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# India and Finland Sign Multiple Agreements to Strengthen Bilateral Cooperation

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## What is the India–Finland Strategic Partnership?

Narendra Modi and Alexander Stubb elevated India–Finland relations to a “Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability.”

The partnership focuses on strengthening cooperation in technology, sustainability, innovation, and global governance.

The move also aligns with the recently concluded India–European Union Free Trade Agreement 2026.

## Key Outcomes of the India–Finland Talks:

Important institutional and economic initiatives announced include:

Target to double bilateral trade by 2030.

Creation of a Joint Working Group on Digitalisation.

Formation of a Joint Task Force on 6G Telecommunications.

Strengthening of startup ecosystem connectivity between both countries.

Launch of a consular dialogue mechanism to improve people-to-people engagement.

## Agreements Signed Between India and Finland:

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Three major agreements (MoUs) were signed in the following areas:

**Migration and Mobility Agreement:**

Facilitates movement of skilled professionals, talent, and students between the two countries.

**Environmental Cooperation:**

Focus on sustainable development and environmental protection.

**Statistical Collaboration:**

Enhances data sharing and statistical cooperation for policymaking.

These agreements aim to promote economic exchanges, knowledge sharing, and sustainable growth.

### **Areas of Strategic Cooperation:**

**Digital and Emerging Technologies:**

Both countries will collaborate in advanced technology sectors such as:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

6G telecommunications

Quantum computing

Digital infrastructure

The partnership aims to promote secure, trustworthy, and resilient digital ecosystems.

### **Sustainability and Circular Economy:**

India and Finland will co-host the World Circular Economy Forum in India.

Cooperation will expand in:

Clean energy

Environmental protection

Sustainable technologies

Finland's expertise in circular economy models aligns with India's sustainability and climate goals.

### **Defence, Space and Critical Technologies:**

Both nations agreed to strengthen cooperation in:

Defence and security technologies

Space cooperation

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Semiconductor manufacturing

Critical minerals supply chains

This cooperation aims to improve technological self-reliance and supply chain resilience.

### **Examples of India–Finland Cooperation:**

Technology and Infrastructure

Nokia has played a key role in developing telecommunication networks in India.

Finnish architects contributed to the construction of the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge.

Collaboration helped establish the largest bamboo-to-bioethanol refinery in Numaligarh.

### **Education and Talent Mobility:**

Finland is becoming a popular destination for Indian students and professionals.

### **The Migration and Mobility Agreement supports:**

Legal migration pathways

Talent exchange

Teacher training programmes

Research partnerships in education

Finland's globally renowned education system offers valuable insights for India's education reforms.

### **Arctic and Polar Cooperation:**

Finland is an important partner for India in the Nordic and Arctic regions.

### **Key areas of cooperation include:**

Arctic and polar scientific research

Climate change monitoring

Sustainable resource management

This collaboration aligns with India's Arctic Policy 2022.

### **India–Finland Relations: Background**

Finland established diplomatic relations with India in 1949.

Bilateral trade currently ranges between €1.5–2 billion annually.

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Finland maintains a slight trade surplus in goods trade.

### **Investment highlights:**

Over 100 Finnish companies operate in India.

Major Finnish firms active in India include:

Nokia

Wärtsilä

UPM-Kymmene

Lindström Group

Fortum

### **Challenges and Way Forward:**

Some challenges in India–Finland relations include:

Limited trade volume compared to potential.

Geographical distance and limited direct connectivity.

Global competition in emerging technologies.

Geopolitical uncertainties due to conflicts in regions like Ukraine, Sudan, and the Middle East.

### **Future cooperation will focus on:**

Expanding trade through the India–EU FTA.

Strengthening innovation ecosystems and startup collaboration.

Promoting joint research and development in advanced technologies.

### **Key Takeaway**

India and Finland have upgraded their bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability, focusing on advanced technologies, sustainable development, trade expansion, and global cooperation, marking a new phase in India's engagement with the Nordic region.