



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

India–Sweden Strategic Partnership: PM Modi's Gothenburg Visit and the EU Dimension

17 May 2026 · **IR**

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR****BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE****Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

India–Sweden Strategic Partnership: PM Modi's Gothenburg Visit and the EU Dimension

17 May 2026 · 5 min read

1 tag

WHY IN NEWS:

PM Narendra Modi arrived in Gothenburg, Sweden on May 17, 2026 — the third leg of his five-nation tour (UAE → Netherlands → Sweden → Norway → Italy) — escorted by Swedish Gripen fighter jets in a rare ceremonial honour. India and Sweden formally elevated bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership**, adopted a Joint Action Plan 2026–2030, and Modi met EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the European Roundtable for Industry. Sweden also conferred the **Royal Order of the Polar Star, Commander Grand Cross** on Modi — his 31st global honour.

INDIA–SWEDEN RELATIONS: KEY OUTCOMES

The Four Pillars of the Strategic Partnership

India and Sweden’s new Strategic Partnership is structured around four pillars:

PILLAR	FOCUS
1. Strategic Dialogue for Stability and Security	NSA-level dialogue mechanism; defence industrial cooperation; cybersecurity
2. Next-Generation Economic Partnership	Bilateral trade and investment target: double within five years via “Make in India + Made with Sweden”
3. Emerging Technologies and Trusted Connectivity	AI, semiconductors, green hydrogen, 6G, trusted supply chains
4. Shaping Tomorrow Together — People, Planet and Resilience	Climate cooperation, education, health, innovation ecosystems

Joint Action Plan 2026–2030

The upgraded Joint Action Plan (JAP) replaces the earlier India-Sweden Joint Action Plan and provides an operational roadmap across:

- Defence and security dialogue (NSA-level)
- Bilateral business forums (“Sweden-India Business Summit” to be institutionalised)
- Next India-Sweden Summit: to be held in India in **2027**

Sweden’s Support for India at the UN

Sweden reiterated support for **India’s permanent membership** in a reformed, expanded UN Security Council — consistent with the G4 countries’ (India, Japan, Germany, Brazil) position on UNSC reform.

THE EU DIMENSION — VON DER LEYEN AT GOTHENBURG

What Was Discussed

At the **European Roundtable for Industry** hosted in Gothenburg (May 17), attended by PM Modi, Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson, and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen:

ISSUE	OUTCOME
India-EU FTA	Von der Leyen called it the “mother of all deals” — concluded January 2026; creates free trade zone of ~2 billion people, ~25% of global GDP
EU–India Investment Agreement	Von der Leyen called this the “missing piece of the puzzle” — signals EU push for a follow-on bilateral investment agreement
Maritime Security	First EU–India Security and Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi; joint EU-India naval exercises announced
“Dynamic New Era”	Von der Leyen declared a “dynamic new era” in EU-India relations; noted India’s role as a stabilising actor in a turbulent world

Significance of Von der Leyen’s “Investment Agreement” Call

The India-EU **Free Trade Agreement** (January 2026) covers goods, services, and some investment. A separate **Investment Agreement** would:

- Provide investor protection guarantees (ISDS mechanisms)
- Cover greenfield investments, repatriation of profits, non-discriminatory treatment
- Address India’s historical reluctance to ISDS (withdrawn from bilateral investment treaties post-2015 White Industries case)

INDIA–SWEDEN: STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Why Sweden Matters for India

DOMAIN	SIGNIFICANCE
Defence industry	Saab (Gripen, Carl Gustaf), Volvo Aero, Autoliv — potential partners for Make in India defence platforms
Clean technology	Sweden leads in waste-to-energy, green hydrogen, carbon capture — relevant for India’s net-zero pathway
Telecom/6G	Ericsson is global 5G/6G leader; Swedish expertise critical for India’s telecom buildout
Education/Research	KTH Royal Institute, Chalmers University — deep India partnerships in engineering and innovation
UNSC reform	Sweden = G10 (elected member track); voices G4 position on expansion

Modi’s Europe Tour Context (May 15–21, 2026)

