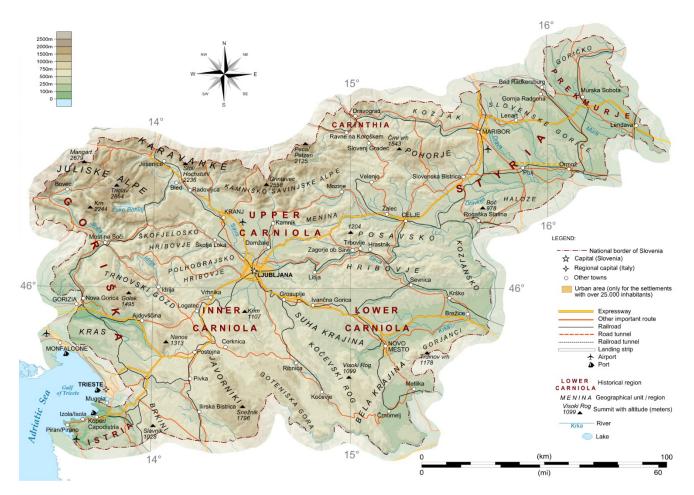
# **INDIA – SLOVENIA RELATIONS**

**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, agroprocessing, 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: <u>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</u>