

**Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division,
DGCI&S, Kolkata, Dated: 27/12/2023**

**India-Norway Bilateral Relations Report
(Prepared based on MEA’s Official Report)**

A. Introduction:

1. India and Norway established bilateral relations in February 1947. Both countries have been enjoying a cordial and friendly relationship since then. The two countries respect each other for their commonly shared values of democracy, human rights and rule of law. The Indian community (majorly professionals) in Norway stands around 26,900 out of which 19,135 are PIOs and 7,765 are NRIs.

2. The bilateral ties are marked by regular exchanges of high level parliamentary, ministerial and official visits. The Hon’ble President of India, Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee went on a State Visit to Norway from 12-14 October 2014, the first-ever State Visit by the Hon’ble President of India to Norway. During the visit, several Agreements/MoUs were signed for cooperation in areas such as Earth Sciences, Culture, Scientific Research, Medicine, Defence as well as Visa waiver for Diplomatic Passport holders.

B. Bilateral Trade Relations- Recent facts & figures

3. The economic and commercial growth due to bilateral relations between India and Norway in recent years, especially in areas such as oil and gas, shipping and maritime industries, renewable energy, offshore projects, service sectors and commodities trade have evolved over the years. The Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2018-19 to 2022-23 are as follows:

Export-Import Statistics from 2017-18 to 2021-22

(US Dollars Million)						
Sl. No.	Export/Import	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1.	Export	313.05	421.61	322.48	379.72	569.19
2.	Import	366.47	630.79	673.66	2092.36	938.06
3.	Total Trade	679.53	1052.40	996.14	2472.08	1507.25

(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

4. Total exports from India to Norway had scaled up to USD 569.19 mln. In 2022-23 registering a significant leap from 2021-22 level of USD 379.92 million. The main exports from India to Norway include articles of apparels and accessories, textile yarns fabrics, organic chemicals, manufactures of metals, medicinal & pharmaceutical products and electrical machinery and apparatus,

5. Total imports from Norway to India had a stupendous rise between 2020-21 to 2021-22 and then a steep fall recorded in 2022-23 to USD 938.06 mln. From USD 2092.36 mln. Imports from Norway to India includes non-ferrous metals, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, plastic in primary form, organic chemicals, chemical material and products.

6. Indian companies have also invested in Norway over the last few years. ONGC and Reliance Industries have tie ups with Norwegian companies in the petroleum and energy sector. Indian IT companies like - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, HCL, L&T Infotech, Cognizant and Tech Mahindra are also present and operating in Norway.
7. Over 140 Norwegian companies are engaged in India either through joint ventures with Indian partners or through wholly owned subsidiaries in areas such as ship building, petroleum related services, marine/sub-sea drilling equipment, hydropower, clean energy, and IT services. Major Norwegian investors in India are Stat Kraft, Norfund, Jotun, DNB Nor, Kongsberg and Yara.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation:

- India and Norway signed a Cultural Cooperation Exchange Agreement to cooperate in the fields of fine arts, archives, architectural heritage, archaeology, films and audio visuals, etc.
- There exists Bilateral Agreement on Science and Technology for promotion of cooperation in the field of S & T with special mention of the following areas: climate research, glaciology, water resource management, studies of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, fresh water biodiversity, renewable energy, etc.
- Under the auspices of the Joint Commission, a number of Joint Working Groups (JWG) have been established for cooperation between the two nations in the fields of (i) Hydrocarbons; (ii) Fisheries & Aquaculture; (iii) Maritime Matters;(iv) Education; (vi) Environment; (vii) Local Governance, etc.
- India and Norway have signed MoUs/Agreements covering trade and economic relations, avoidance of double taxation of income, cooperation in banking supervision, etc.
- There has been ongoing collaboration between India and Norway in the space sector also.
- Norway launched its strategy for cooperation with India "Norway – India 2030" in December, 2018 prior to the State Visit to India in January 2019 by H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Norway. One of the strategies for cooperation is in the Oceans and the broad objectives are to support sustainable use of marine resources in India and efforts to reduce marine litter.
