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# 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo and PM Modi's Italy Visit — Five-Nation European Tour Concludes

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# 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo and PM Modi's Italy Visit — Five-Nation European Tour Concludes

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## WHY IN NEWS:

PM Narendra Modi concluded the **3rd India-Nordic Summit** in Oslo on **May 19, 2026**, meeting with leaders of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland. He then departed for **Rome, Italy** — the fifth and final leg of his five-nation European tour (May 15–20). The Summit focused on Arctic governance, clean energy, digital public goods, and circular economy. In Italy, Modi held talks with PM **Giorgia Meloni**, advancing the India-Italy **Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029** and bilateral trade targets.

## THE 3RD INDIA-NORDIC SUMMIT

### Format and History

SUMMIT	LOCATION	YEAR	KEY THEME
<b>1st</b>	Stockholm, Sweden	2018	Innovation, climate, sustainable development
<b>2nd</b>	Copenhagen, Denmark	2022	Post-pandemic recovery, green transition
<b>3rd</b>	Oslo, Norway	<b>2026</b>	Arctic, digital public goods, circular economy, energy transition

The **India-Nordic Summit** is a unique diplomatic format in which India engages all **five Nordic countries** (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland) simultaneously. It has no formal treaty basis — it is an informal multilateral dialogue convened alongside bilateral visits.

## 3rd Summit Participants

COUNTRY	HEAD OF GOVERNMENT	KEY INTEREST
Norway	PM Jonas Gahr Støre	Maritime, offshore wind, GPF, Arctic
Sweden	PM Ulf Kristersson	Ericsson (5G/6G), defence (Saab), innovation
Denmark	PM Mette Frederiksen	Shipping (Maersk), wind energy (Vestas, Orsted), green hydrogen
Finland	PM Petteri Orpo	Nokia (6G), cybersecurity, education
Iceland	PM Kristrún Frostadóttir	Geothermal energy, fisheries, Arctic research

## Key Themes Discussed

### 1. Arctic Governance

- India as Arctic Council observer (since 2013) — Nordic countries as full members; India's Himadri Station at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard
- Northern Sea Route (NSR): could reduce Mumbai-Hamburg distance by ~7,000 km; strategic value growing as Arctic ice shrinks
- Climate data sharing; joint scientific expeditions

### 2. Digital Public Goods (DPG)

- India's DPI stack (UPI, Aadhaar, DigiLocker, ONDC) recognised by UN Secretary-General's Digital Cooperation roadmap as model DPG
- Nordic countries are major funders of global DPG initiatives through UNDP and bilateral aid
- Interoperability of DPG standards discussed — potential for Nordic countries to adopt India Stack-inspired architectures

### 3. Clean Energy Transition

- Offshore wind cooperation (Norway: Equinor; Denmark: Vestas, Orsted)
- Green hydrogen — Nordic countries are leaders; India-Nordic Green Hydrogen Partnership
- Circular economy and plastic waste management

### 4. Defence and Security

- India-Sweden defence ties: Saab (Gripen, Carl Gustaf) cooperation
- Finland, Sweden, Norway — all NATO members; diplomatic sensitivity for India's strategic autonomy
- Cyber security cooperation with Finland (Nokia, Huawei alternative) and Norway

## NORDIC COUNTRIES — STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

COUNTRY	POPULATION	NATO?	EU?	KEY ECONOMIC STRENGTH
Norway	~5.5M	Yes (founding 1949)	No (EEA)	Oil/gas, maritime, GPFG
Sweden	~10.6M	Yes (March 7, 2024)	Yes	Ericsson, Saab, IKEA, Volvo
Denmark	~5.9M	Yes (founding 1949)	Yes	Maersk, Vestas, Novo Nordisk
Finland	~5.6M	Yes (April 4, 2023)	Yes	Nokia, cybersecurity, education
Iceland	~0.4M	Yes (founding 1949)	No (EEA/EFTA)	Geothermal, fisheries, data centres

All five are among the **world's top 15 in Human Development Index (HDI)**. All five are EFTA or EU members — with Norway and Iceland in EFTA.

## PM MODI'S ITALY VISIT (MAY 19–20, 2026)

### Context

Italy is a **G7 member** and a major EU economy. Modi's visit — his first bilateral visit to Rome — came shortly after the **India-EU FTA was concluded on January 27, 2026**, giving the India-Italy bilateral a fresh economic impetus.

