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NORDIC INDIA DIALOGUE



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Executive Summary

India-Nordic cooperation in the technology space is becoming increasingly strategically relevant in a fragmented global technology landscape shaped by US-China competition, supply chain restructuring, and growing emphasis on trusted digital and industrial systems.

The Third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo (2026) marked a step-change in the relationship, elevating ties to a Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership, with expanded cooperation in digital technologies, green transition, research and innovation, and talent mobility, and further reinforced by the India-EFTA TEPA[1] and the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (EU FTA).

The strongest opportunities for cooperation lie in digital infrastructure and next-generation connectivity (including 6G), artificial intelligence (AI), green technologies and energy transition, talent and research collaboration, and selected areas of pharmaceuticals and defence-related technologies.

Despite strong complementarities, cooperation is constrained by regulatory divergence, differences in industrial policy and localisation approaches, data governance frameworks, fragmented technology landscape, intellectual property concerns, and limited knowledge of one another.

Addressing these challenges requires stronger institutional mechanisms, improved knowledge exchange, and more structured cooperation frameworks, including long-term platforms for investment, innovation, talent mobility, and technology collaboration between India and the Nordic region.

1. European Free Trade Association (EFTA), is an intergovernmental trade organisation made up of four countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) officially entered into force on 1 October 2025, marking India's first free trade pact with four developed European nations.

Introduction

India-Nordic technology cooperation is entering a new phase. At the third India-Nordic Summit in Oslo in May 2026, leaders agreed to elevate the relationship to a Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership (PIB, 2026b) reflecting a growing ambition to deepen cooperation in areas such as digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence (AI), telecommunication and connectivity, green technologies, research, innovation, and talent mobility. The decision highlights the increasing strategic importance of the relationship at a time of rapid technological transformation and growing geopolitical uncertainty.

The broader international environment is characterised by intensifying competition over critical technologies, increasing concerns about supply chain resilience, and growing fragmentation across technology landscapes. As governments seek to reduce strategic dependencies and diversify technology partnerships, cooperation between India and the Nordic countries has gained greater significance. India is pursuing technological modernisation while maintaining strategic autonomy, whereas the Nordic countries possess advanced technological capabilities but depend on international partnerships to scale innovation and sustain competitiveness.

The relationship is characterised by strong complementarities. India offers scale, talent, manufacturing capacity, and a rapidly expanding digital economy, while the Nordic countries contribute specialised technologies, industrial expertise, innovation capabilities, and trusted infrastructure systems. These complementary strengths create opportunities for deeper cooperation across a range of strategic sectors. However, deeper cooperation will need to navigate regulatory differences, evolving technology governance frameworks, and broader geopolitical uncertainties.

This policy brief draws on discussions conducted within the India-Nordic Dialogue Working Group and interviews with participating experts, industry representatives, and stakeholders. It analyses the geopolitical drivers shaping Nordic–India technology cooperation, identifies key opportunities and constraints, and presents recommendations for strengthening long-term cooperation.

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Geopolitical Drivers Shaping Nordic-India Technology Cooperation

The Oslo Summit signals a growing convergence between technology cooperation and geopolitical positioning in India-Nordic relations. As global technology competition intensifies and economic security concerns become more prominent, cooperation across the technology stack in areas such as digital infrastructure and green technologies is increasingly shaped by strategic considerations. For India, this aligns with a broader external orientation centred on technological upgrading and green industrial transformation where engagement with a number of advanced economies is prioritised. The Nordic region occupies a distinct position in this context as a trusted and selectively prioritised partner.

The international technology landscape is undergoing significant transformation. Intensifying competition between the United States (US) and China is reshaping global technology governance, supply chains, and industrial policy. Technologies such as AI, semiconductors, telecommunications, quantum computing, and digital infrastructure are increasingly viewed not only as drivers of economic growth but also as critical components of national security, economic resilience, and geopolitical influence. As a result, governments are placing greater emphasis on reducing strategic vulnerabilities, securing critical technologies, and strengthening cooperation with trusted partners.

A key consequence of this rivalry is the growing fragmentation of the global technology environment. As the US and China seek to build their own technology stacks, they are increasingly pushing other countries to choose a side. Governments and firms are therefore increasingly confronted with competing technological systems, regulatory frameworks, and standards. At the same time, concerns over trusted infrastructure, digital sovereignty, and strategic dependencies have become more prominent. Efforts by major powers to strengthen technological self-reliance and leadership are also making international technology cooperation more politically sensitive and complex.