COUNTRY	KEY OUTCOME
UAE (May 15)	ISPRL-ADNOC SPR MoU (30 mn barrels); Strategic Defence Framework
Netherlands (May 16–17)	Kalpasar Project cooperation; ASML-India tech access discussions
Sweden (May 17)	Strategic Partnership; Polar Star award; EU roundtable with Von der Leyen
Norway (May 18)	Sovereign Wealth Fund discussions; Norway-India green shipping
Italy (May 19–20)	G7 Outreach; Italy-India trade

UPSC RELEVANCE

GS Paper 2 — International Relations

- India’s **multi-alignment strategy** on display: simultaneously deepening ties with Gulf (UAE), Europe (Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Italy), and EU institutions
- Sweden’s support for **UNSC reform**: India’s quest for permanent membership — P5 reform debate, G4 position

- India–EU FTA (January 2026): significance, scope, what “mother of all deals” means for India’s trade policy
- India–EU Investment Agreement: ISDS debate, India’s 2015 BIT review, White Industries case background
- **Strategic Partnerships vs. Comprehensive Strategic Partnerships** — India’s tiered bilateral relationship framework

GS Paper 3 — Economy / Technology

- Sweden-India technology cooperation: 6G, AI, semiconductor supply chain, green hydrogen
- Bilateral trade and investment: India-EU FTA post-conclusion impact on Indian exports (pharma, IT, textiles, seafood)

Keywords: India–Sweden Strategic Partnership, Joint Action Plan 2026–2030, Royal Order of the Polar Star, EU-India FTA January 2026, Von der Leyen, EU-India Investment Agreement, European Roundtable for Industry Gothenburg, Ulf Kristersson, multi-alignment, UNSC reform, Make in India + Made with Sweden.

Nordic country, population ~10.7 million; capital Stockholm; NATO member (joined 2024 — historically neutral); high-income, technology-intensive economy; Saab and Ericsson are globally significant defence/tech companies.

Swedish state order of chivalry (founded 1748 by King Frederick I); Commander Grand Cross is the highest grade; awarded to foreign heads of state and government; PM Modi’s 31st such international honour.

Concluded after ~18 years of on-off negotiations; covers goods, services, government procurement; creates world’s largest free trade zone (~2 billion people, ~25% of global GDP); India’s first major FTA with a developed-economy bloc.

Swedish multirole combat aircraft by Saab; currently used by Sweden, Brazil, Czech Republic, Hungary, South Africa; India evaluated Gripen during MMRCA competition (2007–2016); escort of PM Modi was a rare diplomatic gesture.

India, Japan, Germany, Brazil — four aspirant nations seeking permanent UNSC membership; collectively support each other’s candidacies; opposed by “Coffee Club” (Uniting for Consensus) including Pakistan, Italy, Argentina.

← **NEWER ARTICLE**

Current Affairs Today — May 17, 2026

OLDER ARTICLE →

IMD Heatwave Alerts Across North India & Early Monsoon Onset...

RELATED EDITORIALS

THE HINDU

[Trade as Strategy: India Needs a Formal Economic Statecraft Doctrine](#)

16 May

INDIAN EXPRESS

[India-UAE: The Energy Security Pivot and Its Diplomatic Cost](#)

16 May

BUSINESS STANDARD

[India's Hub-and-Spoke FTA Strategy: The Bilateral CEPA Route to Gulf Trade](#)

15 May

THE HINDU

[India's Strategic Autonomy Under Pressure: The Iran War and Multi-Alignment Stress Test](#)

15 May

RELATED KEY TERMS

KEY TERM

[Act East Policy](#)

India's strategic foreign policy framework prioritising active...

KEY TERM

[BBNJ Treaty](#)

The first legally binding international agreement for conservation and...

KEY TERM

[Bilateral Swap Arrangement](#)

A reciprocal agreement between two central banks to exchange specified...

KEY TERM

[Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#)

A trade measure that imposes a carbon price on imports from countries...



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)[Read Full Article on Ujiyari](#) →<https://ujiyari.com/daily/2026/05/17/india-sweden-strategic-partnership-modi-gothenburg/>

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — subject-wise notes across all 4 GS papers, Prelims MCQs, Mains answer frameworks, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free • No Login Required.**

[Start Preparing](http://bharatnotes.com) → bharatnotes.com

📌 OPPORTUNITY

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach **thousands of serious UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website, and social channels.

Ideal for: Coaching institutes • EdTech platforms • Book publishers • Exam prep apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

Write to us for rates & media kit

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujiyari.com · bharatnotes.com