

Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S, Kolkata.

India-Denmark Bilateral Relations

A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) brings out weekly publication on Embassy Profile Report providing information on recent policy changes and happenings in other countries that may be of interest to the Indian trading community. This is the Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Denmark.

2. The diplomatic relations between India and Denmark, established in September 1949, are based on historical links, common democratic traditions and shared desire for regional, as well as international peace and stability. Bilateral relations were elevated to the level of “Green Strategic Partnership” during the Virtual Summit held on 28 September 2020 between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Denmark Ms. Mette Frederiksen. The current development of renewed India-Denmark relations has been guided by the “Green Strategic Partnership”.

B. Commercial Relations (Trade and Foreign Investment) – Recent facts & figures

3. As per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank, the total volume of bilateral trade in goods between India and Denmark rose to around US\$ 1681.76 million in 2022-23. India’s exports stood at US\$ 911.39 million while imports stood at US\$ 770.37 million during the same period. In the period of 2023-24, the bilateral trade was recorded at US\$ 1773.82 million, out of which India’s export and import were US\$ 856.24 million and US\$ 917.58 million respectively.

An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as under:

The Export-Import statistics as per India’s Ministry of Commerce data bank from 2019-20 to 2023-24 are as follows:

The Export-Import statistics from 2019-20 to 2023-24

(US Dollar Million)

S. No		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1.	Export	733.96	755.25	944.15	911.39	856.24
2.	Import	632.40	589.13	888.73	770.37	917.58
3.	Total Trade	1336.36	1344.38	1832.88	1681.76	1773.82

(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

4. The major export items from India to Denmark are textiles, apparels and yarns related, vehicles and components, metal goods, iron and steel, leather and footwear, and travel goods. Major Danish exports to India are medicinal/pharmaceutical products, power generating machinery, industrial machinery, metal waste and ore, and organic chemicals.

5. Bilateral trade in services between India and Denmark was US\$ 4.52 billion in 2022 (import to India in services amounting to US\$ 3.13 billion and export in service sector by India valued at USD 1.39 billion). (Source: Denmark Statistics)

6. As per the information available, the value of total direct investment inflows from Denmark to India during 2000-2021 was US\$ 1.81 billion. Around 200 Danish companies have invested in India in sectors such as shipping, renewable energy, environment, agriculture, food processing and smart urban development. Several major Danish companies have built new manufacturing factories under the 'Make in India' scheme. Major Danish companies present in India include APMoller Maersk Group, Vestas, LM Wind Power, Grundfos, Danfoss, Carlsberg, FL Smidth, NovoNordisk, Haldar Topsoe, Ramboll, etc.

7. As per the information available from Invest in Denmark, the total value of Indian investments in Denmark is about US\$ 560 million. Around 25 Indian companies are present in Denmark in various sectors, including IT, renewable energy and engineering. Indian companies present in Denmark include Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, L&T Infotech, HCL, Infosys etc. They are providing IT solutions, projects consultancy and outsourcing services, for Danish services sector. In a major acquisition in July 2022, Infosys acquired Danish life sciences consulting and technology company, BASE life sciences for Euro 110 million, strengthening footprint in Denmark.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation:

➤ Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Denmark for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.

➤ Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Denmark on 3-4 May 2022. The visit included two components- bilateral talks with PM Frederiksen and the 2nd India-Nordic Summit hosted by India and Denmark. During the bilateral talks, the two Prime Ministers reviewed the progress of India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. Queen Margrethe II received Prime Minister and hosted an official dinner in his honour. PM also interacted with the Indian community in Copenhagen and addressed an India-Denmark Business Forum with Crown Prince Frederik and Prime Minister Frederiksen at the Confederation of Danish Industry. MoUs/Agreements in the fields of migration and mobility, green shipping, cultural exchange programme, water resource management, skill development, animal husbandry and dairying were exchanged. On 4 May, PM attended the 2nd India-Nordic Summit along with the Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland and reviewed the India-Nordic relations. A Joint Statement reiterating strong commitment to multilateralism and international cooperation, and a robust partnership with Nordic countries to help promote innovation, economic growth, climate friendly solutions and mutually beneficial trade and investments was issued.

