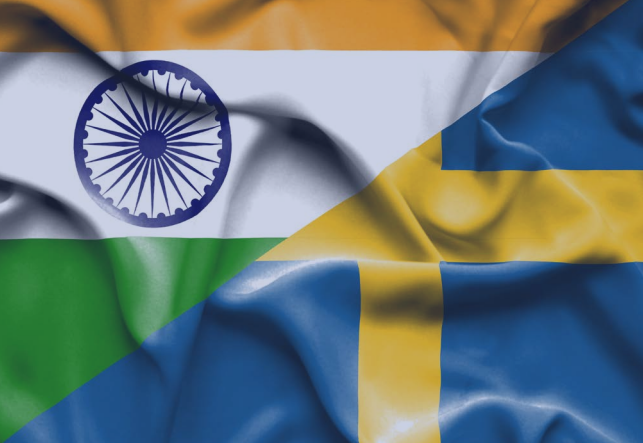




INDIA-SWEDEN STRATEGIC COMPASS

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BY ISDP'S STOCKHOLM
CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN AND INDO-PACIFIC AFFAIRS

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INDIA-SWEDEN

A Strategic Roadmap by Two Leaders

A joint op-ed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has signaled a major step forward in India-Sweden relations. The piece details a strategic roadmap to double bilateral trade and investments by 2030, seamlessly merging Sweden's innovative technological capabilities with India's immense market scale. The renewed partnership places a heavy emphasis on industrial cooperation, co-developing AI and emerging technologies, and semiconductor collaboration.



For the business and startup ecosystem, the upcoming India-Sweden Science and Technology Centre will serve as a crucial bridge for cross-border innovation. On the sustainability front, the leaders recommitted to the LeadIT initiative to drive green hydrogen and circular economy scaling, underscoring that global supply chains and climate goals can only be secured through deep, bilateral synergy.

Tata Technologies Expands Operations in Sweden

The growing technology and innovation partnership between India and Sweden has marked a significant milestone with the strategic expansion of Tata Technologies into Gothenburg. A premier subsidiary of India's iconic Tata Group (Tata Motors) headquartered in Pune, the multinational engineering company has been selected as a strategic engineering supplier for Volvo Cars, establishing Gothenburg as its new regional Automotive Centre of Excellence.

This expansion establishes a robust engineering and delivery hub within Sweden, positioning Tata Technologies to seamlessly navigate evolving EU regulatory frameworks and supply chain requirements. The collaboration will focus heavily on high-value domains including product engineering, vehicle systems, embedded software, and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions.

Aligning with the industry-wide pivot toward digitalization, Tata Technologies CEO Warren Harris noted that "data is the new oil for automakers," underscoring the company's commitment to centering its regional investments on next-generation mobility, AI, and autonomous driving technology. Ultimately, this milestone creates a highly strategic, two-way bridge that effectively connects India's immense engineering capacities with Europe's premier automotive innovation ecosystem.

Source: India in Sweden

Discussion on Governance and Rule of Law

Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, met Ms. Mirja Räihä, Member of Parliament and Member of the Committee on the Constitution, at the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag). In June. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on India-Sweden bilateral relations, constitutional governance, judicial systems, the rule of law, and the role of democratic institutions.

The visit concluded with a guided tour of the Swedish Parliament, providing an overview of Sweden's legislative process, parliamentary traditions and democratic institutions. The interaction reflected the importance of sustained parliamentary and judicial engagement in further strengthening the India-Sweden partnership.

Earlier, Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India, participated in the event “Safeguarding the Rule of Law: Experiences from India and Sweden” at International IDEA Headquarters, Stockholm. The event featured a keynote address by the Chief Justice, followed by a panel discussion with Ms. Charlotte Kugelberg, State Secretary to the Minister for Justice, Sweden.

In his keynote address and during the panel discussion, Mr. Justice Surya Kant highlighted the enduring strength of the Constitution of India, the independence of the judiciary, the protection of fundamental rights and the importance of ensuring access to



justice in a vibrant democracy. Ms. Kugelberg shared Sweden's perspectives on upholding the rule of law, strengthening democratic institutions and advancing constitutional governance.

The event brought together representatives of the Government of Sweden, the Swedish Parliament, the judiciary, the diplomatic corps, International IDEA, academia, think tanks, civil society and the Indian diaspora for a substantive exchange on contemporary constitutional issues and the shared commitment of India and Sweden to democratic values and the rule of law.

Source: India in Sweden

Celebrating Sweden National Day

On June 6, Sweden celebrated its National Day, marking the ceremonial start to a vibrant month of June that includes the royal wedding anniversary and the traditional Midsummer festivities. Historically observed as “Swedish Flag Day,” the national holiday honors two defining milestones in the nation's history: the election of King Gustav Vasa in 1523 and the adoption of the historic constitutions of 1809 and 1974. In Stockholm, the capital hosted extensive public celebrations featuring traditional folk dancing, artisan blacksmithing demonstrations, and the annual royal procession by King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia in a traditional horse-drawn carriage.

The cultural milestone resonated globally, with extensive official celebrations organized across India to





engage both the Swedish diaspora and local partners. The Embassy of Sweden in New Delhi observed the day with formal flag-hoisting ceremonies, the national anthem, and diplomatic receptions. To further strengthen sub-national and regional engagement, parallel official receptions were hosted across India by the Swedish Honorary Consulates in Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata, underscoring the deep cultural and diplomatic ties connecting the two nations.

Sources: *India in Sweden X*; *Sweden in India LinkedIn*

Indian Professionals Thrive in Sweden

The critical role of Indian professionals in Sweden's innovation landscape was recently highlighted by International House Gothenburg (IHG), following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-profile visit to Gothenburg. Dedicated to integrating international business, talent, and community participation, IHG provides vital soft-landing advisory services, career guidance, and family integration support to ensure smooth transitions for global professionals.

According to recent data from the organization, Indian nationals comprise 40 percent of all activity participants, accounting for over 1,000 visits to IHG annually. This demographic represents a highly skilled cohort contributing to major Swedish corporations, such as Volvo Group and AstraZeneca, as well as pursuing advanced research degrees at local universities, driving the region's specialized talent ecosystem forward.

