

India – Denmark Relations

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Denmark in 1957 laid the foundation for a friendly relationship between India and Denmark. Bilateral relations have been cordial and friendly, based on synergies in political, economic, academic and research fields. Several high level visits have taken place between the two countries. Some important visits are as follows:

Visit of Prime Minister of Denmark (4-8 February 2008): Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the then Prime Minister of Denmark, accompanied by a large business delegation, paid a State visit to India from February 4-8, 2008. He visited Infosys, Biocon and IIM in Bangalore and Agra. During his visit, Mr. Rasmussen called on the President, met PM, Chairperson UPA and EAM. He launched an 'India Action Plan', which called for strengthening of the political dialogue, strengthening of cooperation in trade and investments, research in science and technology, energy, climate and environment, culture and education.

Visit of Prime Minister of Denmark (11 September 2009): The then Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen paid a one day Working Visit to India on 11 September 2009 as Host of the COP15. He met Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and discussed climate change, regional and bilateral issues.

Visit of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (17-18 December 2009):

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh visited Denmark on 17-18 December 2009 to participate in COP15. PM's visit was brief and dedicated for the COP- 15; there was no bilateral meeting with the Danish dignitaries.

Visit of Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Salman Khurshid (June 8-9,2011)- The then Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Salman Khurshid visited Denmark from June 8-9, 2011. He held a detailed meeting with Ms. Karen Ellemann, Danish Minister of Environment.

Visit of Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar (June 16-18, 2011) - A Parliamentary Delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker, Smt. Meira Kumar visited Denmark from June 16-18, 2011. During the visit, the delegation called on the Queen of Denmark and also had meetings with The Danish Presidium led by Mr. Thor Pedersen.

Inaugural Meeting of India-Denmark Joint Commission: The inaugural meeting of India-Denmark Joint commission was held in New Delhi on 14-15December, 2010. The meeting was co-chaired by Danish Foreign Minister Ms. Lene Espersen and the then External Affairs Minister Mr. S.M. Krishna. The two sides discussed key areas of bilateral cooperation as well as regional and global issues of importance to both countries. It was agreed to set up three new Joint Working Groups on (i) Shipping; (ii) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries; and (iii) Environment. The two sides also agreed to convert the three joint committees established earlier into Joint working Groups, viz. (i) Biotechnology; (ii) New and Renewable Energy; and (iii)

Labour Mobility. During her visit, Danish Foreign Minister Ms. Lene Espersen also led a 17- member business delegation. She inaugurated a business seminar “Indo-Danish Business Days” on energy and cleantech organised by the Confederation of Danish Industry in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry and Embassy of Denmark, New Delhi. She also visited a number of business establishments in sectors like IT, pharmaceutical, energy and environment.

Important existing Bilateral Treaties and Agreements between India and Denmark:

- Technical Cooperation Agreement – 1970
- Agreement on an Integrated Fisheries Project at Tadri, Karnataka - 1981
- Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA) - 1995
- Protocol on Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA) - 1995
- MOU for cooperation between CII and Confederation of Danish Industries – 1995
- Protocol on Foreign Office Consultation - 1995
- Joint Business Council Agreement between FICCI and the Danish Industry (DI) - 2002
- MOU on Biotechnology for Bilateral Cooperation – 2004
- Agreement for establishment of a Bilateral Joint Commission for Cooperation – Feb 2008
- MOU for Cooperation in New and Renewable Energy – Feb 2008
- Arrangement on Gainful Employment for Family Members of the Diplomatic Mission or Consular Posts – Feb 2008
- MOU on Clean Development Mechanism – Oct 2008
- MOU on Cooperation in the area of Environment – September 2009
- MOU on Labour Mobility Partnership – September 2009
- Social Security Agreement – February 2010

Bilateral Visits: India to Denmark (2008 onwards):

1	Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy, Mr. Vilas Muttemwar	7-9 April 2008
2	Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Mr. Vayalar Ravi	28-29 Sept 2009
3	Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh	9-11 Oct 2009
4	Minister of State for Environment & Forests, Mr. Jairam Ramesh	15-17 Nov 2009
5	Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh (for COP15)	17-18 Dec 2009
6	Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Salman Khurshid	8-9 Jun 2011
7	Parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha, Mrs. Meira Kumar	16-19 Jun 2011