The increasing importance of scale further shapes this evolving landscape. Technologies such as AI depend on large volumes of data, significant investment, and extensive user bases. China has developed a highly integrated and large-scale technology stack that combines connectivity infrastructure, data access, manufacturing capabilities, and deployment across multiple sectors thus strengthening its global position. While Europe, the US, and India each possess significant technological strengths, they operate within more fragmented environments and are therefore unable to individually match China's level of scale and system-wide integration. Although India is emerging as a major technology power, it has not yet reached the same degree of integration.

India's approach to this environment is shaped by its longstanding commitment to strategic autonomy. Rather than aligning closely with any single geopolitical bloc, India seeks to strengthen domestic technological capabilities while maintaining diversified partnerships across regions. This approach reflects India's broader effort to balance technological openness with national resilience and economic development objectives. As India continues to expand its role within global technology and manufacturing value chains, cooperation with a wider range of partners has become increasingly important for supporting innovation, industrial upgrading, and long-term growth.

The Nordic countries bring a complementary set of strengths to this evolving technology landscape. The region possesses advanced technological and industrial capabilities in areas such as telecommunications, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, clean technologies, and industrial innovation. However, relatively small domestic markets make international engagement essential for scaling innovation and maintaining competitiveness. Deeper engagement with large and rapidly growing technology markets such as India therefore represents both an economic opportunity and a strategic necessity.

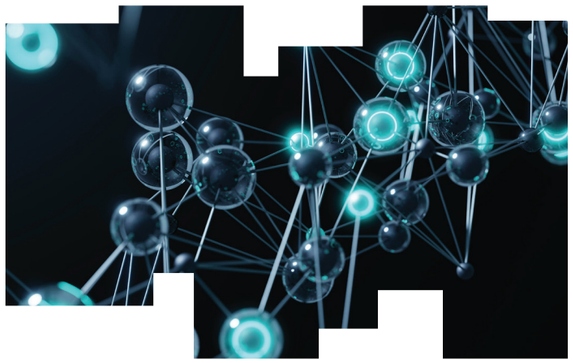
Shared concerns regarding technological dependencies further strengthen the basis for cooperation. Both India and the Nordic countries are seeking to diversify supply chains, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerabilities in critical sectors. India is increasingly viewed as one of the few countries capable of offering an alternative large-scale technology and manufacturing environment outside China. For Nordic governments and companies seeking to diversify partnerships while retaining access to scale, talent, and long-term growth opportunities, India has become an increasingly attractive partner.

Opportunities for India-Nordic Technology Cooperation

Opportunities for deeper India-Nordic technology cooperation are emerging across a range of sectors. These are shaped by the complementarity between India's scale, talent base, and industrial growth, and the Nordic countries' strengths in advanced technology, research, and innovation. The main opportunities lie in areas where technological development, economic resilience, and shared interests overlap.

Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure

Digital infrastructure and telecommunications remain the most advanced and strategically important area of this technology cooperation. Nordic firms such as Ericsson and Nokia are already deeply embedded in India's telecommunications sector and play a central role in the deployment and operation of 5G networks. This provides a strong foundation for future collaboration as attention increasingly shifts towards the development of next-generation communications technologies.



A particularly important opportunity lies in cooperation on 6G research, development, and standard-setting. As future digital economies become increasingly dependent on advanced connectivity, participation in the early stages of standard development will be critical for shaping global technology architectures and ensuring interoperability between systems. Early engagement in 6G development and standard-setting could allow Nordic and Indian stakeholders to shape future global standards, strengthen interoperability, and ensure that emerging communications systems are built on principles of trust, openness, security, and resilience. Cooperation in this area also aligns closely with broader efforts to strengthen trusted technology infrastructures and reduce strategic vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure.

Beyond connectivity, digital infrastructure is becoming increasingly important as the foundation for industrial digitalisation, smart manufacturing, public services, mission-critical services such as first responders or defence, and emerging technologies. This creates opportunities for cooperation on the development and deployment of digital systems, particularly as both sides seek to build secure, inclusive, and scalable digital ecosystems.

Moreover, India's internationally recognised Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including digital identity, payments, and digital public service platforms, offers an important basis for mutual learning. India's experience in deploying these systems at population scale can complement Nordic expertise in trusted digital governance, cyber security, and public digital services. Cooperation in this area would therefore build on the complementary strengths of both sides while creating opportunities for each to learn from the other.

Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technologies

Artificial Intelligence represents one of the most promising areas for future cooperation. India's large-scale digital landscape provides extensive opportunities for deployment, testing, and application development, while the Nordic countries contribute advanced research capabilities, strong innovation environments, and experience in responsible technology governance. As AI development increasingly relies on computing infrastructure, there is also scope for cooperation on sustainable and trusted digital infrastructure, including green data centres and renewable-powered computing.

The complementarities extend beyond technological development to questions of AI governance, trusted computing infrastructure, and responsible deployment. Both India and the Nordic countries have expressed growing interest in ensuring that AI systems are secure, transparent, and beneficial to society (Government Offices of Sweden, 2026). This creates scope for dialogue and knowledge exchange on governance frameworks, standards, and approaches to trustworthy AI, alongside collaboration on technological development and applications.

Quantum technologies represent a long-term but strategically significant area of cooperation. While still at an early stage of development, growing investments in quantum computing, communications, and sensing technologies create opportunities for research collaboration, talent exchange, and joint innovation initiatives.

Green Technologies and the Energy Transition

Green technologies and sustainable development remain central pillars of India-Nordic cooperation. The decision to establish a Trusted Green Technology and Innovation Strategic Partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing sustainable growth while addressing climate and energy security challenges.



The Nordic countries possess internationally recognised expertise in renewable energy integration, smart grids, energy storage, green hydrogen, circular economy solutions, sustainable urban development, and maritime decarbonisation. India's ambitious energy transition, industrial expansion, and infrastructure development create significant demand for these technologies. Opportunities therefore exist across a wide range of sectors, including renewable energy deployment, green hydrogen production, battery recycling, sustainable mobility, smart cities, and water management.

Moreover, the new strategic partnership highlighted opportunities for country-specific cooperation. Iceland's expertise in geothermal energy and fisheries, Norway's capabilities in the blue economy and Arctic cooperation, and broader Nordic strengths in maritime sustainability and industrial innovation create additional avenues for collaboration (PIB, 2026b). In addition, Denmark's position as one of the world's leading maritime nations (MFA of Denmark, n.d.a) and its ambition to develop alternative fuels (MFA of Denmark, n.d.b) adds yet another area of Nordic expertise that could complement India's growing maritime sector and green transition.

The blue economy, in particular, offers strong potential for India-Nordic cooperation beyond fisheries to areas such as marine technology, sustainable aquaculture, ocean observation, marine biotechnology, maritime decarbonisation, and the development and deployment of alternative maritime fuels. These areas are closely aligned with India's expanding maritime sector and broader efforts to develop green and resilient infrastructure (Ali, 2026). Nordic expertise in these fields could complement India's scale, industrial capabilities, and growing demand for sustainable maritime solutions. Successful cooperation in these sectors would support climate objectives while generating economic growth, innovation, and employment opportunities.

Talent, Research, and Innovation

Talent mobility and research collaboration represent some of the most important long-term opportunities within the partnership. While technology cooperation is often discussed in terms of infrastructure and investment, human capital remains a critical enabler of innovation and competitiveness.

India has one of the world's largest science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) talent bases. The Nordic countries have strong universities, research institutions, and innovation ecosystems, with specific strength in advanced technologies, sustainability, and industrial research but continue to face skills shortage in several advanced technology sectors. This creates opportunities for cooperation that connects India's talent base with Nordic research and industry needs, strengthening skills development, research collaboration, and innovation capacity on both sides.

As technological competition increasingly depends on innovation capacity and human capital, talent and research cooperation should be viewed as a strategic pillar of the broader relationship rather than simply an educational issue.

Pharmaceuticals and Health Technologies

The pharmaceutical sector presents opportunities for deeper cooperation driven by structural changes in the industry at the global level. India's strength is in generic medicines and standard pharmaceutical production but is less advanced in more technology- and research-intensive segments of the sector. At the same time, China is rapidly expanding in high-end pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals and is becoming a leading player in these segments due to its scale and investment capacity. This is increasing competitive pressure across the global pharmaceutical landscape.