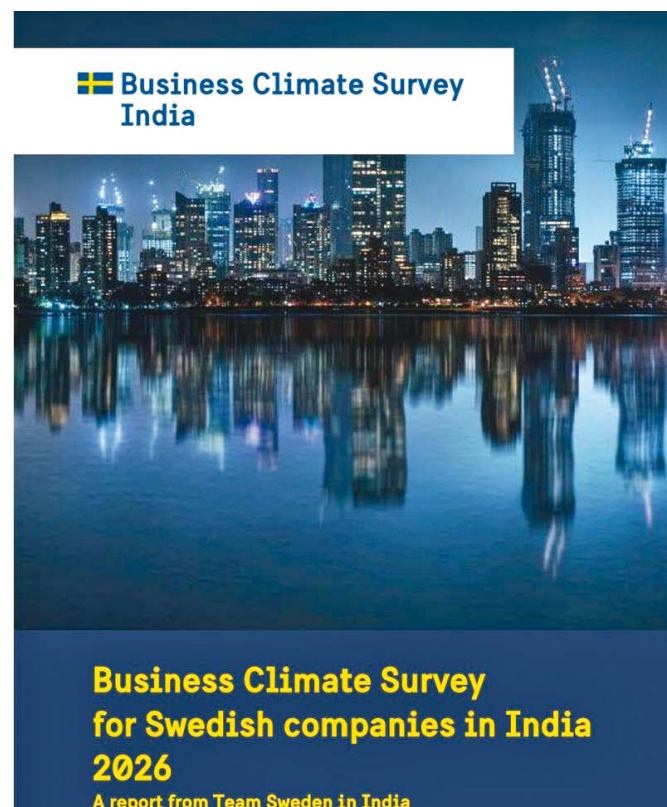
To foster deeper bilateral integration, IHG actively hosts targeted ecosystem events, including the India-Sweden Networking Mingle, which recently convened local professionals, businesses, and the Ambassador of India to Sweden. Furthermore, IHG continues to scale its talent attraction frameworks through strategic partnerships with India House at Lindholmen Science Park and the "Move to Gothenburg" initiative, driving coordinated overseas recruitment campaigns to bridge the engineering and tech pipelines between both nations.

Source: *International House Gothenburg*

'India a compelling market'

The Trade Commissioner of Sweden to India, Sofia Högman, has announced the release of the *Business Climate Survey 2026*, which positions India as one of the world's most compelling long-term markets for Swedish enterprises.

Driven by an expanding middle class and vast cross-sector opportunities, the market continues to



draw substantial interest. While navigating regulatory complexities and persistent trade barriers remain key operational challenges, the report highlights that building local knowledge, forming the right partnerships, and maintaining strategic preparation are more critical than ever.

The survey indicates highly favorable performance metrics and sentiment among Swedish firms operating on the ground. Notably, 73 percent of Swedish companies active in India maintain a positive view of the current business climate. Following a highly successful performance in 2025, 83 percent of surveyed firms expect their industry turnover in India to increase in the coming year.

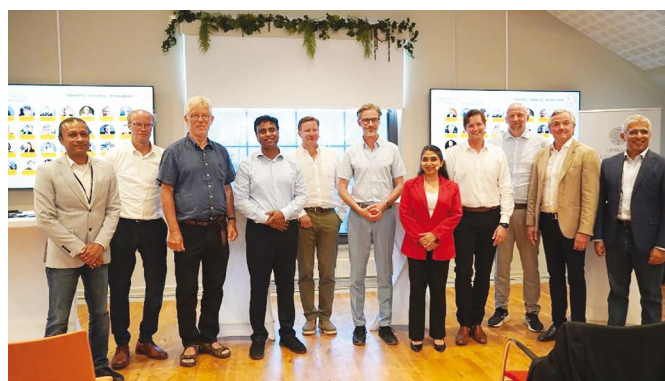
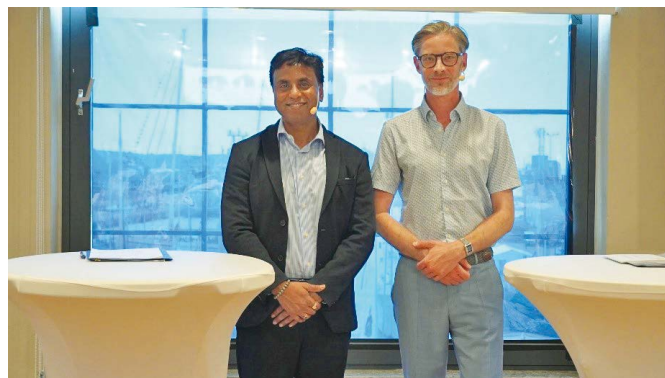
Demonstrating long-term commercial commitment, 61 percent of these enterprises plan to scale up their investments within the next 12 months. To present the full scope of these findings, the Trade Commissioner and Business Sweden have scheduled a series of major launch events across New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru this August. This regional rollout follows the recent June 11 launch of the *Global Business Climate Survey* in Stockholm, a comprehensive global index evaluating Swedish business sentiment across 42 markets worldwide.

Source: Sofia Högman LinkedIn

Engaging India @ Almedalen 2026

The event was back in Visby for its seventh edition bringing together industry leaders, academics, policy-makers, innovators and ecosystem builders from India and the Nordics. Held under the theme “AI, You & I: Industry, Innovation & Identity,” the full-day programme featured fireside chats, panel discussions, presentations and, for the first time on the platform, a live human-humanoid interaction on stage.

The discussions explored the reinvention of industry in the AI era, the green transition, sustainable finance, climate technology, innovation ecosystems and the future of India–Nordic collaboration.



The fireside chat featuring Anurag Bhushan, Ambassador of India to Sweden, H.E. Daniel Westlén, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Sweden, and Ms. Rupali Mehra, Founder, Content People AB, highlighted the growing momentum in the India–Sweden Strategic Partnership, formalised at the Gothenburg Summit in May 2026.

The conversation reflected the shared commitment of India and Sweden to accelerate industrial decarbonisation, technology partnerships, trade, academic exchanges and sustainable innovation.