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Denmark to India (2008 onwards):

1	Prime Minister Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen	4-8 Feb 2008
2	Minister of Climate & Energy Ms. Connie Hedegaard	4-6 Feb 2009
3	Minister of Environment Mr. Troels Lund Poulsen	18-21 Feb 2009
4	Prime Minister Mr. Lars Lokke Rasmussen	11 Sept 2009
5	Minister of Climate & Energy Ms. Connie Hedegaard	22-23 Oct 2009
6	Minister of Climate & Energy Ms. Lykke Friis	5-7 Feb 2010
7	Minister of Employment Ms. Inger Stojberg	15-17 Feb 2010
8	Minister of Transport Mr. Hans Christian Schmidt	18-22 Jun 2010
9	Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Lene Espersen	14-15 Dec 2010
10	Minister of Economy and Business Affairs Mr. Brian Mickkelsen	3-7 Jan 2011

Commercial and Economic Relations: Though small in size, Denmark is a rich country with an open economy which relies heavily on foreign trade and investment. It's total global trade was US\$ 370 billion (2017). It has a GDP of about US\$ 360 billion (2016) and a GDP per capita of US\$ 62,000 (2016).

Bilateral Trade: Total volume of bilateral trade between India and Denmark was US\$ 2827 million in 2016. Balance of trade in 2016 was slightly in favour of India- India's imports being US\$1352 million and exports US\$ 1475 million. Trade of goods between India and Denmark has more than doubled from US\$ 530.9 million in 2003 to reach a level of US\$ 1129 million in 2016. As compared to 2015, our exports to Denmark increased by 6% from US\$ 1392 million in 2015 to US\$1475. Danish exports to India decreased by 6% from US\$ 1446million in 2015 to US\$ 1352 (Source: Statistics Denmark).Bilateral services trade was worth US\$ 1698 in 2016 as against 1787 million in 2015, which was 5% less. India's service exports to Denmark increased by 7% from US\$ 725 million in 2015 to US\$ 774 million, while Denmark's service exports to India decreased by 13% from US\$1062 million in 2015 to US\$ 924 million. (Source: Statistics Denmark).

Major Danish Exports to India are medicinal/pharmaceutical goods, power generating machinery, industrial machinery, metal waste and ore, organic chemicals, etc. Major Indian Exports to Denmark are apparels/ready-made garments, textiles/fabrics/yarns/carpets, road vehicles and components, metal goods, iron and steel, footwear, travel goods including leather goods, industrial machinery and accessories, chemical material and products, etc.

As per Denmark statistics, Direct investment inflows from Denmark to India during CY 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were US\$877 million, US\$931 million, US\$ 712 million, US\$ 854 million and US\$ 758 million respectively. The investments have been made in sectors like harbour/port modernization and expansion, beer breweries, wind turbine/rotor blade manufacturing, agro-intermediates/insecticides, and the engineering sector. There is

scope for additional investments in renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, food processing,

shipping, electronics and infrastructure sectors. Indian investments to Denmark in CY 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were US\$ 112 million, US\$103 million, US\$ 89 million, US\$ 71 million and US\$ 31 million respectively.

The presence of Indian companies in Denmark is rather small. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), L&T Infotech, Infosys Technologies, ITC Infotech and Mahindra Satyam have been operating in Denmark. Suzlon Energy Ltd., the Pune-based wind turbine producer, opened its overseas marketing office in Aarhus in Denmark in 2005. Dr. Reddy' Laboratories Ltd. (DRL) has entered into an agreement with Denmark-based firm Rheoscience A/S for joint development of balaglitazone for treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. Praj Industries have also entered into an agreement with Novozymes on processing of bio- ethanol.

Commercial activities

The Embassy of India organized a Business Seminar in Aarhus in February 2017 to promote the " Make in India" campaign launched by the Honble PM of India on 25 September 2014 and to explore business opportunities in various sectors.. The event was well attended by a select group of Danish companies, industry associations and business and was useful to highlight FDI opportunities in India in manufacturing and infrastructure sectors.

A 22-member NASSCOM delegation representing Indian IT companies visited Copenhagen on 30 April 2015. The delegation visit was a part of efforts at exploring business opportunities. The Embassy hosted a reception at the Chancery premises for the delegation where they met with Ambassador, Shri Niraj Srivastava, who briefed them about the Danish IT outsourcing industry and related investment opportunities through collaborations/ventures.

