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# The GLOBAL



India Ambassador to Denmark HE Ms. Pooja Kapur

# A woman on a mission



Described by her Danish counterpart, Ambassador Freddy Svane, as an "excellent and action-oriented ambassador", underpins the commitment shown by Ambassador of India to Denmark, H.E. Pooja Kapur, to a productive and collaborative India-Denmark bilateral partnership.

By David Nothling-Demmer

When it comes to fostering better socio-economic ties between India and the Kingdom of Denmark, Ambassador of India to Denmark Pooja Kapur has certainly taken the challenge head on since assuming the role in March 2021. Having transplanted herself firmly within Danish business and cultural circles, the former Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria and

the Republic of North Macedonia has continued in the long-standing tradition of mutually beneficial economic and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

From overseeing the signing of a MOU at Dansk Industri around the manufacture of Green Methanol and Ethanol in the State of Gujarat to a visit to Copenhagen International Fashion Fair, the Ambassador

has established good relationships and great outcomes with Danish business and cultural leaders. And that's just two examples from the past few months.

In 2022, Kapur was named the busiest Ambassador in Denmark by a Danish newspaper.

The busy nature of her posting here in Denmark means Kapur attends such public engagements

regularly to support India's foreign policy objectives in Denmark. The significance of the relationship between Denmark and India has especially been highlighted during her tenure as Ambassador, with no less than two Prime Ministerial visits – firstly Danish PM Mette Frederiksen to India in October 2021, and then Indian PM Narendra Modi to Denmark in May 2022 – along with several other ministerial visits.

This year, in particular, has been a significant one for India with the country hosting the G20 leaders' summit as well as celebrating 77 years of independence. Independence Day 2023 was celebrated with a grand reception hosted by Kapur at India House in Copenhagen, with Speaker of the Danish Parliament, H.E. Søren Gade honouring the occasion as Chief Guest.

In October, she attended a Maersk event where she met Ane Mærsk Mc-Kinney Uggla, Chair of A.P. Møller Foundation and A.P. Møller Holding, who she described as "legendary and inspirational", and as having "warm things to say about India".

Other recent notable engagements include Kapur meeting with the Prime Minister of the Faroe Islands H.E. Mr. Aksel V. Johannesen followed by productive meetings with various Faroese business leaders as well the dynamic Indian community in the Faroe Islands. In September, the Ambassador also met with Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business & Trade of



Greenland, H.E. Mr. Mininnguaq Kliet. This followed her attendance at a New Year reception hosted by PM of Greenland H.E. Múte Bourup Egede.

Diplomatic relations between India and Denmark, established in September 1949, 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 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Denmark Ms. Mette Frederiksen. The current development of renewed India-Denmark relations has been guided by this Green Strategic Partnership, which has been evolving exponentially under the watchful eye of Kapur.

Things are not slowing down either for the Ambassador as she looks forward to more action-oriented engagement

between India and Denmark in 2024. Last month Kapur welcomed a delegation from Gujarat led by Dr. Rahul Gupta, Vice Chairman and MD, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation, in Copenhagen to promote Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024. They discussed the potential for enhancing co-operation with Denmark in Sustainable Solutions, Green Hydrogen, Renewable Energy etc.

Kapur joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1996 and has worked in various capacities at Indian Embassies / High Commissions in Paris, London, Kuala Lumpur and Brussels. At the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, she has held charges pertaining to India's relationship with Western Europe, South East Asia, the United Nations and the Commonwealth, including heading the ASEAN Multilateral Division. She has wide-ranging expertise in European and Indo-Pacific affairs, along-





**Photo: Hasse Ferrold**

side experience in multilateral matters. She has previously served as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of North Macedonia from 2017-2021.

Kapur was a Chevening scholar at the University of Oxford and has a Masters in Public Administration from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, along with a B.A. (Honours) and M.A. in Political Science from the University of Delhi. She is a university topper and recipient of several academic scholarships and awards.

The Ambassador is a published author and a frequent speaker at international conferences and events. Kapur speaks Hindi, English and French. She is married to Mr. Ashwani Kumar Aggarwal, a Chartered Accountant, and they have a teenage son.



## THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN COPENHAGEN

The Indian Embassy in Copenhagen plays a crucial role in facilitating diplomatic, consular, and cultural relations between India and Denmark. The embassy is responsible for representing India's interests, promoting bilateral cooperation, assisting Indian citizens in Denmark, and fostering people-to-people ties. Here are some key functions and activities of the Indian Embassy in Copenhagen:

### 1. Political Relations:

India and Denmark have maintained diplomatic relations for several decades. High-level visits and diplomatic dialogues have contributed to strengthening political ties between the two countries.

### 2. Economic and Trade Relations:

Economic cooperation between India and Denmark has grown, with trade relations expanding in areas such as renewable energy, shipping, and information technology.

### 3. Renewable Energy and Sustainability:

Denmark is known for its expertise in renewable energy, especially wind energy. India has sought collaboration with Denmark to harness this expertise.

### 4. Science and Technology Cooperation:

India and Denmark have collaborated in the fields of science and technology. Joint research projects and exchanges have taken place in areas such as biotechnology and innovation.

### 5. Cultural and Educational Exchanges:

Cultural ties between India and Denmark have been fostered through events, festivals, and cultural exchanges.

### 6. Diplomatic Engagements:

Both countries participate in international forums and share common views on various global issues, including multilateralism, climate change, and sustainable development.

### 7. Partnership in International Organisations:

India and Denmark often find common ground in various international forums and organisations, working together on shared goals and global challenges.