Source: India in Sweden

Festival of Technology and Innovation

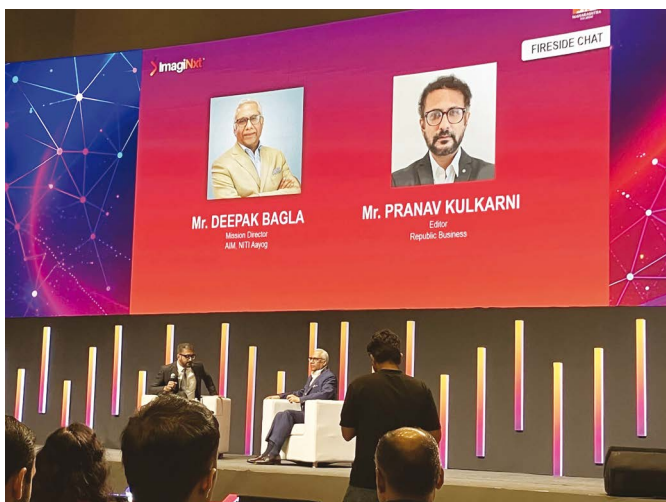
ImagiNxt, India’s premier festival of technology and innovation, concluded its high-profile session in Mumbai on May 22 and 23, showcasing how discussions surrounding Artificial Intelligence have evolved beyond technical metrics into complex economic, social, and human-centric dialogues.



of Crunchfish AB), alongside several Swedish emerging tech leaders. The extensive panel programming bridged cross-border insights on scaling digital infrastructure and green tech, featuring critical sessions such as “*Building India’s Trillion Dollar AI Future*,” “*Digital India 3.0*,” and “*Different Paths to Making Sustainability Pay*.”

The event attracted more than 10,000 attendees, bringing together over 125 core technology brands and 250 advanced startups. By embedding Swedish expertise into India’s rapidly growing digital ecosystem, ImagiNxt served as a vital institutional touchpoint to foster deeper bilateral tech alignment, collaborative research, and cross-border commercial opportunities.

Source: Sven Ostberg LinkedIn



Furthering Collaboration in Dairy Farming

The agricultural technology corridor between India and Sweden marked a significant milestone following a high-profile diplomatic and technical visit to Pune on May 14th. The Swedish Consul General to Mumbai, Sven Östberg, alongside leadership from DeLaval, a global Swedish leader in dairy farming solutions, visited the advanced facilities of Mittal Happy Cows Dairy Farms, a family-owned enterprise operating the “Mr. Milk” brand in Talegaon.

This visit showcased the deployment of advanced mechanization, automated infrastructure, and scientific herd management to shape the future of India’s commercial dairy landscape. DeLaval continues to play a pivotal role in scaling India’s dairy capabilities by offering integrated automation and tracking software tailored to diverse operational scales.

This includes Voluntary Milking Systems (VMS) for individual automated teat milk analysis, as well as “Duoval Flow Control,” a dual-vacuum mechanism engineered specifically to accommodate sensitive indigenous Indian breeds like Gir and Sahiwal by sim-

Facilitated through strategic collaborations by the Sweden-India Business Council (SIBC) and the Sweden-India Tech Community (SITEC), the event featured prominent Swedish tech experts and startup pioneers who contributed to shaping the bilateral roadmap for next-generation innovation.

Among the key Swedish delegates addressing the forum were Noi Cecilia Oldne (SIBC’s Chief India Representative), Emma Rozada (Founder of The Techno Creatives), and Joachim Samuelsson (CEO



ulating natural calf nursing. Furthermore, the company provides custom-engineered Buffalo Milking Parlours to address the distinct anatomical and flow requirements of buffalo dairy operations, currently leveraged by major domestic drivers such as Indian Exotic Ice Creams Pvt. Ltd.

During the site tour, Consul General Östberg and Neeraj Kumar, Managing Director of DeLaval India, detailed how these advanced technical integrations optimize both yield and animal health. The site demonstration highlighted how the synergy between advanced Swedish technology and Indian agricultural expertise directly supports a shared vision for precision farming, operational scalability, and elevated animal welfare standards.

Source: Swedish Chamber of Commerce India

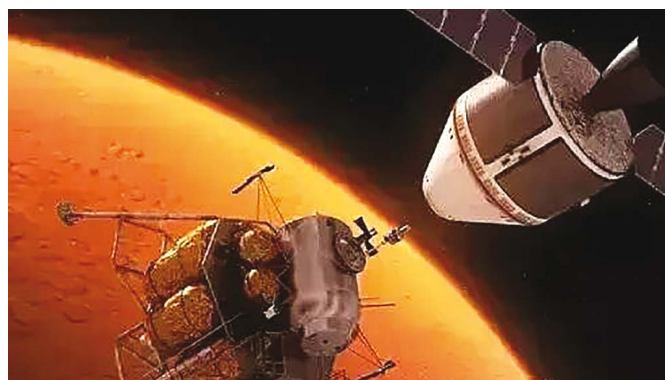
MoU on Deep-Space Collaboration

India and Sweden have formalized a major deep-space exploration alliance following a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the upcoming Venus Orbiter Mission, widely known as Shukrayaan-1. The pact was signed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Swedish National Space Agency during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bilateral summit visit to Gothenburg.

The highly complex planetary mission is scheduled for launch on March 29, 2028, utilizing India's heavy-lift LVM-3 rocket. The spacecraft will undergo a 112-day cruise phase before entering its specialized Venusian orbit on July 19, 2028. The four-month core mission is engineered to address major atmospheric mysteries, including wind super-rotation, the runaway greenhouse effect, and potential chemical traces of ancient Venusian oceans. It will carry 19 scientific payloads from domestic and international partners, featuring a high-resolution, Indian-made Synthetic Aperture Radar designed to peer through the planet's dense sulfuric acid cloud cover.

As a core partner, the Swedish Institute of Space Physics is developing the Venusian Neutrals Analyzer (VNA). Integrated into the larger VISWAS plasma package, the specialized Swedish instrument will map intense solar winds and observe how high-energy charged particles interact with the Venusian atmosphere, establishing a highly advanced benchmark for bilateral scientific and technological cooperation.

Sources: Free Press Journal; Swedish Institute of Space Physics



Embassy hosted inaugural ceremony of MITR initiative

The Mission, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Nordic Alumni Association, hosted the inaugural MITR initiative at Chancery. MITR initiative brought together early-career university students, industry professionals and IIM alumni for mentor-ship, networking and knowledge sharing.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and industry professionals and alumni through panel discussions, networking sessions and small-group interactions. Ambassador encouraged students and professionals to continue building strong networks and collaborative opportunities.

Source: India in Sweden

Learning about Green Transitions

Ambassador of India to Sweden, Mr. Anurag Bhushan, visited Cemvision for an insightful interaction on sustainable cement technology, industrial decarbonisation and India-Sweden cooperation in the green transition.

The visit included a presentation by Cemvision's CEO Oscar Hållén and CTO & Founder Claes Kollberg on the company's technology and commercial progress, followed by a project walkthrough with the joint Cemvision and Tata Steel team. The Tata Steel team, led by Mr. Dipankar Dasgupta, Executive in Charge, Industrial By-Products Management Division, along with Akhilesh Kumar Mishra, Moumita Nag and

Shikha Suman, shared perspectives on the ongoing collaboration. LeadIT, represented by Mr. Per Andersson, Head of the Secretariat, along with Arati Davis, Felipe Sanchez and Jane Birch, also made a presentation on LeadIT 3.0 and its extended mandate, as confirmed by the Prime Ministers of India and Sweden.

