

## **India-Denmark Relations**

The diplomatic relations between India and Denmark, established in September 1949, are marked by regular high level exchanges; and 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 Hon’ble Prime Minister and Prime Minister of Denmark H.E. Ms. Mette Frederiksen. The current development of renewed India-Denmark relations has been guided by the “Green Strategic Partnership”.

### **I. Recent High-Level Interactions**

2. Prime Minister Frederiksen paid a State Visit to India on 9-11 October 2021 and held bilateral talks with Hon’ble Prime Minister. During the visit, she also called on Hon’ble President of India. This was the first visit by a Head of Government to India following the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The two Prime Ministers launched the “Green Strategic Partnership” during the Virtual Summit on 28 September 2020.
4. Earlier in January 2019, then Danish Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Lars Løkke Rasmussen had visited India from 18-19 January 2019 for the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit - 2019, where Denmark participated as a Partner Country. Hon’ble Prime Minister also met Prime Minister Rasmussen at the India-Nordic Summit in Stockholm on 17 April 2018. This meeting at the level of Prime Ministers was held after a gap of 9 years.
5. Recent Ministerial visits from India to Denmark include visit by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar on 4-5 September 2021 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Commission Meeting; visit of Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 21-24 May 2018 to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM9) held in Copenhagen; visit of Minister for Food Processing Industries Mrs.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal in August 2017 and September 2018 to attend the World Food Summit.

6. In the recent past, several Danish Ministers have also visited India. These include visit by Danish Minister of Health Mr. Magnus Heunicke on 7-10 March 2022; Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities Mr. Dan Jorgensen on 7-10 September 2021; Foreign Minister Mr. Jeppe Kofod visit on 14-16 January 2020 to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Raisina Dialogue; then Minister for Environment and Food Mr. Jakob Ellemann-Jensen on 17-19 January 2019; then Foreign Minister Mr. Anders Samuelsen from 17-18 December 2018 and 27-30 November 2017 during which he co-chaired the Joint Commission Meeting with the External Affairs Minister.

## **II. Bilateral Institutional Mechanisms**

7. There are several bilateral institutional mechanisms at different levels between India and Denmark. 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, the four meetings of the Joint Commission has 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 six times since 1995.

8. 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. 28 Joint Working Groups meetings have taken place since 2018.

## **III. Commercial and Economic Relations**

9. Bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Denmark has grown by 78%, from USD 2.8 billion in 2016 to USD 5 billion in 2021. As per Denmark Statistics, the total volume of bilateral trade in goods and services between India and Denmark rose to around USD 5 billion as compared to USD 3.6 billion in 2020. Indian exports reached USD 2 billion in 2021 as compared to USD 1.8 billion in 2020, while imports amounted to around USD 3 billion as against USD 1.8 billion in 2020.

10. Bilateral trade in goods figures from financial year 2015-16 to 2020-21 are given below:

*(Figures in US\$ million)*

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>India's Exports</b>	<b>India's Imports</b>	<b>Total Trade</b>	<b>Growth Rate %</b>	<b>India's Balance of Trade Surplus</b>
2016-17	692.94	481.55	1,174.50	5.12	211.39
2017-18	784.10	564.55	1,348.66	14.83	219.55
2018-19	746.59	537.30	1,283.89	-4.80	209.29
2019-20	733.96	632.40	1,366.36	6.42	101.55
2020-21	755.25	589.13	1,344.37	-1.61	166.12
2021-22 (Apr-Feb)	841.00	696.21	1,537.21	-	145.21

*[Source: DGFT, Dept. of Commerce; figures include trade in goods only]*

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

12. Bilateral trade in services between India and Denmark was USD 2.3 billion in 2020 (import to India in services amounting to USD 1.3 billion and export in service sector by India valued at USD 1 billion).

13. As per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the value of total direct investment inflows from Denmark to India during April 2000-March 2021 was USD 677.02 million. 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 AP Moller Maersk Group, Vestas, LM Wind Power, Grundfos, Danfoss, Carlsberg, FL Smidth, Novo Nordisk, Haldar Topsoe, Ramboll, etc.

14. As per the information available from *Invest in Denmark*, the total value of Indian investments in Denmark, as of June 2021, was about USD 450 million. Around 25 Indian companies are present in Denmark in various sectors, including IT, renewable energy and engineering. Indian IT companies present in Denmark include Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and L&T Infotech, Infosys Technologies, ITC Infotech, etc. They are providing multiple IT solutions, projects consultancy and outsourcing services, for Danish services sector.

#### **IV. Cultural Cooperation**

15. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence, is being celebrated with much fervor in Copenhagen with events including singing of Rashtragaan, lighting up iconic Danske Industries building with the Indian tricolor, hoisting of the tricolor at the Royal Stock Exchange, Børsen in Central Copenhagen on Republic Day, talks on India@75 by eminent persons, school outreach programme with interactive sessions, youth cricket workshop, rangoli mela by Indian Diaspora, art and dance workshops, essay writing competition painting and poster making competition, telecasting Amrit Mahotsav Gala 2021, etc. India's 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day was celebrated in Copenhagen with great enthusiasm with a flag hoisting ceremony and vibrant Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, attended by a large number of the diaspora.

16. 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. In 2021, the Embassy celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga 2021 in Denmark's 6 big cities viz. Copenhagen, Odense, Aalborg, Aarhus, Fanø and Sønderborg partnering with local yoga groups and Indian diaspora. A curtain-raiser flash mob was also organized by the Embassy at the iconic Nyhavn venue in Copenhagen on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

17. As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> 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, IBC Kolding, Zealand Business College and schools etc.

## **V. Indian Diaspora / People-to-People Contacts**

18. The size of the Indian community in Denmark, inclusive of both NRIs (13,370) and PIOs, (2,750) is approx 16,500. These include IT professionals, doctors and engineers. Important streets and public places have been named after Indian leaders which include the Gandhi Plaene (Gandhi Park), located at the junction of BorupsAlle and Hvidkildevej in Copenhagen and a Nehru Road near Aarhu University in Aarhus.

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***April 2022***