

## MONACO MARINE CONFERENCE: ENVIRONMENT

**NEWS:** Addressing the Monaco Marine Conference, the Union Minister of Earth Sciences today reiterated India's commitment to a resilient Blue Economy and pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken about it twice in his two consecutive Independence Day addresses

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

India and Norway reaffirmed cooperation in marine spatial planning, Arctic research, and the Blue Economy at the Monaco Marine Conference 2025, highlighting joint efforts like SAHAV portal and MSP pilots in Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

This aligns with India's Blue Economy vision and SDG 14, leveraging Norway's maritime expertise and India's vast coastal and EEZ potential.

### Context

- At the **Monaco Marine Conference (MCC)**, **India and Norway reaffirmed their commitment** to strengthening cooperation in **marine spatial planning**, **Arctic research**, and the **Blue Economy**, highlighting shared goals in ocean sustainability.

### Key Focus Areas of India-Norway Marine Cooperation

#### 1. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

- **MSP** is a **science-based framework** for managing and allocating ocean space efficiently and sustainably.
- Objectives include:
  - **Optimizing ocean resources.**
  - **Protecting marine biodiversity.**
  - **Securing coastal livelihoods.**
- Implemented under the **Indo-Norwegian Integrated Ocean and Research Initiative.**
- **Pilot projects** in **Puducherry** and **Lakshadweep** have shown **visible positive outcomes.**
- India aims to **scale MSP** across its **entire coastline** to reinforce leadership in sustainable ocean governance.

#### 2. India-Norway Marine Pact Highlights

- Strengthened cooperation in:
  - **Marine planning.**
  - **Arctic research.**
  - **Sustainable ocean development.**
- Emphasis on **joint research** in **polar sciences** and **ocean sustainability.**

- Norway's expertise is significant, with **70% of its exports** stemming from its **maritime industry**.

### 3. SAHAV Portal

- A **GIS-based digital decision support system** developed for marine spatial planning.
- Recognized as a **Digital Public Good**.
- Launched to commemorate **World Ocean Day (8th June)**.
- Aids in integrating **ocean data, mapping, and planning tools** for stakeholders and policymakers.

## India–Norway Bilateral Relations

### 1. Background

- Diplomatic ties date back to **1947**, built on shared values like:
  - **Democracy.**
  - **Human rights.**
  - **Rule of law.**

### 2. Political and Diplomatic Engagement

- **2014:** Strengthened cooperation in:
  - **Earth Sciences.**
  - **Culture.**
  - **Defence.**
  - **Scientific Research.**
- **2019:** Signing of the **India–Norway Ocean Dialogue** to formalize maritime collaboration.
- **India–Nordic Summit (2022):** Focused on:
  - **Blue economy.**
  - **Green hydrogen.**
  - **Sustainable shipping.**
  - **Renewable energy.**

### 3. Trade and Investment

- **March 2025:** Norway's **exports to India** rose by **48% YoY**.

- Major exports:
  - **Non-ferrous metals** (e.g., raw nickel).
  - **Chemical materials.**
  - **Metalliferous ores.**
- **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** signed in **March 2024**:
  - Aims to **boost bilateral trade.**
  - Expected to enhance **investments** and **economic cooperation.**

#### 4. Scientific and Environmental Cooperation

- Joint efforts in:
  - **Polar research.**
  - **Marine spatial planning.**
  - **Climate action.**
- India has undertaken **three Arctic Missions** to Norway:
  - **2007, 2008, and 2009.**
- India's **Polar Research Station – Himadri** is located at:
  - **Ny-Ålesund, Spitsbergen Island, Norway.**

#### 5. Strategic Support in Export Control Regimes

- Norway has supported India's membership in key regimes:
  - **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).**
  - **Wassenaar Arrangement (WA).**
  - **Australia Group (AG).**

#### Understanding the Blue Economy

##### Definition

- The **Blue Economy** refers to the **sustainable use of ocean resources** for:
  - **Economic growth.**
  - **Improved livelihoods.**

- **Environmental sustainability.**

## **India's Ocean Advantage**

- **Coastline:** 11,098 km, spanning **9 states** and **2 union territories**.
- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** 2.02 million sq. km.
- India's approach aligns with **SDG 14** (Life Below Water):
  - Advocates for **conservation** and **sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources**.

## **Key Policy Frameworks and Initiatives in India's Blue Economy**

### **1. National Blue Economy Policy Framework**

- Outlined by the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**.
- Focus areas:
  - **Marine fisheries.**
  - **Coastal tourism.**
  - **Ocean-based industries.**
- Aims to create an **integrated ocean governance strategy**.

### **2. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**

- A central government scheme for the **fisheries and aquaculture sector**.
- Objectives:
  - **Enhance fish production and productivity.**
  - **Ensure sustainable aquatic ecosystems.**
  - **Promote employment and coastal economy.**
- Contributes significantly to India's **Blue Economy vision**.
- **Source:** <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2135016>