The Embassy appreciates Cemvision, Tata Steel and LeadIT for their continued efforts in advancing sustainable industry solutions and strengthening India-Sweden collaboration in clean technology and climate action.

Source: India in Sweden

Celebrating International Yoga Day

The Embassy of India in Stockholm, in collaboration with Art of Living, Heartfulness, Isha Foundation and Sewa Europe, organised a yoga session to celebrate the 12th UN International Day of Yoga. The session brought together yoga enthusiasts and members of the community to embrace yoga as a holistic practice for health, harmony and well-being, reflecting this year's theme of "Yoga for Healthy Ageing."

In Gothenburg, the Embassy in collaboration with Art of Living Gothenburg, Maharashtra Mandal Gothenburg, RANG Chalmers, Bengali Association Gothenburg, Gothenburg Tamil Sangam and local members of Indian diaspora, celebrated the International Day of Yoga. This special event brought together communities to embrace the timeless practice of yoga for well-being, harmony, and unity.





At midnight, under the endless daylight of the Arctic summer, the enthusiastic Indian community in Boden, together with the India in Sweden (Embassy of India, Stockholm), celebrated the International Day of Yoga with energy, joy and togetherness.

An event was also organized in Helsingborg by the Embassy of India in Sweden, in collaboration with Sambandh, ORUMA, TAS (Telugu Association Skåne), and Helsingborg Gymkhana. The event brought together members of the community to embrace yoga as a holistic practice for health, harmony and well-being, reflecting this year's theme of Yoga for Healthy Ageing. Another event was organized in Oskarshamn.

The Embassy appreciates all partner organisations for their support in promoting India's timeless tradition of yoga in Sweden.

Source: India in Sweden

First National Cup 2026 held successfully

Congratulations to all the winners of the First National Cup 2026!

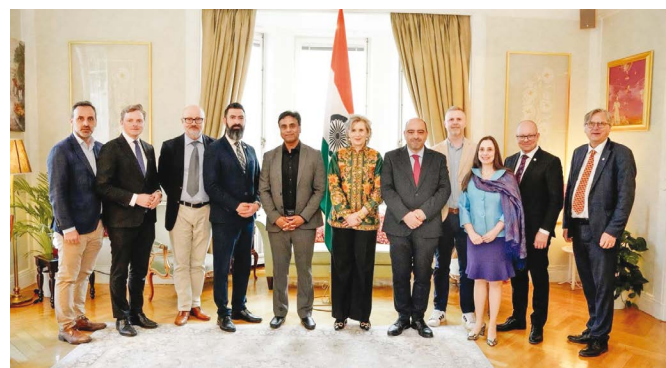
Organised by Badminton Sweden, SSF, Sweden Kannada Koota, and Nordic Bengali Association, in collaboration with the Embassy of India, the tournament brought together the community through the spirit of sports, teamwork, and friendship. The Embassy of India thanked all the organisers, players, volunteers, and supporters for making the first edition of the National Cup 2026 a great success.

Source: India in Sweden



Enduring Bond of Friendship !

Ambassador of India to Sweden, Mr. Anurag Bhushan, hosted a farewell reception in honour of Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, Member of Parliament and Chair of the Sweden-India Parliamentary Friendship Group.



The evening brought together friends and partners including MPs from Swedish Parliament, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and the business community, reflecting the strong goodwill and growing momentum in India–Sweden relations.

Source: India in Sweden

SPECIAL FEATURES

The Gothenburg Summit

On May 17, 2026, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Gothenburg, Sweden, at the invitation of Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson. The two leaders met to formally elevate bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership, issuing a Joint Statement and endorsing an upgraded Joint Action Plan 2026–2030 for its implementation. This was Modi's second official visit to Sweden, following his first in 2018.

The visit took place in the context of a broader deepening of India-EU ties. Both Prime Ministers noted the India-EU Summit held in New Delhi on January 27, 2026, the adoption of a new Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda (Towards 2030), and the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and a Comprehensive Framework of Cooperation on Mobility. They reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening India-EU relations.

In a special ceremony hosted in Gothenburg, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden conferred upon PM Shri Narendra Modi the 'Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross,' one of Sweden's oldest and most distinguished honours, instituted in the 18th century. He was also presented with a symbolic gift: a box containing faithful reproductions of two handwritten cards by Indian poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

PM Modi addressed the European Round Table for Industry (ERT) in Gothenburg on May 17, along with





Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson, President of the European Commission Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, senior European industry leaders, and representatives from leading European and Indian companies participated in the interaction hosted by the Volvo Group.

The bilateral strategic partnership outlined during the Gothenburg Summit rests on four pillars: strategic dialogue for stability and security; next-generation economic partnership; emerging technologies and trusted connectivity; and shaping tomorrow together people, planet and resilience.

Strategic dialogue for stability and security

The Prime Ministers unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, 2025, and called for the dismantling of terror infrastructure and safe havens. They reiterated their commitment to concerted action against terrorists and groups listed under the UN Security Council 1267 sanctions regime and

their affiliates, proxies, sponsors and financiers. They reaffirmed their commitment to disrupting terror financing channels at the UN and FATF.

On multilateral affairs, the Swedish Prime Minister reiterated Sweden's support for India's permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council. Both leaders affirmed the importance of an effective multilateral system with the United Nations at its core. They agreed that the expanding bilateral partnership would continue to be guided by shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, sustainable development, and a rules-based international order.

Next-generation economic partnership

The Prime Ministers underlined the importance of economic security and supply chain resilience, and announced a shared objective of doubling bilateral economic exchange through trade and investment within five years, including through the "Make in India" and "Made with Sweden" initiatives. They recognised the role of the India-Sweden Business Leaders Round Table and agreed that a bilateral summit, "India-Sweden: Stronger Together – towards 2047", will be held in India in 2027.

The Prime Ministers encouraged collaboration in advanced mining and mineral processing technologies to facilitate efficient extraction from low-grade and complex critical mineral deposits. They also called for co-development of refining and downstream processing capabilities, with a particular focus on critical minerals including rare earths. On industrial transition, the Prime Ministers welcomed the expanding engagement of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition.

