

MODI HOLDS BILATERAL TALKS WITH NORDIC LEADERS

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Narendra Modi with, from left, Sanna Marin, Magdalena Andersson, Mette Frederiksen, Jonas Gahr Store and Katrin Jakobsdottir in Copenhagen. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland. Later, he departed for Paris, where he is to meet French President Emmanuel Macron.

Mr. Modi, who arrived at Copenhagen on Tuesday from Berlin on the second leg of his visit to three European nations, met the four Nordic leaders on the sidelines of the second India-Nordic Summit in the Danish capital.

He began his day by meeting Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Store. "Our talks included furthering cooperation in sectors such as the blue economy, clean energy, space, healthcare and more. Norway is a key pillar of India's recently announced Arctic Policy," Mr. Modi tweeted. Mr. Modi also had a meeting with Swedish counterpart Magdalena Andersson. "We discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in key sectors like security, IT, research and innovation. Strong ties between our nations will benefit our people," Mr. Modi tweeted.

In a separate meeting, Mr. Modi held talks with Iceland Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir.

Mr. Modi lauded Ms. Jakobsdottir's personal efforts at promoting gender equality and briefed her on India's advances on the issue, the External Affairs Ministry said. Mr. Modi also met his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin and discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties in trade, investment, technology, culture and other sectors.

India's trade with Nordic countries stands at over \$5 billion (2020-21).

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