Nordic countries, in turn, have strong capabilities in research and innovation in the healthcare and life sciences sector. Thus, there is growing scope to strengthen cooperation in more innovation-oriented areas of pharmaceutical development where Nordic expertise and Indian scale can be mutually reinforcing. As competition intensifies within advanced pharmaceutical technologies, there is growing scope for collaboration in biotechnology, health technologies, pharmaceutical research, clinical innovation, and advanced manufacturing processes. Cooperation could support innovation, strengthen resilience in healthcare supply chains, and contribute to the development of higher-value pharmaceutical industries. However, differences in IP legislation and enforcement may present challenges to deeper cooperation in some areas of pharmaceutical development.

Defence and Dual-use Technologies

Defence and dual-use technologies represent an emerging area of cooperation with growing strategic relevance. Nordic countries have capabilities in specialised components and subsystems, particularly in areas such as sensors, integrated sensing and communication (ISAC) technology, electronics, maritime technologies, mission-critical communication systems, and selected defence-related systems. India, meanwhile, continues to expand domestic defence production and seeks to strengthen domestic technological capabilities.

Opportunities lie primarily in collaboration on subsystems, specialised technologies, and innovation partnerships. Related areas such as cyber security, critical infrastructure protection, and the resilience of digital systems also offer further potential for cooperation, contributing to both security and industrial objectives.

Trade Agreements as Enablers of Cooperation

Recent trade and economic developments provide a more favourable environment for deeper cooperation. The enforcement of the India-EFTA TEPA (EFTA, 2025) and the conclusion of the India-EU FTA (European Commission, 2026) are likely to facilitate greater trade, investment, and technology exchange between India and Europe, including the Nordic region.

Beyond improving market access, these agreements have the potential to facilitate technology partnerships, encourage investment flows, support supply-chain diversification, and improve market access for firms operating across both regions. Increased investment flows can support technology transfer, industrial collaboration, and the development of new innovation systems. They may also contribute to greater economic resilience by creating new opportunities for cooperation in strategic sectors and reducing dependence on concentrated value chains. The investment commitments associated with TEPA may further encourage Nordic firms and investors to expand their engagement with India's technology sectors

Start-ups and innovation ecosystems represent a particularly dynamic area of collaboration. India has developed one of the world's largest start-up landscapes (PIB, 2026a), while the Nordic region consistently ranks among the world's most innovative regions (WIPO, 2025). Cooperation between start-ups, venture capital ecosystems, research institutes, and large enterprises already plays a role in connecting the two regions with potential to support the entry of new technologies into markets and facilitate market access for innovative firms on both sides.

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Despite strong complementarities and growing political support for cooperation, India-Nordic technology partnership continues to face a number of structural, regulatory, and geopolitical challenges. These do not prevent collaboration but they influence how partnerships are developed, the level of trust between stakeholders, and the extent to which cooperation can scale over time. Addressing these constraints is essential if the partnership is to translate into long-term outcomes.

Regulatory Divergence and Industrial Policy

One of the most significant challenges stems from differences in regulatory approach and industrial policy priorities. India places considerable emphasis on localisation, domestic value creation, and strengthening domestic technological capabilities. These objectives are closely linked to broader goals of economic development and technological self-reliance. The Nordic countries, by contrast, operate within highly internationalised production networks and are embedded within the European Union's (EU) regulatory framework. Their firms typically rely on globally integrated supply chains, cross-border research collaboration, and open technology systems. These differing approaches can create uncertainty for companies operating across both regions, particularly in sectors such as telecommunications, digital infrastructure, cloud services, and advanced manufacturing.

The challenge is particularly visible in technologies such as 5G, emerging 6G systems, and advanced digital infrastructure, where global supply chains and international standards remain critical. Localisation requirements may require firms to adapt production strategies specifically for the Indian market, increasing costs and operational complexity.

Moreover, trusted connectivity has become a central concept in digital policy and security policy. It refers to secure and resilient digital networks on which a country can fully rely, supported by autonomous actors and suppliers that free from external state influence or undue control capable of creating national security vulnerabilities or strategic dependencies. However, this is applied through different regulatory approaches in different regions. India's model is based on identifying and working with trusted suppliers without formally designating other actors as not being trustworthy or excluding them through broad restrictions. This flexible approach has helped to support and strengthen the position of firms such as Ericsson and Nokia in India's telecommunications networks where they are widely recognised as trusted partners. At the same time, it has allowed India to maintain relations with other international providers and avoid a highly divided technology environment. The EU applies a risk-based approach through tools, such as the

5G Toolbox (European Commission, 2020), which provides a coordinated framework for Member States to assess and mitigate risks from high-risk suppliers in critical parts of 5G networks. While this approach is widely used across Europe, it has not been uniformly implemented across the Nordic countries. This creates differences within the Nordic region itself and can make coordination more difficult for external actors. However, the EU is currently addressing the issue of fragmented implementation through the Cybersecurity Act 2, which is under discussion (Legislative Observatory, 2026).

