address the **direct and indirect sources** of marine pollution, including riverine discharges and coastal waste mismanagement.

## 2. Promoting a Circular Economy Approach

- Encourage the transition towards a **circular economy**, focusing on **reuse**, **recycling**, **and recovery** of materials.
- Promote **sustainable waste management systems**, especially in urban coastal regions, to prevent waste from entering the marine ecosystem.

#### 3. Sustainable Use of Ocean Resources

- Support initiatives to ensure the **long-term sustainability of marine** resources, balancing economic growth with environmental protection.
- Focus on marine biodiversity conservation, responsible fisheries, and blue economy practices.

#### **Status of Global Plastic Pollution**

- Plastic Pollution refers to the accumulation of plastic products in the environment, which leads to adverse effects on wildlife, aquatic systems, and human health.
- Plastic pollution includes:
  - Single-use plastics (e.g., bags, bottles, packaging)
  - Microplastics (tiny plastic particles that infiltrate food chains)
  - Non-biodegradable polymers that persist for centuries
- Since the 1950s, the world has produced over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic, of which less than 10% has been recycled.
- Each year, an estimated 11 million tonnes of plastic waste enter the oceans, creating grave threats to marine species, coral reefs, and ocean health.

### **Plastic Pollution in India**

• India generates approximately **3.5 million tonnes of plastic waste every year**, and this number continues to rise due to **urbanisation and consumerism**.

- Of this total waste, only about 30% is effectively recycled, leaving a large volume that ends up in landfills, water bodies, and the sea.
- Major Indian cities like **Delhi**, **Mumbai**, and **Bengaluru** are the highest contributors to plastic pollution due to high **population density** and **urban waste generation**.
- Inadequate waste segregation, low recycling infrastructure, and poor enforcement of plastic use regulations are key challenges faced by India.

Source: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/waste/indianorway-collaboration-to-check-aquatic-pollution-has-helped-agra-improve-waste-circularity