

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

### **India – Estonia Bilateral Relations**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistic (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 Embassy Profile Report depicting the Embassy of Estonia.

2. India recognized the Republic of Estonia in September 1991, a month after it declared its independence from the Soviet Union. Diplomatic relations were established in December 1991. Bilateral relations are cordial and friendly. The Embassy of India in Tallinn was opened on 28 December, 2021 headed by a Cd'A a.i. Since 1991, Embassy of India, Helsinki (Finland) was concurrently accredited to Estonia. The first Resident Ambassador Shri Ajaneesh Kumar, presented his credentials on 26 April, 2022. Government of Estonia opened its Embassy in New Delhi headed by a C.d'A in February 2012, with the first resident Ambassador presenting his credentials on 22 February, 2013.

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

3. There has been growth in economic and commercial relations between India and Estonia in recent years. An account of Bilateral commodities trade in goods from 2018-19 to 2022-23 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	65.44	51.83	62.09	71.26	69.61
2.	Import	54.06	59.96	72.30	139.95	121.49
3.	Total Trade	119.50	111.79	134.39	211.21	191.10

(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

**Major Estonian imports from India** include machinery and equipment, garments, knit wear, iron & steel articles of leather; saddles and harness, travel goods, hand bags, coffee, tea, spices, footwear and pharmaceutical products.

**Major Estonian exports to India** include: Iron and steel, fertilizers, electrical machinery, paper and paper board; paper pulp, veneer etc.

4. The India-Estonia economic relationship has grown significantly in recent years. As part of its efforts to develop strong economic relationship with India, Indian entrepreneurs and founders of Start-

ups have been benefited from Start-up visas issued by the Estonian government. A NASSCOM business delegation visited Estonia on 23 May 2019 for an introduction to the ICT and Start-up eco-system. A delegation comprising 13 Start-ups and 10 incubators from India participated in Estonia's Start-up conference 'Latitude 59' in May 2019, supported by our Mission, Embassy of Estonia in India, and Start-up Estonia. Ministry of IT and Electronics India (MEITY) has signed an MoU with e-Governance Academy for capacity building programme. In August 2019, an MOU for cooperation in e-governance and emerging digital technologies was signed between METIY and Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs & Communications. Since 2011, several officials and other private bodies from India have availed training programs in the e-Governance Academy in Estonia.

5. On 21 August, 2019 an Indian business delegation of 18 companies led by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which visited Tallinn as part of the Vice President of India's delegation, participated in the Estonia-India Business Forum. They were from engineering, ICT, hospitality and other sectors. The delegation was joined at the Business Forum by 30 companies from Estonia for B2B meetings to explore possibilities of collaboration. Vice President and Prime Minister of Estonia, Mr. Juri Ratas addressed the Business Forum.

### **Indian Investment in Estonia**

Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd. (RIIHL), a wholly-owned unit of Reliance Industries, has set up a company in Estonia called Jio Estonia OU in November 2018. The firm will look into software development and provide consultancy for existing and future technology initiatives pursued by the group and its subsidiaries. Indian FDI in Estonia as on June 2022 stands at Euro 6.2million (Statistics Estonia).

### **Estonian Investment in India**

The amount of FDI equity inflows from Estonia to India till June 2022 was US\$ 3.54 million.

### **C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation :**

- Ministry of IT and Electronics India (MEITY) has signed an MoU with e-Governance Academy for capacity building programme. In August 2019, an MOU for cooperation in e-governance and emerging digital technologies was signed between METIY and Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs & Communications. Since 2011, several officials and other private bodies from India have availed training programs in the e-Governance Academy in Estonia.
- DG CERT-In, Dr Sanjay Bahl led a cyber security business delegation to Estonia from 27-28 November, 2017. CERT-In and Information System Authority (RIS) of Estonia signed an MOU for cooperation in Cyber Security in August 2019.
- ICCR sponsored troupes perform in Estonia regularly. Some of the cultural programmes organized by the Embassy in recent years are: Bharatanatyam school "Amrita" in Tallinn is active for nearly 30 years. Several yoga and meditation courses and schools are run by local experts. International Day of Yoga (IDY) has been regularly celebrated by the Embassy. In June 2018 and 2019, IDY was celebrated in Tallinn and Tartu. In 2021, International Day of Yoga was celebrated at Kadrioru Park in Tallinn in cooperation with the Art of Living. In 2022, as its first cultural activity, the newly opened Resident Mission in Tallinn celebrated IDY in front of Kumu Museum, Kadrioru Parkon

18 June in Tallinn and on 19 June in Tartu in the ALeCoq Sports complex.

➤ Tartu University established in 1632 started Sanskrit studies in 1837. While the Oriental Studies Department continues to be in existence, Sanskrit is not taught anymore. Embassy presented many text books and documents including in Pali and Sanskrit.

➤ An Indian Association of Estonia has been formally constituted on 8 September,2022.

➤ Both India and Estonia served together in the UNSC as non-permanent members in the year 2021. While Estonia was non-permanent member for the term 2020-21, India is for the term 2021-22. Both countries closely cooperated with each other on issues of mutual interest.

\*\*\*\*\*

Source: [www.mea.gov.in](http://www.mea.gov.in)