

Boosting Norway-India ties

EFTA pact has helped fuel bilateral trade

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What connects Norwegian salmon on a dining table in Delhi to a shipyard more than 2,000 kilometres away in Kochi? Or a sludge-to-biogas project in Mumbai to cutting-edge medtech improving healthcare in Bengaluru?

They are all part of the growing and diverse Norway-India partnership, made stronger by the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) that came into force on October 1, 2025.

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

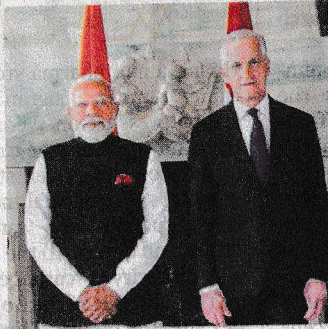
As we mark the first anniversary of this landmark agreement, we have encouraging numbers to celebrate: bilateral goods trade between India and Norway grew by 9 per cent, and Norwegian exports to India grew by 34 per cent in the first nine months of TEPA. But TEPA is about more than trade and tariffs. It is about bringing companies and people together who are working towards a shared, sustainable economic future.

TEPA is the first trade agreement signed by India to incorporate investments and job creation targets. Under the agreement, the EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) will promote \$100 billion in investments into India over the next 15 years, with the ambition of creating one million jobs.

Around 160 Norwegian companies are doing business in India, and what I am hearing from them is that they see India as a partner for long-term growth. Norway's strengths lie in sectors that are becoming increasingly central to India's development journey.

We offer expertise in maritime industries, renewable energy, sustainable ocean technologies, medtech and circular economy solutions. India brings scale, manufacturing capacity, entrepreneurial energy, talent and an enormous innovation ecosystem.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Oslo in May this year, both nations advanced bilateral relations to a Green Strategic Partnership. We are already seeing growing collaboration in renewable energy, low-carbon technologies, energy efficiency and energy storage technologies. The Green Strategic Partnership gives political direction to this cooperation, and TEPA provides



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP.

On a strong footing

an economic framework through which businesses can help deliver it.

The maritime sector offers another example. Norway's maritime heritage and India's ambitions to expand port infrastructure, strengthen shipbuilding and enhance coastal shipping, make this sector a natural area of cooperation for the two ocean nations. About 10 per cent of the current orders by Norwegian shipowners are placed at Indian shipyards.

Behind these figures are engineers, shipbuilders and technology specialists working together across both countries. With TEPA, it has become easier for Norwegian companies to bring technology and expertise to India, from green shipping and maritime equipment to digital port solutions and offshore technologies.

BLUE ECONOMY

The Blue Economy more broadly represents an area of enormous potential. Norwegian seafood exports to India have, in the past, faced significant tariff barriers. TEPA changed this and the result has been quick and promising. Tariffs for frozen whole Norwegian salmon, for example, dropped to zero from the agreement's entry into force, while several other seafood categories are seeing tariffs phased down over time. The value of Norway's seafood exports to India grew 53 per cent between October 2025 and June 2026, compared to the same period a year earlier.

One year is too short a time frame to judge a trade agreement by the number of investments or jobs generated, but not too soon to see if businesses are responding. Norwegian companies are exploring new partnerships and collaborations are expanding. The real measure of TEPA will be how we build on this momentum in the years to come.

The writer is Norwegian Ambassador to India