

India–Denmark Relations

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to Denmark in 1957 laid the foundation for a friendly relationship between India and Denmark that has endured until July 2011 when the relations got affected due to non-extradition of Niels Holck Nielsen @ Kim Davy, a Danish national involved in the Purulia Arms Dropping Case in 1995. Earlier the bilateral relations between India and Denmark had been cordial and friendly, based on synergies in political, economic, academic and research fields. There had been periodic high level visits between the two countries. The important visits prior to July 2011 were 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 14-15 December, 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

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 to generate high level of income. It has a GDP of about US\$ 330 billion (2012).

Bilateral Trade: Bilateral trade of goods between India and Denmark has more than doubled from US\$ 530.9 million in 2003 to reach a level of US\$ 1221.1 million in 2012. However as compared to 2011, our exports to Denmark decreased by 23% from US\$ 992 million in 2011 to US\$767 million in 2012, while imports from Denmark also decreased by 24% from US\$ 597 million in 2011 to US\$ 453.9 million in 2012 (Source: Statistics Denmark).

Bilateral services trade was worth US\$1587.00 in 2012, which was slightly higher than US\$ 1549.00 recorded in 2011. India's service exports to Denmark were US\$549 million in 2012 as compared to US\$537 million recorded in 2011. India's service imports from Denmark were US\$1038 million in 2012 as compared to US\$1012 million registered in 2011(Source: Statistics Denmark).

Investments: Danish direct investments in India during 2010 and 2011 were US\$ 711 million and US\$ 783 million respectively [Source: Statistics Denmark- Investment figure for 2012 not yet available]. Major Danish investments in India 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.

Indian direct investments in Denmark during 2010 and 2011 were US\$ 89 million and US\$ 112 million respectively [Source: Statistics Denmark]. 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.

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 at Aarhus University, Denmark started functioning with the deputation of a Professor from Jadavpur University, Kolkata in September, 2012. A Chair for Indian Economy and Society has also been functioning at Copenhagen Business School (CBS) since 2009.

Visa requirements for Indian officials: Holders of diplomatic and official passports do not require visa to enter Denmark. 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: There is no direct flight from Copenhagen to India. Finnair operates direct flight to India via Helsinki. Convenient links to get an Air India flight to India are from London, Paris and Frankfurt. Other connections are via Vienna, Moscow, Istanbul, Doha and Dubai.

Estimated NRIs/PIOs: The size of the Indian community in Denmark is 6284 including 5009 NRIs and 1277 PIOs as on 1.4.2013 (Source: Statistics Denmark). The PIOs came to Denmark in 1970s and 1980s from Punjab and neighbouring countries of Europe. Over the past few years, the number of PIOs has remained almost stagnant around 1275. However, there has been an increase in the number of NRIs due to arrival of IT professionals, doctors, students and others from India in the recent times. There are several Indian Cultural Associations in Denmark who organise cultural programmes during festive seasons.

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