The Arctic Strategy of Norway

The Arctic has always been important for Norway and is increasingly so for the world as a whole. Foreign and domestic policy is intertwined in the region, and people’s everyday lives are affected both by high politics and by day-to-day issues.

The Arctic offers major opportunities for development. We find them in traditional sectors such as the seafood sector and oil and gas exploration and in new industries such as marine bioprospecting and seabed mining. The tourism industry is growing, with visitors coming to the region from all over the world. Realizing the importance of the Arctic, the Government of Norway has developed its Arctic Strategy, which emphasizes on geopolitics of the Arctic, as well as social development in the region. The key aims of the Strategy are “creating value, managing resources, confronting climate change and fostering knowledge”. Norway has set up a number of institutions that work towards sustainable development of the Arctic. Technology and innovation are integral parts of such development and Norway puts great emphasis on this aspect. The Government of Norway is giving greater priority to business development in the north. We want to enhance the links between research and the business sector, with a view to ensuring that investment in research also creates more new jobs. Our aim is to develop Northern Norway into one of our most innovative and sustainable regions. The changes taking place in the Arctic pose new challenges and give rise to new opportunities. As a responsible coastal state, Norway strives to address the challenges and make use of the opportunities in a safe and environmentally sound way. India is an important partner for Norway. Increased trade, investments and economic cooperation and cooperation on global challenges, are the topmost priorities for the two countries. Norway and India share many values, and a deep commitment to democracy and a rules-based world order. Norway’s cooperation with India is growing. This opens up for many new opportunities for both countries.