

INDIA – SLOVENIA RELATIONS

NEWS: The 10th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Slovenia was held in New Delhi, aimed at deepening bilateral ties and broadening cooperation across multiple sectors.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Comprehensive Review of Bilateral Cooperation

- India and Slovenia undertook a detailed and wide-ranging review of their existing bilateral relations, reaffirming their intent to expand cooperation across multiple strategic and developmental areas.
- **Political Relations:** Both countries reviewed their high-level political engagements and reaffirmed mutual commitment to deepen diplomatic ties, enhance strategic trust, and maintain regular political consultations.
- **Trade & Investment:** Discussions focused on enhancing two-way trade and attracting investment, especially in sectors like green technology, pharmaceuticals, automotive parts, and digital innovation, where both countries see complementary strengths.
- **Science & Technology, Innovation, Space, and Artificial Intelligence (AI):** India and Slovenia recognized the growing relevance of cutting-edge technologies and resolved to promote joint research, academic exchange, and industrial collaboration in emerging areas such as AI, quantum computing, biotechnology, and space exploration.
- **Defence and Agriculture:** The dialogue acknowledged potential cooperation in niche defence manufacturing and agricultural innovations, including smart farming, agro-processing, and food sustainability.
- **Migration, Mobility, and Cultural Exchanges:** Both sides expressed interest in promoting people-to-people ties by facilitating easier mobility of professionals, students, and tourists, as well as encouraging cultural diplomacy through exchanges, festivals, and academic collaborations.



Commemoration of 35 Years of Diplomatic Ties (2027)

- India and Slovenia will celebrate the 35th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations in 2027.
- Both countries agreed to mark this milestone with commemorative events, exhibitions, academic seminars, and cultural showcases that highlight the progress and diversity of their partnership.

Regional and Global Dialogue

- India and Slovenia exchanged views on a range of pressing regional and global developments, including geopolitical realignments, climate change, energy security, and digital governance.
- The two countries emphasized collaborative approaches in multilateral fora and expressed shared interest in contributing to solutions for contemporary global challenges such as climate resilience, cybersecurity, and sustainable development.

About Slovenia

- **Location:** Slovenia is a strategically situated country in Central Europe, sharing borders with Austria to the north, Italy to the west, Hungary to the northeast, and Croatia to the south.
- **Capital:** Ljubljana is Slovenia's capital and cultural, administrative, and economic hub.
- **EU Membership and Global Alignments:** Slovenia has been a member of the European Union since 2004 and is part of key EU frameworks like the Schengen Area (enabling free movement), the Eurozone (monetary union), and NATO (collective security).

Relevance of Slovenia to India

- **Diversifying EU Engagement:** Slovenia serves as an important partner in India's strategy to diversify its engagement within the European Union, particularly by acting as a gateway to the underexplored but economically promising Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region.
- **Emerging Technologies Diplomacy:** Slovenia's interests in advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, space research, and digitalization align closely with India's global outreach in tech diplomacy and digital public infrastructure.
- **Support for Multilateralism:** Slovenia, as an EU and multilateral institution member, enhances India's outreach and influence in European policymaking circles and supports India's vision for a more multipolar and inclusive world order.
- **Economic Potential:** Economic cooperation with Slovenia offers India niche opportunities in innovation-led sectors, precision manufacturing, and high-value exports, making it a strategic node in India's broader EU economic strategy.

Conclusion

- India-Slovenia relations are an example of India's evolving and nuanced foreign policy approach, which prioritizes deeper engagement with smaller but strategically important countries.
- The partnership helps India expand its diplomatic footprint in Europe, promote collaborative technology and innovation ecosystems, and reinforce its role in global and regional platforms.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-xl/news/other/india-slovenia-hold-10th-round-of-foreign-office-consultations-discussions-focused-on-trade-tech-defence/ar-AA1EgCC1>