

INDIA-NORDIC SUMMIT • 17-19 MAY 2026

Strategic Upgrade of India-Nordic Ties

REPORT ON THE PRIME MINISTERIAL VISIT & ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDIA-ESTONIA RELATIONS

1. BRIEF ON THE VISIT

PM Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Sweden and Norway for the third India-Nordic Summit held at Oslo, between five Nordic countries — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 years (since 1983¹). The leaders of these countries agreed to upgrade their partnership with India into a "Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership"². Along with the joint summit statement, India also held separate bilateral meetings and agreements with Nordic countries in areas such as green transition³, defence cooperation⁴, AI⁵, trade⁶, Arctic⁷ and space research⁸, renewable energy⁹, maritime security¹⁰, mobility¹¹ and innovation¹².

It was also stated in the summit that Nordic countries are in favour of India's permanent membership in a reformed United Nations Security Council¹³ (UNSC), mutual cooperation against terrorism¹⁴ and enhanced economic and technological collaboration through agreements like the India-EU FTA and India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

2. OTHER MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE SUMMIT

Some other major outcomes of the visit were the elevation of India-Sweden ties into a Strategic Partnership leading to the Joint Action Plan (2026-2030)¹⁵. Both the countries emphasized upon a shift from a traditional "buyer-seller" defence relationship toward co-development and industrial partnership¹⁶. Collaborations were made between Sweden and India to join India's Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan)¹⁷.

3. TITLES RECEIVED BY THE INDIAN PM FROM NORDIC COUNTRIES

PM Modi was awarded Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star by HRH The Crown Princess¹⁸. The Order of the Polar Star was instituted in 1748 and is awarded to individuals for their personal endeavours for Sweden or Swedish interests¹⁹. The Indian Prime Minister is the first Asian leader to be conferred the Award²⁰.

PM Modi was also conferred with Norway's Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit during his visit to Oslo. The honour reflected the strengthening India–Norway partnership and recognition of India's growing global diplomatic and strategic importance²¹.

4. SIGNIFICANCE FOR INDO-ESTONIA BILATERAL TIES

PM Narendra Modi's 2026 Nordic visit holds important indirect significance for India–Estonia relations by strengthening India's strategic, technological and economic engagement across Northern Europe. Although Estonia was not part of the summit, the emphasis on digital public infrastructure, AI cooperation, green technology, cybersecurity and innovation partnerships closely aligns with Estonia's global strengths as a leading digital society.

The visit also reinforced broader geopolitical mutual understanding, particularly on European security, terrorism and a rules-based international order, creating favourable conditions for developing India–Estonia cooperation in technology, startups, e-governance, defence cooperation and digital trade. Recent high-level engagements, including Estonian President Alar Karis' visit to India²² and Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna's public invitation to PM Modi²³, further indicate growing momentum in bilateral ties — making stronger India–Estonia engagement and a potential future Prime Ministerial visit increasingly possible.

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