Data Governance and Digital Regulation

Differences in the approach to data governance present another important challenge. India has increasingly emphasised sovereign control over data and greater domestic management of sensitive information, particularly in sectors linked to digital infrastructure and strategic technologies. European frameworks, most notably the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), take a different approach by facilitating cross-border data flow under regulated conditions.

While both approaches seek to balance innovation, security, and privacy, differences in implementation can create compliance challenges for firms operating across jurisdictions. This is particularly relevant for sectors such as cloud services, AI, telecommunications, and digital infrastructure where data flow is inherently transnational. As cooperation in digital technologies expands, greater regulatory dialogue and interoperability will become increasingly important.

Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer

Intellectual property (IP) protection is closely linked to trust in technology cooperation and influences how foreign firms engage with the Indian market. A recurring perception among external partners is that IP protection in India is less robust than in some advanced economies which can affect decisions on the timing, scope, and depth of technology engagement.

In technology-intensive industries, this often translates into more cautious engagement strategies: firms may delay the introduction of their most advanced technologies, rely on earlier-generation offerings, or limit the extent of knowledge sharing in joint development and research partnerships. This is particularly true in the pharmaceutical sector where India's IP legislation and enforcement practices still favour generic producers and public access over protection of innovative solutions. Legal certainty in commercial arrangements, particularly in subcontracting and co-development, further shapes willingness to share sensitive information as enforcement and dispute resolution frameworks are central to managing risk. In addition, administrative requirements linked to patenting can add procedural complexity in cross-border innovation projects. Taken together, these factors do not prevent cooperation but they do influence how it is structured, particularly with regard to knowledge sharing, licensing, and joint development.

Furthermore, technology transfer presents challenges in the context of broader geopolitical and supply chain risks. There are indications of India becoming an intermediary for Russia to access sensitive goods subject to Western restrictions (Strider, 2026). Given the Nordic countries' adherence to European sanctions on Russia since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, signs of actual sanctions evasion or technology transfer will negatively impact cooperation. As India gains importance as a market and technology base for both Europe and Russia, the latters' activities can also overlap through shared suppliers, subcontractors, research networks, and talent pools. This can create risks for component diversion, reverse engineering, or unintended knowledge sharing (Ibid.). For Nordic and European firms, this adds another layer of complexity to technology cooperation, particularly in sensitive and dual-use sectors.

Geopolitical Sensitivities and Security Considerations

Geopolitical factors also shape the environment for cooperation. A notable consideration is India's long-standing strategic and defence relationship with Russia. While this relationship reflects India's broader commitment to strategic autonomy and diversified partnerships, it is viewed differently within Nordic and European security frameworks, particularly following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

From a Nordic perspective, these developments are viewed through European Union (EU) and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) aligned security frameworks, where Russia is seen as a central geopolitical and security challenge. This reinforces a more cautious approach in areas linked to critical infrastructure, digital systems, and dual-use technologies where trust, resilience, and supply chain security are key considerations. From an Indian perspective, engagement with Russia reflects a foreign policy approach centred on strategic autonomy and diversified partnerships, rather than alignment with any single geopolitical grouping thus allowing flexibility in its external relations with different nations. While these differences do not prevent cooperation, they can affect the pace and scope of engagement, particularly in sensitive sectors.

However, cooperation between India and other Western nations, including the US and France, provides an important parallel context. According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) data released in March 2026, France has emerged as one of India's most important defence partners and is currently its second-largest arms supplier (George, et. al., 2026), while US-India cooperation continues to expand into emerging and strategic technologies. These developments suggest that geopolitical divergences do not necessarily prevent deeper cooperation. Rather, they highlight the importance of transparency, trust-building, and clearly defined frameworks for cooperation in strategically sensitive areas.

Fragmented Technology Governance

A broader structural challenge arises from the increasingly fragmented nature of global technology governance. Firms operating across Europe, India, the US, and other major markets must navigate overlapping standards, certification processes, security requirements, and regulatory frameworks. For multinational companies, this fragmentation increases compliance costs, complicates product development, and creates barriers to scaling technologies across markets. These challenges are particularly significant in emerging sectors such as AI, telecommunications, cyber security, and digital infrastructure where regulatory approaches continue to evolve. While India-Nordic cooperation can't eliminate these broader global trends, stronger coordination on standards, regulatory dialogue, and trusted technology frameworks could help mitigate some of their effects and improve the operating environment for firms and researchers on both sides.