Emerging technologies and trusted connectivity

The Prime Ministers emphasised shared priorities on emerging technologies and trusted connectivity, as well as the critical role of digitalisation. They agreed to strengthen cooperation through the Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor. The



Prime Ministers agreed to launch an upgraded Joint Innovation Partnership 2.0 and to establish an India-Sweden Joint Science and Technology Centre.

On space, the Prime Ministers expressed commitment to enhanced cooperation on space and geospatial technologies, taking note of India's role as a leading space nation and Sweden's Esrange Space Center. They welcomed collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Swedish Institute for Space Physics on India's Venus Orbiter Mission.

Shaping tomorrow together

The Prime Ministers underlined the importance of connectivity and agreed to advance talent attraction and people-to-people exchanges, including mobility of students and researchers (Study in Sweden) and highly skilled labour (Work in Sweden). They also agreed to explore the possibility of establishing direct and regular air links between Sweden and India.

Sources: Government Offices of Sweden; Embassy of India in Stockholm

The 3rd India-Nordic Summit

On May 19, 2026, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi travelled to Oslo, Norway, to participate in the 3rd India-Nordic Summit, hosted by Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. The summit brought together the leaders of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. Prior to the multilateral session, Prime Minister Modi held separate bilateral meetings with each of the five Nordic heads of government. This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Norway in 43 years.

The summit builds on two previous editions: the 1st India-Nordic Summit held in Stockholm in April 2018 and the 2nd in Copenhagen in May 2022. The central outcome of the Oslo summit was the elevation of India-Nordic relations to a Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership. A joint statement was issued at the conclusion of the meeting. The 4th India-Nordic Summit will be hosted by

Finland. The main outcomes of the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo:

- The Nordic Prime Ministers reiterated the support of the Nordic countries for India's permanent membership in a reformed and expanded UN Security Council. The Nordic leaders also welcomed India's application to the Nuclear Suppliers' Group and emphasized the importance of the international multilateral export control regimes in upholding non-proliferation and international peace and security.
- India and Norway signed 12 bilateral agreements on 18 May 2026, including a target to double bilateral trade by 2030. India and Finland announced the joint hosting of the World Circular Economy Forum in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in September 2026. Combined India-Nordic trade stands at approximately \$19 billion, having grown fourfold over the past decade, while Nordic investment in India has risen by around 200% over the same period.
- The leaders also emphasised the importance of enhancing connectivity between the Nordic and Indo-Pacific regions, including in line with the development of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.
- The leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of maritime security and reaffirmed their commitment to a free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific in accordance with international law. They committed to joint activities through bilateral dialogues and through the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and in keeping with India's vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). The leaders also called for freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz, consistent with the provisions of UNCLOS.
- The leaders acknowledged the growing interlink-



ages between the Arctic and the Indo-Pacific. They recognised the potential for further cooperation in polar research, climate, and environmental issues. The Nordic Prime Ministers welcomed India's continued and constructive engagement in the Arctic Council's working groups and expert bodies as a valued observer.

- The leaders noted the increased momentum in defence cooperation between India and the Nordic countries, and underlined the importance of defence industrial collaboration and the supply of essential components and equipment. Nordic defence firms were invited to explore investment opportunities in India's Defence Industrial Corridors, where 100% FDI is available in select sectors.

Sources: Government Offices in Sweden; India's World

11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi

On May 26, 2026, New Delhi hosted the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the first such gathering in India since 2023. At the invitation of India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, and United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio convened in the Indian capital.

The 2026 Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting is highlighted by a joint statement reaffirming the Quad's commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, which noted that the four nations "convene at a time of not only great challenges, but also unprecedented opportunities," and reaffirmed their commitment to "defending the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity." The ministers explicitly reaffirmed their support for ASEAN Centrality and aligned their cooperation with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.

India's role in the Indo-Pacific was also emphasised during the Quad 2026 Meeting. Parties agreed on India's role as a host of the next edition of the Quad-at-Sea Observer Mission. Previously, in September 2025, India hosted two Quad Workshops on countering the use of unmanned aerial vehicles/drones for terrorist purposes and preventing terrorist exploitation of new and emerging technologies.

Furthermore, the four Ministers held strategic discussions on the current global challenges in the East China and South China Seas, the Korean Peninsula,

and the Middle East. Particularly, on the maritime stability in the East China and South China Seas, the four nations reaffirmed their opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the two seas, underscoring the primacy of international law and peaceful resolution of disputes. On the Korean Peninsula, the ministers issued a collective condemnation of North Korea's ballistic missile developments and renewed their commitment to complete denuclearization. Regarding the instability in the Middle East, the ministers discussed the impacts of the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz on Indo-Pacific trade and energy flows, and vectors to maintain the freedom of navigation.

Importantly, the Quad 2026 Meeting in New Delhi produced new initiatives across four thematic pillars: maritime and regional security, economic security, critical technology, and humanitarian assistance.

Maritime and regional security

The ministers launched the first-ever **Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration (IPMSC)** initiative to formally coordinate all four Quad nations' maritime surveillance assets. With an initial focus on the Indian Ocean Region, the IPMSC will strengthen information sharing and maritime domain awareness through subject matter expert exchanges and tabletop exercises.

The Quad partners formed the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**. This initiative is aimed at enhancing maritime domain





awareness in the Indo-Pacific, providing simultaneous information in Indo-Pacific maritime zones.

Economic Security

The ministers announced a new **Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework** which will guide Quad partners in leveraging economic policy tools and coordinating investment to strengthen critical minerals supply chains, including in mining, processing, and recycling.

The four nations announced the **Quad Initiative on Indo-Pacific Energy Security** to strengthen regional energy resilience. Each partner country will draw on its distinct resources and capabilities from its energy sector. Combined Quad funding directed toward energy technology supply chains across the Indo-Pacific already exceeds \$25 million.

The four partners committed to identifying **critical port projects** to support trade and economic connectivity across key Indo-Pacific corridors. The Quad announced that it will work with the Government of Fiji to advance port infrastructure and associated activities in the country.

Critical Technology

Quad partners have provided support to ensure that all Pacific Island Forum countries are connected via **undersea cables** by 2026, securing digital connectivity for some of the region's most isolated nations. Progress was confirmed on Quad Open Radio Access Networks (Open RAN) cooperation with Palau. Trusted suppliers were successfully selected in February 2026, strengthening Palau's access to secure 4G and 5G connectivity and supporting its digital supply chain resilience.

Humanitarian Assistance

Quad partners are providing training to health professionals across the Indo-Pacific to strengthen responses to **public health emergencies**, including disease outbreaks, alongside tools that benefit the people

and the region. Collectively, these efforts are valued at over \$50 million.

The Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) launched as a pilot initiative at the 2024 Quad Leaders' Summit, continued to develop. Building on a tabletop exercise in April 2025 and a Field Training Exercise during Operation Christmas Drop in December 2025, Quad partners intend to further operationalize the network through a second tabletop exercise to be hosted in Japan in 2026. These engagements will support the development of Standard Operating Procedures to facilitate multi-modal logistics coordination for civilian disaster response across the region.

Sources: Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong; U.S. Department of State; Australian Government, Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Marco Rubio visits Sweden and India

From May 22-26, Secretary of State Marco Rubio travelled to Sweden and India, accompanied by Under Secretary Hooker. The trip covered four cities in India, including Kolkata, Agra, Jaipur, and New Delhi, in addition to Helsingborg in Sweden. This was Rubio's first official visit to India since assuming office in January 2025, and his first visit to Sweden in his current capacity.

Visit to Sweden for the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting

On May 22, Secretary Rubio attended the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Helsingborg, the first NATO ministerial hosted by Sweden since its accession to the Alliance in 2024. Rubio discussed the need for increased defense investment and greater burden sharing within the Alliance.

Rubio met with counterparts from the Arctic Seven nations - Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. The ministers discussed shared economic and security interests in the

Arctic and strengthened posture in the High North. A Joint Statement on Arctic Security was issued by the Arctic Allies at the conclusion of the meeting.

Secretary Rubio met with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson in Helsingborg following the NATO ministerial. The two leaders agreed on the importance of increasing bilateral defense cooperation, including strengthening the transatlantic defense-industrial base.

Following the meeting, Secretary Rubio and Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard signed the US–Sweden Technology Prosperity Deal, which will enhance scientific and technical cooperation across artificial intelligence, biomedical research, quantum technologies, advanced manufacturing, space, and other critical fields.

Visit to India for Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting

Secretary Rubio arrived in India on May 23, beginning his visit in Kolkata, where he visited the Missionaries of Charity headquarters founded by Mother Teresa. He subsequently visited Agra and Jaipur, including Amber Fort. In New Delhi, Rubio attended a gala reception marking the 250th anniversary of the United States.

On May 23, Secretary Rubio called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Their discussions covered sustained progress in bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors, including defence, strategic technologies, trade and investment, energy security, connectivity, education, and people-to-people ties. Rubio described India as the “cornerstone” of Washington’s Indo-Pacific strategy, and on behalf of President Trump, conveyed a formal invitation for Prime Minister Modi to visit the White House.

On May 24, Rubio held bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar at Hyderabad House, New Delhi. The discussions encompassed defense, trade, and energy sectors.

- The two sides noted that the 10-year Major Defense Partnership Framework Agreement had recently been renewed. A Comprehensive Underwater Domain Awareness Roadmap was also signed. Both sides discussed the importance of the Make in India approach and lessons drawn from recent conflicts in the defense domain.
- The ministers discussed the value of concluding the final text of an interim agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade. Rubio expressed optimism that the two countries would finalise the bilateral trade deal in the near term. Jaishankar noted that Indian companies have invested over \$20 billion in the US economy.
- Jaishankar confirmed that India would continue expanding energy imports, including from the United States, while diversifying suppliers to maintain stable markets and affordable prices. He



stated that India wants energy markets to remain open and unconstrained to support global economic growth.

On May 26, Rubio participated in the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting, hosted by External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.

Narendra Modi on Facebook, “Happy to receive the US Secretary of State, Mr. Marco Rubio. We discussed sustained progress in the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and issues related to regional and global peace and security. India and the United States will continue to work closely for the global good.”

Sources: U.S. Embassy in India; U.S. Department of State¹; U.S. Department of State²; U.S. Department of State³; U.S. Department of State⁴

INDIA – NORDIC

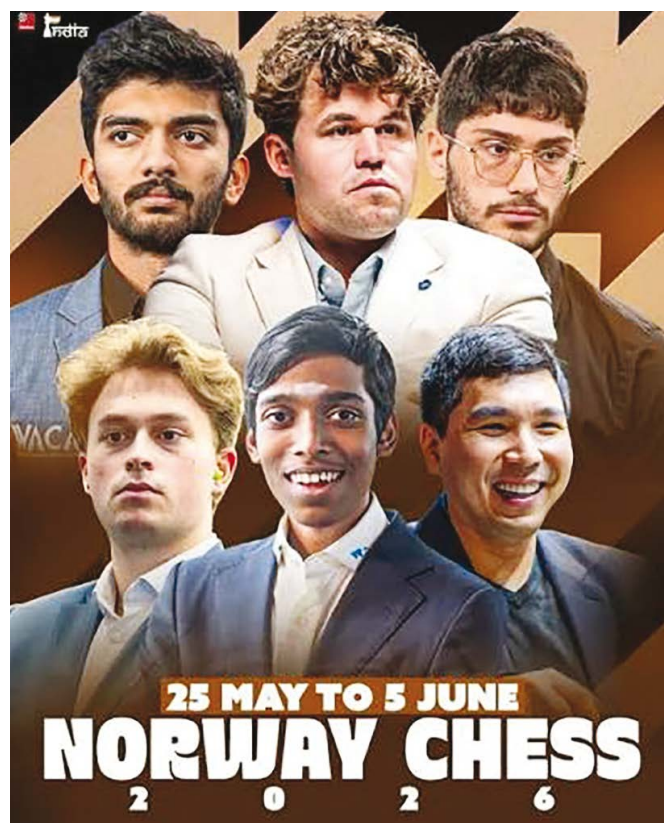
Shared Passion for Grand Strategy

The historic triumph of 20-year-old Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa at the 2026 Norway Chess tournament underscores a dynamic shift in India-Norway relations, where traditional diplomatic ties are increasingly energized by soft power and sporting excellence.

Praggnanandhaa’s monumental victory in Oslo, sealed by an incredible four-game winning streak that included defeating Norway’s own world number one, Magnus Carlsen, twice in classical chess, redefined the competitive landscape of global chess. By capturing the prestigious title on Norwegian soil against the host nation’s greatest sporting icon, Praggnanandhaa not only cemented India’s status as a rising superpower in modern chess but also created a deeply respected bridge of mutual admiration between the two countries.

This breakthrough highlights how intellectual, cultural, and athletic exchanges are becoming vital pillars of contemporary Indo-Nordic engagement, proving that a shared passion for grand strategy can foster profound mutual respect far beyond conventional trade and economic pacts.