### Giorgia Meloni and India

Italian PM **Giorgia Meloni** (in office since October 2022, re-elected 2026) has cultivated a close personal relationship with PM Modi — they have met at multiple G7, G20, and multilateral sidelines. Italy has positioned itself as India's most natural European interlocutor given:

- Shared concerns about China's Belt and Road Initiative
- Strong Italian defence industrial base (Leonardo, Beretta, Fincantieri)
- Italy's 2024 "Mattei Plan for Africa" aligns with India's interests in African connectivity

### Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029

India and Italy's **Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025–2029** covers four pillars:

PILLAR	KEY AREAS
1. Political and Security	Defence industrial cooperation; Leonardo-HAL MoUs; cyber security; counter-terrorism
2. Economic and Trade	Target to significantly grow bilateral trade (from ~USD 16.77 billion toward ~€20 billion/~USD 20 billion by 2029); investment facilitation; India-EU FTA implementation
3. Science, Technology and Innovation	Space (ASI-ISRO); quantum; AI; pharmaceutical supply chains
4. People-to-People	Cultural exchanges; Italian language promotion; Indian diaspora in Italy (~180,000)

## India-Italy Bilateral Trade

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Bilateral trade (2025)	~ <b>USD 16.77 billion</b>
India's exports to Italy	Pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals
Italy's exports to India	Machinery, chemicals, defence equipment, luxury goods (fashion, automotive)
Italian FDI in India	~USD 3.5 billion cumulative
Key Italian companies in India	ENI (energy), Leonardo (defence), Fincantieri (shipbuilding), Pirelli (tyres), Lavazza (coffee)

## THE FIVE-NATION EUROPEAN TOUR: SUMMARY

STOP	COUNTRY	KEY DELIVERABLE
1	UAE	Transit bilateral; energy security discussion
2	Netherlands	Strategic Partnership; semiconductor/ASML technology discussion; India-EU FTA
3	Sweden	Elevated to Strategic Partnership; 6 MEA outcomes; Royal Order of Polar Star (Modi's 31st honour)
4	Norway	Green Strategic Partnership; 12 agreements; 3rd India-Nordic Summit
5	<b>Italy</b>	JSAP 2025–2029; bilateral trade targets; G7 outreach; India-EU FTA implementation

The tour signals India's concerted post-India-EU FTA push to consolidate bilateral relationships with key European capitals — particularly those with strong technology, defence, and clean energy assets relevant to India's development priorities.

## UPSC RELEVANCE

### GS Paper 2 — International Relations

- **India-Nordic Summit format:** informal multilateral; why India engages Nordic countries collectively
- **India's European Strategy:** post-FTA bilateral consolidation; differentiated partnerships (Strategic, Green Strategic, JSAP)
- **India-Italy relations:** Giorgia Meloni; Leonardo-HAL defence cooperation; Mattei Plan
- **G7 context:** India's engagement as Outreach partner at Italy's G7 2024 (Puglia) and Germany's G7 2025
- **India-EU FTA:** concluded January 27, 2026; Italy's role as bridge

**Keywords:** India-Nordic Summit, 3rd Summit Oslo, Nordic five, India-Italy JSAP 2025–2029, Giorgia Meloni, GPF, Arctic Council, DPG India Stack, India-EU FTA, five-nation European tour, Modi.

*Sources: IANS Live, ANI, MEA*

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### 3RD INDIA-NORDIC SUMMIT (2026):

Venue: Oslo, Norway | Date: May 19, 2026

Participants: India + Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland

1st Summit: Stockholm 2018 | 2nd Summit: Copenhagen 2022 | 3rd Summit: Oslo 2026

Key themes: Arctic governance, digital public goods, clean energy, circular economy

### NORDIC COUNTRY FACTS (QUICK REFERENCE):

Norway: NATO founding (1949); EFTA member; not EU

Sweden: NATO since March 7, 2024; EU member

Denmark: NATO founding (1949); EU member

Finland: NATO since April 4, 2023; EU member

Iceland: NATO founding (1949); EFTA member; not EU

### PM MODI'S FIVE-NATION EUROPEAN TOUR (MAY 15-20, 2026):

UAE → Netherlands → Sweden → Norway → Italy

Post-India-EU FTA (concluded January 27, 2026) consolidation tour

### INDIA-ITALY JSAP 2025-2029:

Four pillars: Political/Security, Economic/Trade, S&T/Innovation, People-to-People

Bilateral trade: ~USD 16.77 billion (2025); target: ~€20 billion/~USD 20 billion by 2029

Key: Leonardo-HAL defence cooperation; Italy's Fincantieri-shipbuilding; G7 outreach

### GIORGIA MELONI:

Italian PM; in office since October 2022

Re-elected 2026; leader of Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy)

Mattei Plan for Africa (2024): Italy's Africa engagement strategy

### INDIA-EU FTA:

Concluded: January 27, 2026

Negotiations: launched 2007; stalled 2013; relaunched 2022; concluded after 14 months

Covers goods, services, investment, IPR, GI (Geographical Indications)

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