

Modi discusses digitalisation, clean energy, trade with Nordic leaders

TRADE TALKS. PM hopeful that India-EFTA pact will boost trade and investment linkages with Europe

Press Trust of India
Oslo

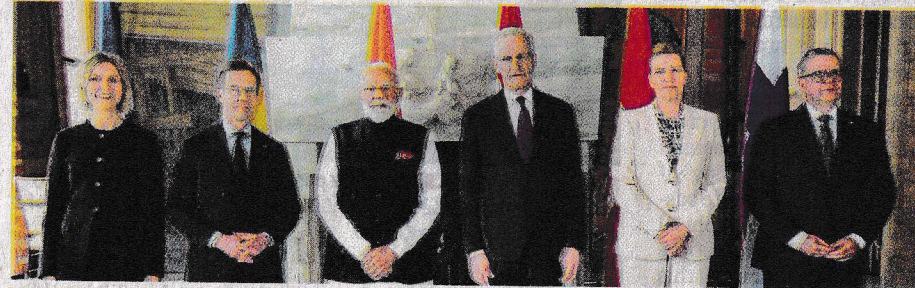
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral ties in areas such as clean energy, trade, sustainability and digitalisation during separate meetings with his counterparts from Iceland, Finland and Denmark.

The Prime Minister held the meetings ahead of the 3rd India-Nordic Summit.

During his talks with Iceland Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir, Finland Prime Minister Petteri Orpo and Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, PM Modi discussed the overall trajectory of bilateral relations between India and the three Nordic nations.

ICELAND TALKS

"Had a wonderful meeting with Prime Minister Kristrun Frostadottir of Iceland. India deeply values the friendship with Iceland," Modi said in a social media



SCANDANAVIAN SUPPORT. Prime Minister Narendra Modi with (from left) Iceland PM Kristrun Frostadottir, Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson, Norway PM Jonas Gahr Støre, Denmark PM Mette Frederiksen and Finnish PM Petteri Orp during the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo on Tuesday

post after the meeting with the Icelandic premier.

He said the two sides discussed ways to improve ties in areas such as clean energy, fisheries, sustainability, geothermal energy and carbon capture and storage.

"Iceland's prowess in sectors relating to the Blue Economy is admirable. We are hopeful that the historic India-EFTA TEPA will give an impetus to trade and investment linkages as well," Modi said.

The bilateral economic partnership received a boost

after the signing of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in New Delhi in March 2024. Iceland is one of the four EFTA members, along with Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

According to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, the discussions held on the sidelines of the 3rd India-Nordic Summit in Oslo between Modi and Frostadottir also covered re-

newable energy, innovation, digital technologies, creative economy, Arctic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

FINLAND TIES

In a separate meeting with Finnish Prime Minister Orpo, Modi discussed enhancing cooperation in trade and investment, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, 5G and 6G, quantum technologies, sustainability, renewable energy and circular economy. The two leaders "underlined the importance

of the early entry into force of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement" and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, Jaiswal said.

DENMARK TALKS

The prime minister also held a "fruitful" meeting with his Danish counterpart. "The India-Denmark friendship has been making remarkable progress over the recent years," Modi said in a separate post on X.

"The coming years can see similar synergy in fintech, industries, defence, innovation and more. Invited Danish pension funds to expand their investments in India. We are very confident that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement will have a major impact on both our economies," Modi said.

The Nordic region comprises Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The previous summits were held in Stockholm in 2018 and Copenhagen in 2022.