

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

### India –Netherlands Bilateral Relations

#### A. Introduction

1. Indian Trade Journal (ITJ) division of the Directorate 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 Embassy Profile Report for 25.02.2026 depicting the Embassy of Netherlands.

2. India and the Netherlands established diplomatic relations in 1947. Year 2022 marks the 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations. Today, India and the Netherlands enjoy strong political, economic & commercial relations. High level mutual exchanges have provided impetus to the multifaceted partnership between the two countries. Water, Agriculture and Health (WAH) are 3 priority sectors of cooperation besides technology and innovation.

#### B. Political Relations

3. **High Level exchanges:** The then President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind paid a State Visit to the Kingdom of Netherlands from 4-7 April 2022. The President was ceremonially welcomed at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam by His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Maxima. Prime Minister (PM) of the Netherlands, Mr Mark Rutte met President of India on 6 April 2022.

Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mr Mark Rutte had telephonic conversations with Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi twice during the year, on March 8, 2022 and July 13, 2022. An Online Virtual Summit between the two Prime Ministers took place on April 9, 2021, wherein the India-Netherlands Strategic Partnership in Water was launched and the Joint Working Group on Water Cooperation was elevated to the Ministerial level.

PM Rutte visited India in June 2015 and May 2018. PM Modi paid a visit to the Netherlands in June 2017. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands paid a state visit to India from October 14-18, 2019. Dr S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister (EAM) of India paid a visit to the Netherlands in November 2019. Mr. Wopke Hoekstra, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands visited India for participation in Raisina Dialogue in 2022 and also met with EAM on April 26, 2022. Speaker, Lok Sabha Shri Om Birla visited Netherlands in August 2022 and interacted with the President of the Senate, Mr Jan Anthonie Bruijn.

4. **Institutional Mechanisms:** India and the Netherlands discuss issues covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations, through annual consultations led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on both sides. The last Foreign Office Consultations were held in The Hague on November 10, 2021. The two sides have Joint Working Groups (JWGs) at functional level in the fields of (i) Science & Technology (ii) Agriculture (iii) Healthcare (iv) Urban Development and (vi) Counter Terrorism.

5. **Indo-Pacific:** The Netherlands issued its guidelines on the Indo-Pacific in 2020 which identifies India as a key partner. India welcomed the guidelines. Both sides recognize the close convergence between each other’s vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo- Pacific.

### C. Economic & Commercial Relations

6. The Netherlands is a major, fast-growing trade partner for India, ranking as its 10th largest globally and 2nd largest in the EU in FY 2024-25, with total trade reaching over USD 27.92 billion with India enjoying a significant trade surplus of USD 17.60 billion. The Netherlands is one of India's top European export destinations, with key exports including petroleum products, telecom instruments, organic chemicals, drug formulations, and textiles. Top imports from the Netherlands include specialized equipment like machinery for dairy, aircraft/spacecraft parts, and scientific instruments. The cumulative FDI inflows from Netherlands to India from April 2000 to March 2023 amounted to USD 43.75 billion. There are over 300 Dutch companies present in India, including Philips, Signify, Akzo Nobel, DSM, Heineken, KLM and others. Indian companies are also investing in the Netherlands in a big way and Netherlands is now the 4th largest destination for Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) by Indian companies. More than 300 Indian companies, including all major IT companies such as TCS, HCL, Wipro, Infosys, Tech Mahindra and important players from other sectors like Sun Pharmaceuticals, Tata Steel, Solis and LT Foods, have presence in Netherlands. A Joint Statement to formally establish a bilateral Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) between India and the Netherlands to facilitate investments by Dutch companies in India, was signed by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Embassy of Netherlands on September 27, 2022 in New Delhi.