A number of bilateral institutional mechanisms at different levels between India and Denmark are in place. The Joint Commission Meeting at the Foreign Ministers' level (established in 2008) and the Foreign Office Consultations at Secretary-level (established in 1995) provide the broad framework for bilateral consultations encompassing all areas of mutual interest. So far, four meetings of the Joint Commission have been held. The latest meeting was held in Copenhagen in September 2021 during which both sides reviewed the progress made since the launch of the Green Strategic Partnership. Foreign Office Consultations have been held seven times since 1995, and the latest edition was held on 1 April 2023 in Copenhagen.

➤ Further, a broad-ranging dialogue mechanisms between various Ministries of both sides have been put in place by establishing 11 Joint Working Groups in (i) Renewable Energy, (ii) Shipping and Ports, (iii) Agriculture & Animal Husbandry, (iv) Food Processing, (v) Science & Technology,

(vi) Labour Mobility, (vii) Environment, (viii) Smart Cities, (ix) Digitisation (x) Energy Cooperation, and (xi) Health and Medicine. Six Joint Working Groups meetings have taken place in 2022, including most recently held 5th JWG on Renewable Energy (8 September 2022), 4th JWG on Energy (21 September 2022) and JWG on Food Processing & Food Safety (1 December 2022) in Copenhagen. JWG on Health Cooperation met in New Delhi in June 2023.

➤ The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence were celebrated with much fervour across Denmark with lighting up iconic Danske Industries building with the Indian tricolor, hoisting of the tricolor at the Royal Stock Exchange, Børsen in Central Copenhagen and a multitude of events including Har Ghar Tiranga initiative, singing of Rashtragaan with the Indian diaspora participating in large numbers, food and film festivals, talks on India@75 by eminent persons, school outreach programme with interactive sessions, youth cricket workshop, rangoli, art and dance workshops; essay writing, painting and poster making competitions etc. Commemorating the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Indian Naval Ship Tarangini made a port call at Aalborg in August 2022 and also participated in the Tall Ship Race 2022. A Cultural Exchange Programme was signed during the visit of Hon'ble PM to Denmark in May 2022 for taking forward cooperation in the cultural sector. A joint exhibition "silver treasures from Denmark and India" was inaugurated during the visit of Royal Couple to India in February 2023 at the National Museum in New Delhi.

➤ The International Day of Yoga is celebrated every year by the Embassy across Denmark with the active participation of several organisations like Art of Living, Brahma Kumaris and Danish Sports Yoga Federation. The 9th International Day of Yoga in June 2023 was the most wide spread and high impact, with all important cities of the kingdom, viz. Copenhagen, Aarhus, Aalborg, Vejle, Sonderborg, Bornholm, Odense, Torshavn, Nuuk. The flagship IDY event was held at the iconic 'Royal Danish Opera House' on 20 June 2023, under the theme Yoga from Arctic to Antarctica. For the first time, the International Day of Yoga was also celebrated in Faroe Islands and Bornholm with participation of local communities, thereby taking yoga to the Arctic region. Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar visited Denmark and gave inspiring address on Indian healing systems in September 2022.

➤ As part of the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy organised various events including talks on Gandhiji and tree-planting ceremonies at more than 20 educational institutions including Copenhagen and Roskilde Universities, Kold College, IBCKolding, Zealand Business College and schools etc.

➤ The size of the Indian community in Denmark, inclusive of both NRIs and PIOs is approx 18,492. These include IT professionals, doctors, engineers, finance & banking professionals, academics and students. Important streets and public places named after Indian leaders include Gandhi Plaene (Gandhi Park), Indiakaj (road named after India) and Nehru Road near Aarhus University in Aarhus.

Source: www.mea.gov.in