

**Brief Embassy Report on Bilateral Relations – ITJ Division, DGCI&S,
Kolkata.
India-Norway 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 Norway.
2. India and Norway established bilateral relations in February 1947. Both countries have been enjoying a cordial and friendly relationship since then. The two countries respect each other for their commonly shared values of democracy, human rights and rule of law.
3. During the second India-Nordic Summit held in Copenhagen on 3-4 May 2022, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Mr. Jonas Gahr Store, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Norway held a bilateral meeting. Both leaders discussed the potential for deepening engagement in areas like blue economy, renewable energy, green hydrogen, solar and wind projects, green shipping, fisheries, water management, rainwater harvesting, space cooperation, long-term infrastructure investment, health and culture.

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

4. There has been growth in economic and commercial relations between India and Norway in recent years, especially in areas such as oil and gas, shipping and maritime industries, renewable energy, offshore projects and service sectors. 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	421.61	322.48	379.72	569.19	403.08
2.	Import	630.79	673.66	2092.36	938.06	793.85
3.	Total Trade	1,052.40	996.14	2472.08	1507.25	1196.93

(Source: Doc, Ministry of Commerce & Industry)

5. The main exports from India to Norway include articles of apparels and accessories, textile yarns fabrics, organic chemicals, manufactures of metals, medicinal & pharmaceutical products and electrical machinery and apparatus, while imports from Norway to India are include non-ferrous metals, metalliferous ores and metal scrap, plastic in primary form, organic chemicals, chemical material and products.

6. Indian companies have also invested in Norway over the last few years. ONGC and Reliance Industries have tie ups with Norwegian companies in the petroleum and energy sector. Indian IT majors - Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys, HCL, L&T Infotech, Cognizant and Tech Mahindra - are present in Norway.

7. FDI inflows from Norway through RBI/FIPB mainly were in the sectors of power generation, financial services, food processing, maritime, aquaculture and IT.

8. Over 140 Norwegian companies are engaged in India either through joint ventures with Indian partners or through wholly owned subsidiaries in areas such as ship building, petroleum related services, marine/sub-sea drilling equipment, hydropower, clean energy, and IT services. Major Norwegian investors in India are Statkraft, Norfund, Jotun, DNB Nor, Kongsberg and Yara.

C. Other Major Areas of Cooperation:

- Several Agreements/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Norway for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.
- India and Norway signed a Cultural Cooperation Exchange Agreement to cooperate in the fields of fine arts, archives, architectural heritage, archaeology, films and audio visuals, etc. A MoU was signed between the Indian Ministry of Culture and the Munch Museum during the visit of the Hon'ble President of India. Indian dance, music, yoga and cuisine are popular in Norway.
- India signed an Agreement on Science and Technology with Norway in 2006 for promotion of cooperation in the field of S&T. Joint research projects have been undertaken in areas of climate research, glaciology, water resource management, studies of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, freshwater biodiversity, renewable energy, etc.
- The institutional mechanisms for bilateral dialogue include the (a) India- Norway Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) which is held under the chairmanship of the respective Foreign Ministers. The Sixth Session of India-Norway Joint Commission was held on virtual platform on 13 October 2020, (b) Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the two Foreign Ministries at the level of Secretaries. The last FOC was held in November 2022 in Oslo.
- Under the auspices of the Joint Commission, a number of Joint Working Groups (JWG) have been established for cooperation in the field of (i) Hydrocarbons; (ii) Fisheries & Aquaculture; (iii) Maritime Matters; (iv) Education; (v) Science and Technology; (vi) Environment; (vii) Local Governance and (viii) Culture.
- India and Norway have signed MoUs/Agreements covering trade and economic relations, avoidance of double taxation of income, prevention and mitigation of geo-hazards, culture, education including higher education, academic research and collaboration, exchange of faculty and students between universities, training of diplomats, science and technology,

fisheries, local governance, social security, cooperation in banking supervision, health research, exemption of visa for diplomatic passports, scientific and technical cooperation, earth system sciences, defence research and development, geo technical engineering and material sciences, roads and highways, ocean dialogue and blue economy.

- There has been ongoing collaboration between India and Norway in the space sector.
- Norway launched its strategy for cooperation with India “*Norway – India 2030*” in December, 2018 prior to the State Visit to India in January 2019 by H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Hon’ble Prime Minister of Norway. One of the strategies for cooperation is the oceans and the broad objectives are to support sustainable use of marine resources in India, and efforts to reduce marine litter. India and Norway signed a MoU on Ocean Dialogue and established a Task Force on Blue Economy in 2019.
- The Indian community in Norway number around 26,900 out of which 19,135 are PIOs and 7,765 are NRIs. Most of them are professionals.

Source: www.mea.gov.in