Knowledge Gaps and Limited Awareness

A less visible but equally important challenge is the limited mutual understanding that exists between actors in India and the Nordic region. Despite growing engagement, awareness of each other's innovations environment, regulatory environment, investment opportunities, and business culture remains limited on both sides. Nordic stakeholders often have limited familiarity with the scale and pace of India's technological transformation while Indian actors frequently engage with only a narrow segment of Nordic technological capabilities. As a result, cooperation is often concentrated among a relatively small number of established actors leaving significant opportunities unexplored.

Importantly, this knowledge gap also influences perceptions of trust and risk. Many of the challenges discussed above are reinforced by incomplete information and outdated assumptions. In some cases, perceptions continue to be shaped by earlier understandings of economic, technological, or regulatory conditions that no longer fully reflect current realities. Limited familiarity can make it more difficult for policymakers, businesses, and investors to accurately assess opportunities, capabilities, and potential partners, thereby increasing such perceived uncertainty and hindering deeper engagement.

This knowledge gap also affects investment flows. While Nordic countries collectively manage large pools of long-term capital, direct investment in India's technology sectors remains relatively modest as compared to other international investors. In many cases, the constraint is not a lack of interest or capital, but limited visibility of opportunities and uncertainty regarding market entry. Addressing this knowledge gap will be critical for expanding cooperation beyond existing networks and enabling broader participation by start-ups, investors, universities, research institutes, and technology firms.

Key Recommendations for Strengthening Cooperation

1. Establish a Nordic-India Tech Fund

A Nordic-India Tech Fund should be established to strengthen financial linkages between Nordic capital and the Indian innovation sector. Rather than operating as a single pooled investment vehicle, the fund should function as a structured mechanism for introducing investors to relevant opportunities, facilitating matchmaking between Nordic and Indian investors, funds, and start-ups, and enabling co-investments where appropriate. This would help reduce uncertainty about where to invest, improve visibility of opportunities in both regions, and support stronger long-term cooperation between Nordic and Indian technology and innovation landscapes.

Improved access to investment would make it easier for promising technologies and innovation companies to develop, scale, and enter new markets. Over time, stronger investment links could deepen collaboration between businesses, investors, and innovation markets, helping to turn the complementary strengths of India and the Nordic countries into more concrete technology partnerships.

2. Create a Nordic-India Technology Roundtable

A structured series of Nordic-India technology roundtables should be planned to address existing knowledge gaps between the two regions and strengthen mutual understanding of their respective innovation markets. The format will help bring together relevant actors from industry, research, investment, and public institutions from both sides with an emphasis on participants already exposed to both markets.

The roundtables should be designed as a structured forum for practical exchange on how innovation systems function in practice, including regulatory environments, partnership models, and market dynamics. A core objective should be to update outdated perceptions and clarify underlying assumptions about each other's innovation landscapes and market conditions, thereby enabling more accurate assessments of opportunities, risks, and potential partners. Furthermore, the initiative should be industry-led, with governments playing a supporting role focused on facilitation and enabling participation where necessary.

To ensure continuity and long-term impact, a permanent India–Nordic Working Group could be established under the Nordic-India Dialogue (NID) to coordinate the roundtables, ensure follow-up on key insights, and maintain continuity in engagement. Over time, this structure will strengthen trust, improve knowledge exchange, and create a more stable foundation for long-term cooperation in areas of strategic technology.

3. Develop Joint Cooperation Frameworks

Joint standards and guidelines should be formulated to provide a more coherent and predictable foundation for India-Nordic technology cooperation. These frameworks should set out shared principles for initiating and managing partnerships, including agreed "dos and don'ts", as well as clearly defined approaches to governance. This includes clarifying roles and responsibilities; decision-making processes; and procedures for addressing key issues such as IP rights, commercialisation of jointly developed technologies; and dispute resolution. The aim is to create greater alignment between the actors on both sides, reduce uncertainty, and make cooperation easier to implement in practice

By establishing a shared framework at an early stage, expectations are aligned from the beginning thereby reducing uncertainty in how collaborations are structured and governed. This would strengthen the conditions for sustained cooperation among innovation actors on both sides, particularly in complex and fast-evolving technological domains where institutional clarity is critical for effective collaboration.

