

India and Norway S&T Cooperation: The Future Ahead

Sneha Sinha, Consultant



The Seventh Meeting of the India–Norway Joint Working Group on Science and Technology was held in Oslo during 6-9 October 2025. During the visit, the Indian delegation held discussions with representatives from the Research Council of Norway, the University of Oslo, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, and the Arctic Council. The deliberations with researchers, academicians, students, and domain experts focused on identifying and developing new opportunities for bilateral collaboration in science, technology, and innovation. Both countries underlined the significance of promoting mobility among students and researchers and of further strengthening institutional, academic and research linkages between India and Norway.

India and Norway share a longstanding bilateral relationship rooted in shared democratic values, mutual economic interests, and complementary geopolitical priorities. In 2006, the Agreement on Cooperation in Science & Technology was signed between the two countries. Over time, the collaboration has diversified and expanded across sectors including trade, energy, environment, and increasingly, science and technology (S&T) along with space, Arctic, blue economy, health, higher education and research. The growing emphasis on S&T cooperation between the two countries signals recognition of the transformative potential of innovation in addressing global challenges, including climate change, sustainable development, and emerging technologies. There have been several joint research projects which focus on areas such as climate research, glaciology, water-resource management, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, freshwater biodiversity, renewable energy, etc.

Norway's 'Panorama' strategy for 2021–2027 outlines Norway's approach to bilateral cooperation in research and higher education with key countries outside the European Union. The inclusion of India in the Panorama strategy as a priority partner reflects a recognition of its growing scientific capabilities and the potential for future collaboration between the two nations. Complementing this, the Norway–India 2030 bilateral strategy highlights the Blue Economy as a key area of cooperation, emphasizing sustainable ocean management, marine resource utilization, and marine-litter reduction. Subsequently, the two countries established a Memorandum of Understanding on Ocean Dialogue and a Task Force on Blue Economy focusing on joint initiatives in marine pollution management, sustainable fisheries, ocean research, and offshore renewable energy. This framework reflects a shared commitment to leveraging scientific and technological collaboration to advance sustainable ocean governance. The Arctic constitutes a significant aspect of India–Norway S&T cooperation, with India holding observer status at the Arctic Council and bilateral

collaboration extending into glaciology, atmospheric sciences, and polar research within Norwegian territories.

Norway's strengths in Arctic research, marine and environmental sciences, renewable energy technologies, and digital innovation align with India's strategic focus on sustainable development, clean energy, and digital transformation. India's Himadri Arctic research station in Norway and existing institutional collaborations such as with the Research Council of Norway and leading universities provide a foundation for joint scientific endeavors in future. India–Norway science and technology cooperation present significant opportunities to address pressing global challenges through collaborative innovation. In light of the global challenges and complementary scientific strengths of both countries, some of the priority sectors for cooperation include Arctic and climate science, renewable energy and clean technologies, marine and ocean sciences, digital innovation and artificial intelligence, biotechnology and health, and sustainable urban development, etc. Focusing on these areas will allow India and Norway to effectively harness their respective capabilities while jointly advancing sustainable development objectives on a global scale.