A 15 member business delegation mounted by Confederation of Indian Industries visited Copenhagen on May 4th 2016. From the business side, the delegation was led by Dr. Rajiv I Modi Chairman and Managing Director Cadila Pharmaceuticals Limited and represented by companies covering a broad cross section of sectors like water waste management, environment and energy, biotech, infrastructure, IT, legal etc. The delegation was accompanied by Ms. Kavita Choudhry, Regional Director-Europe and Mr. Mohsin Khan, Deputy Director(Europe)of CII. The delegation visit was a fruitful effort at forging new business opportunities between our two countries and was very well received in Danish business circles.

A 15 member business delegation led by Capt Batra of the India-EU Chamber of Commerce visited Denmark on 30th May 2017 and signed an MOU on cooperation with the Confederation of Danish Industry. It also had B2B meetings with matching companies in Denmark to explore business opportunities.

Important streets and public places named after Indian leaders: Gandhi Plaene (Gandhi Park) located at the junction of Borups Alle and Hvidkildevej in Copenhagen

has a bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi in sitting posture. City of Aarhus has a Nehru Road near Aarhus University.

ICCR Chairs: ICCR Chair for Indian Studies was established at Aarhus University under the MOU signed in 2011 and renewed till academic session 2016-17. A Professor from Jadavpur University, Kolkata was deputed to man the Chair from September, 2012- December 2012. A Chair for Indian Economy and Society had also been functional at Copenhagen Business School (CBS) under the MOU signed in 2009. Three IIM Professors were deputed to man the Chair until June 2013. However, the Chair has been discontinued by ICCR for the present.

Visa requirements for Indian officials: Holders of diplomatic and official passports do not require a visa for Denmark for a stay upto three months, after which period a residence permit becomes necessary. Others require a visa. Visa may be required to transit through other EU countries while travelling to Denmark. The details and types of visas issued to tourists, businessmen and students are available on the Danish Embassy's website.

Air links with India: A direct flight from New Delhi to Copenhagen and vice versa is to commence from 16 September 2017. It is to be a thrice weekly flight. Finnair operates direct flight to India via Helsinki.

Indian community in Denmark

The size of the Indian community in Denmark, inclusive of both NRIs and PIOs as on 1.1.2016 is 11,200 (8100 –NRIs and 3100-PIOs). About one-third of these came to Denmark between sixties and eighties and are engaged in low levels of economic activity including running small shops/kiosks and restaurants etc. Most of them have taken Danish nationality. The majority of recent arrivals are IT professionals, doctors and engineers who have come on short term assignments.

Recent visits

Three ministerial visits to India from the Danish side materialised, beginning with Mr Soren Pind, Minister for Higher Education and Research in December 2016, to make a key note address at the India-Europe Business Forum hosted by FICCI and Ministry of External Affairs and to discuss bilateral cooperation in education and research. Mr Lars Christian Lilleholt, Minister for Energy led a large business delegation of top Danish companies to attend the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2017, in which Denmark was designated as a partner country and had a meeting with PM Shri Narendra Modi, along the sidelines to touch upon bilateral cooperation. Mr Ole Birk Olesen, Minister for Transport and Housing visited India in March 2017 to discuss issues of connectivity between our two countries, especially a direct Air India flight from Delhi to Copenhagen.

Indian Minister for Food Processing Industries Ms Harsimrat Kaur Badal visited Denmark on 24-25 August 2017 to attend the World Food Summit hosted by Denmark Government and explore business opportunities in the food processing sector between the two countries.

Danish Minister for Food and Environment Mr Esben Larsen Lunde will visit India at the head of a business delegation for the World Food India to be held in New Delhi from 3-5 November 2017 for which Denmark is a partner country.

Useful Resources:

For more information and latest updates please visit Embassy of India, Copenhagen website:<http://www.indian-embassy.dk/>

Embassy of India, Copenhagen Facebook page:<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Embassy-of-India-Copenhagen/264658443616392>

Twitter www.twitter.com/Indian in Denmark

Website of Associations of Indians in Denmark:<http://indiainsdenmark.dk>

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