4. Develop a Nordic-India Start-up and Innovation Corridor

A Nordic-India start-up corridor should be established to strengthen collaboration between the two regions and improve market access for the start-ups operating therein. While there is strong potential for cooperation in areas such as digital health, AI, green technologies, and digital services, many start-ups face significant barriers when engaging with large enterprises and public sector systems. Procurement and compliance requirements often favour larger, established companies thus making it difficult for smaller firms to compete effectively.

To address this, the corridor should include a more structured and start-up-friendly framework for cross-border collaboration. This should involve faster and more transparent procurement processes, clearer evaluation criteria, and a stronger focus on outcomes and innovation rather than organisational size or administrative capacity. In addition, a joint "start-up playbook" could be developed to reduce uncertainty for companies operating across both regions. This would set out clear guidelines on data requirements, security expectations, and regulatory conditions. The corridor could also support faster testing and scaling through mutual recognition of pilot projects and simplified pathways for procurement and experimentation.

Finally, the corridor could provide structured exchange programmes for founders, engineers, and regulatory professionals alongside stronger links between venture capital ecosystems and soft-landing support for firms entering the other market. These measures would help build trust and practical understanding between the two markets, reduce uncertainty and barriers to entry, and enable faster and more effective collaboration between start-ups and institutions in both regions.

5. Strengthen Talent and Research Exchange

Academic and student exchange is already an established part of India-Nordic cooperation but there is scope to further strengthen and expand participation in both directions. At present, mobility remains limited relative to demand and potential, particularly in relation to attracting more students to the Nordics and increasing opportunities for Nordic students to study in India. Efforts should therefore focus on scaling up existing exchange mechanisms and making them more attractive and accessible. This includes increasing awareness of opportunities, supporting greater student mobility in both directions, and encouraging more structured engagement between Nordic and India's higher education institutions. Strengthening these exchanges would deepen mutual understanding, expand networks between institutions, and contribute to more sustained cooperation across education, research, and innovation.

Greater mobility of students, researchers, engineers, and technology professionals would generate benefits for both sides. Increased academic exchanges, joint research programmes, partnerships in industrial research, and innovation-focused mobility schemes would strengthen institutional linkages while supporting knowledge transfer and long-term collaboration.

6. Develop Shared Digital and AI Infrastructure

A shared open digital and AI infrastructure model should be developed to support innovation across both regions. Instead of fragmented or closed systems, a common infrastructure layer should be made available as an open foundation that start-ups and other actors can build on. This would allow companies to develop applications, services, and solutions directly on top of shared infrastructure rather than duplicating core systems or starting from scratch. Such an an accessible and shared infrastructure base would help lower costs, reduce duplication, and make it easier for start-ups to experiment, scale, and deploy new technologies. It would also enable wider participation in digital and AI development by ensuring that essential infrastructure is not a barrier to entry but a shared resource that supports continuous innovation.

Such shared infrastructure would therefore bring together the respective strengths of India and the Nordic countries while providing a stronger foundation for collaboration by making it easier to develop and deploy digital and AI solutions across both markets. This would support wider participation in innovation while strengthening long-term cooperation in strategically important technologies.

Conclusion

As technological systems become more fragmented and strategically sensitive, both regions are increasingly operating in an environment where trust, standards, and long-term alignment matter as much as technical capability. India and the Nordic countries share important foundations of trust, including strong and transparent legal and regulatory frameworks and a commitment to fair competition. These shared characteristics provide a basis for greater confidence in each other as technology partners. At the same time, India's rapid technological and industrial transformation and the Nordic countries' strengths in advanced and specialised technologies create clear complementarities but these are yet to be fully translated into sustained forms of cooperation.

Across sectors, cooperation is still constrained by gaps in mutual understanding, differences in regulatory approaches, and limited institutional ties between the two sides. Engagement remains uneven and often dependent on established actors rather than broader, more structured interaction. Moving forward, the central challenge is therefore not identifying areas of cooperation but building conditions that will allow cooperation to scale and persist over time. The Oslo Summit has provided a strategic framework for this cooperation. Building on the shared institutional foundations between India and the Nordic countries, strengthening shared frameworks for engagement, improving predictability, and deepening institutional connections will be key to turning the existing potential into a trusted and resilient partnership.

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