Source: India Today



Source Image : Facebook : Chessbase India, February 21.



Source Image : Norway Chess



Tech co-development with Finland

The formal elevation of India-Finland relations to a "Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability" marks a significant milestone in Indo-Nordic diplomacy, transforming shared democratic values into a collaborative blueprint for high-tech economic growth. Driven by bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finnish President Alexander Stubb, this enhanced framework shifts the relationship beyond standard commerce into deep, institutional co-development.

Under newly established Joint Working Groups and a dedicated Joint Task Force on 6G, the two nations are integrating their innovation ecosystems to secure resilient technology supply chains and pioneer green transitions. Crucially, the partnership focuses on matching Finland's cutting-edge expertise in 6G networks, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence with India's massive tech talent pool and proven Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) frameworks.

Supported by the landmark India-EU Free Trade Agreement, this strategic pivot, further anchored by a comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement and a mutual commitment to double bilateral trade by 2030, firmly positions India and Finland as primary architects of a trusted, sustainable, and digitally advanced global order.

Source: DD News

India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership Delivers

The operational success of the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership exemplifies how international collaboration can transcend high-level diplomatic theory to deliver tangible environmental results. Built on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that "Denmark has the skills and India has the scale," this unique alliance addresses systemic ecological challenges by marrying Denmark's regulatory, efficiency-driven environmental expertise with India's massive implementation machinery.

A prime example of this partnership in action is its deep integration with India's landmark Jal Jeevan Mission, where Danish utility models, hydrogeological mapping, and advanced water-quality monitoring are helping shift rural water management from a focus on merely building infrastructure to sustaining services long-term.

By deploying targeted grass-roots support via UN-OPS and empowering local communities through participatory initiatives like Community-Led Action for Sanitary Surveillance (CLASS), the collaboration has directly improved service reliability for nearly 4 million families. Amplified by recent milestone initiatives like the establishment of the Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) in Varanasi, the India-Denmark framework proves that combining global technological insight with localized, community-owned governance is the definitive path to achieving lasting climate resilience and sustainable development.

Source: NDTV

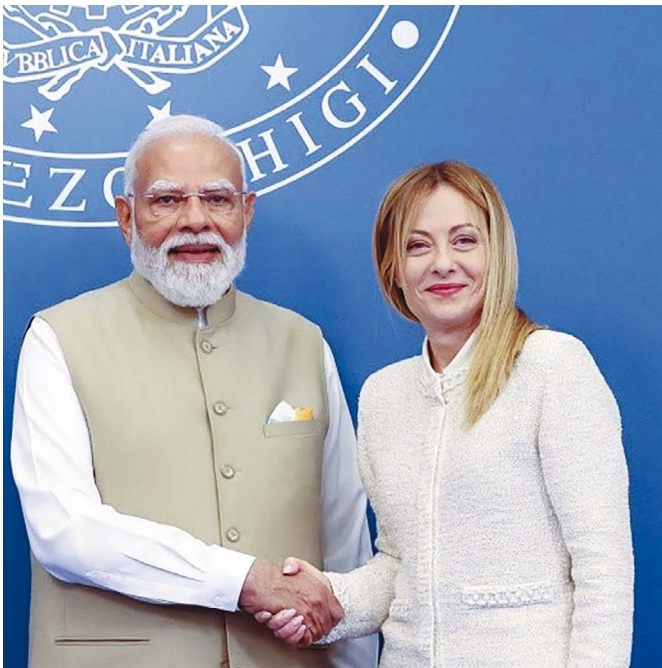
INDIA-EU

India, Italy Announce Special Strategic Partnership

Elevating their bilateral ties to a "special strategic partnership", India and Italy set a trade target of 20 billion euros by 2029, agreed on a defence industrial roadmap, and concluded pacts on critical minerals, countering money laundering and terror financing.

These decisions were taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome. Italy was the final stop on Modi's six-day tour of Europe which took him to Norway for the India-Nordic summit and on bilateral visits to Sweden and the Netherlands.

They welcomed the increase of bilateral investments in key sectors and encouraged the respective indus-



tries to forge industrial and technology partnerships in order to build resilient supply chains. They welcomed the prospect of greater investments, particularly in textiles, clean technologies, semiconductors, automotive, energy, tourism, pharmaceuticals and medical technologies, digital technologies, critical raw materials, steel, ports and infrastructure. They encouraged industries to utilize the policy incentives and schemes in place in both countries which seek to enhance business linkages and production facilities.

Both leaders agreed to launch a Dialogue on Maritime Security, with the aim of increasing maritime security cooperation, coordination, and the exchange

of information and best practices in the maritime domain.

The two leaders strongly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. The two leaders strongly condemned the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack and reiterated their commitment to cooperate in the fight against terrorists and terrorist groups and their affiliates including those listed in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions regime. They called upon all countries to continue to work towards eliminating terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and combating the financing of terrorism, consistent with the Financial Action Task Force's guidelines. Both leaders reiterated their commitment to work together at the UN, FATF and other multilateral platforms.

Both leaders welcomed the first meeting of the Permanent Task Force between India and Italy on countering the financing of terrorism and the upcoming meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

They also reaffirmed their support for strengthening the India–EU Trade and Technology Council as a key platform for cooperation in trade, critical technologies, and economic security. The leaders welcomed the India–EU Security and Defence Partnership and appreciated progress in mobility cooperation, including the MoU on a Comprehensive Framework for Mobility.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

India and Netherlands Elevate Ties to Strategic Partnership

India and the Netherlands agreed to elevate their bilateral relationship to the level of a strategic partnership following wide-ranging discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten in The Hague. During the talks, the two leaders reviewed cooperation across sectors



including trade, defence, technology, water management, clean energy, healthcare and education.

everal agreements were also signed to deepen collaboration in priority areas. Announcing the elevation of ties to a strategic partnership, PM Modi said India-Netherlands ties had witnessed “significant progress” over the last decade and described the Netherlands as one of India’s key European partners. He said the relationship between the two countries is rooted in shared democratic values, strong economic cooperation and deep people-to-people connections.

Highlighting cooperation in sectors such as water management, healthcare and education, Mr Modi said, democratic values, market economy and responsible behavior are part of our common approach. Calling for greater collaboration in emerging sectors, PM Modi said, India and the Netherlands should combine Dutch expertise with India’s speed and skill to expand cooperation in innovation, sustainability, investment and defence.

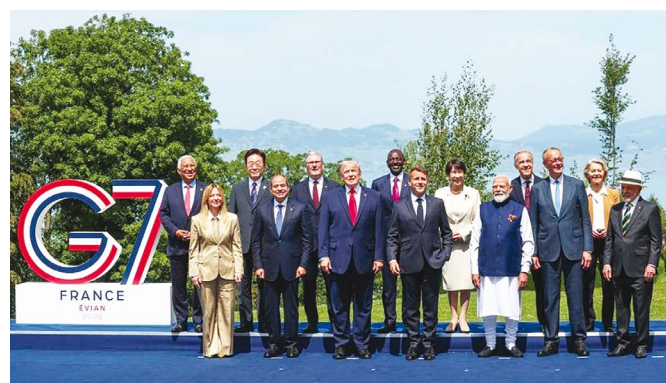
Prime Minister said, the two countries need to take our cooperation in areas of innovation, investment, sustainability and defence to new heights. Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten also stressed the growing importance of relations with India and backed stronger cooperation in economic and strategic sectors.

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

INDIA-GLOBAL

India at G7

At the 52nd G7 Summit held in Évian-les-Bains, France, Prime Minister Narendra Modi positioned India as an indispensable global bridge, leveraging the high-level outreach session to champion the strategic priorities of the Global South and directly address the growing "global trust deficit." Modi advocated for a fundamental shift away from traditional, transactional "donor-recipient" models, urging world leaders to embrace equity-based international partnerships rooted in mutual respect and shared prosperity.



On the sidelines of the summit, India’s expanding strategic and economic weight was further amplified through targeted bilateral diplomacy. Prime Minister Modi engaged in high-level meetings, including with U.S. President Donald Trump to advance bilateral trade and critical tech cooperation under the newly established India-US COMPACT framework.

Additionally, conversations were held with the leaders of the United Kingdom and Canada to accelerate comprehensive economic and security agreements. By blending high-level industrial integration with strong advocacy for developing nations, the summit successfully underscored that no major resolution on global trade, technology supply chains, or regional stability can be effectively shaped without New Delhi at the table.

Source: rivieraradio

India launches FCRA 2.0 Portal, e-OCI Card

- FCRA 2.0 Portal & e-OCI Card initiatives will enhance convenience for citizens, launch of e-OCI Card will benefit more than 50 lakh OCI cardholders
- Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is working on the principle of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'
- When the intention is pure, policy is clear, and there is a mindset to embrace technology, then governance becomes easy for honest people and strict on wrongdoers
- FCRA 2.0 Portal will reduce paperwork, speed up processing of applications, and ensure effective real-time monitoring of foreign contributions

Source: PIB

World leaders congratulate Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected PM

In June, world leaders greeted Narendra Modi on becoming India's longest-serving elected prime minister, praising his leadership and dedication to public service. Narendra Modi reached the milestone of becoming India's longest-serving prime minister on June 10, with an unbroken tenure of 4,399 days in office, surpassing the record of the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen led the institutional greetings, noting that under his leadership India has "landed on the moon and is shooting for the stars," while thanking him for his sustained efforts to strengthen India-EU cooperation.

The milestone prompted numerous congratulatory messages emphasizing deepened bilateral strategic goals. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson conveyed his greetings through social media to Modi for completion of 12 years in office and distinction of the longest uninterrupted service as democratically elected PM of India. He also mentioned that the In-

dia-Sweden Strategic Partnership in Gothenburg in early May built a true milestone in the history of two countries.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni re-emphasized the newly launched Special Strategic Partnership between the two nations, noting it "looks to the future to create new opportunities for our Nations and our peoples." Similarly, French President Emmanuel Macron commended the historic milestone, stating it reflects determined action, leadership, and the fundamental strengths of India. Across the region, leaders including Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, Finland President Alexander Stubb, and the Austrian and Greek heads of government reiterated their institutional commitments to expansion. These high-level acknowledgments underscore how Europe views India's political stability and dynamic growth as a cornerstone for building long-term, trusted global partnerships.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison congratulated PM Modi and praised him for transforming India's economy while Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, praised Modi for his years of dedicated public service and leadership in advancing India's development. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of Nigeria, said that the achievement reflects the enduring confidence and trust the people of India have reposed in Modi's leadership over three consecutive mandates. President of the Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih called the achievement a "historic milestone that reflects the enduring trust and confidence the people of India have placed in Prime Minister Modi." William Samoei Ruto, President of Kenya, also praised Modi on attaining the historic milestone in public service.

Earlier, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea James Marape and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar also congratulated PM Modi.



EDITOR'S NOTE

The events covered in this edition of the newsletter mark a new milestone in India–Sweden relations with the establishment of a Strategic Partnership, paving the way for stronger cooperation in innovation, sustainability, trade and global development.

The India–Sweden relationship entered a new phase following the Gothenburg Summit, where Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Ulf Kristersson elevated bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership. This marked a significant upgrade from the long-standing innovation-led partnership, reflecting growing convergence on economic resilience, technology, sustainability, and global governance. The accompanying India–Sweden Joint Action Plan (2026–2030) provides a structured roadmap for cooperation in defence and security, clean energy, digital technologies, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, research, education, and resilient supply chains.

Economic and technological collaboration has emerged as the cornerstone of the partnership. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to expanding trade and investment, leveraging the recently concluded India–EU Free Trade Agreement, and fostering joint innovation in artificial intelligence,

green transition technologies, life sciences, and smart manufacturing. Sweden also reiterated its support for India's permanent membership in a reformed UN Security Council, underscoring stronger strategic alignment on multilateral issues.

The momentum generated in Gothenburg was reinforced at the Third India–Nordic Summit in Oslo, where India and the Nordic countries elevated their engagement to a Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership. The summit broadened cooperation in renewable energy, 6G, digital public infrastructure, maritime security, Arctic research, blue economy initiatives, talent mobility, and resilient supply chains. As Sweden is among the Nordic region's leading innovation economies, these regional initiatives complement and deepen its bilateral agenda with India.

Overall, the May 2026 summits transformed India–Sweden ties from a primarily innovation-driven partnership into a comprehensive strategic relationship. The partnership is now well positioned to contribute to both countries' economic competitiveness, sustainability goals, and shared commitment to a stable, rules-based international order.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed here are as published in the original sources and not of the ISDP or the SCSA-IPA.

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The Institute for Security and Development Policy is a Stockholm-based independent and non-profit research and policy institute. The Institute is dedicated to expanding understanding of international affairs, particularly the interrelationship between the issue areas of conflict, security and development. The Institute's primary areas of geographic focus are Asia and Europe's neighborhood.

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