#### **The Export-Import statistics between India-Netherlands from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (up to Dec’25):**

<b>(USD Billion)</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total trade</b>	<b>Import</b>	<b>Export</b>
2021-22	17.03	4.48	12.55
2022-23	27.58	5.96	21.62
2023-24	27.34	4.97	22.37
2024-25	27.92	5.16	22.76
2025-26 (up to Dec’25)	18.63	4.41	14.22

*(Source: Department of Commerce, India)*

## **D. Other Major Areas of Co-operation:-**

- Several Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) have been signed between India and Netherland for cooperation in the fields of defence, economic and commercial links, technical cooperation and culture.
- **Water Management:** Cooperation in the water sector has been given a further boost by the decision to institute a ‘Strategic Partnership on Water’, and upgrade the JWG on Water to Ministerial-level during the virtual summit held in April 2021. The Netherlands is engaged with various States and Municipalities in India to implement water related projects including the States of UP (Namami Ganga Program), Tamil Nadu (water as leverage, water management and conservation) and Kerala (flood management).
- **Ports/Shipping/Inland Waterways:** India and Netherlands had signed an MoU in the fields of Ports and Maritime Transport and Logistics in 2008, which was extended twice. It had a special focus on research and development, shipbuilding, innovation and sustainability. The 4th Indo-Dutch Forum on Smart & Sustainable Port-Led Development was held in September 2020. Port of Rotterdam, Port of Amsterdam and Dutch companies took part in the online Maritime India Summit held in March 2021. Maritime sector was one of the focus areas for the Dutch trade delegation which accompanied the King and Queen of Netherlands during their state visit to India in 2019.
- **Agriculture and Food Processing:** Agriculture is one of the core sectors identified by the two sides for enhancing bilateral cooperation. India and Netherlands cooperate on agriculture through a Joint Working Group which is led by Ministries of Agriculture on both sides. The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Indo-Dutch JWG on Agriculture Cooperation was held digitally in June 2021. Under the JWG, India and Netherlands have signed an action plan which envisages cooperation in establishing Centres of Excellence. We have set an ambitious agenda to establish 25 CoEs by 2025 in Agri sector, 7 out of which are already functional. India also participated in Floriade 2022, which is an international exhibition and garden festival, held every 10 years in the Netherlands.
- **Health care cooperation:** An MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare and Public Health was signed in January 2014 to promote global research collaboration in emerging health challenges associated with communicable diseases and antimicrobial resistance. India and Netherlands cooperate through a Joint Working Group on Health led by the Ministry of Health on both sides under this MoU. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of this JWG was held in April 2021 and discussions were held on anti-microbial resistance, Covid-19 vaccination, collaboration on digital health and so on.
- **Urban Development and Smart Cities:** India and the Netherlands signed an MoU in the field of Spatial Planning, Water Management and Mobility Management in 2013. Under the MoU, both sides cooperate through a JWG led by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India and Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Netherlands. The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JWG was held in June 2021 and discussed cooperation in various fields including in urban development, smart city, waste-to-value projects, geospatial innovation and so on.
- **Renewable Energy:** India and Netherlands have strong cooperation in Renewable Energy. The

Netherlands signed the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in May 2018. India is one of the convening countries of the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), headquartered in the Netherlands. The Netherlands joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in 2021. PM Modi addressed the Climate Adaptation Summit hosted by the Netherlands in January 2021 and had called for CDRI and GCA to work together to enhance infrastructure resilience globally. NITI Aayog, India's premier policy think tank, and the Embassy of Netherlands, signed a Statement of Intent on 28th September 2020, through which both sides agreed to work together to support the decarbonization and energy transition agenda.

- **S&T and Space:** The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) collaborates with major national funders of research in India such as Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The Netherlands was India's partner country in the Technology Summit 2019 held in New Delhi. The Netherlands was partner country with India for the Global Bio India 2021 Virtual Summit which was held in March 2021. ISRO has long standing cooperation with European Space Agency which has its European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) based in Noordwyk, Netherlands.
- **Cultural Cooperation:** Yoga is very popular in the Netherlands. International Day of Yoga 2021 celebrations took place in a hybrid format on 19 June 2021. An ICCR Cultural Centre "The Gandhi Centre" has been functional in The Hague since 2011. The Centre has an active calendar of programs including Yoga, Sanskrit, Tabla, Kathak and Hindi language classes, in addition to various programs related to Indian culture including music, dance, workshops, movies, etc. The Gandhi Centre is also engaged in an outreach program for various Indian (Surinami-Hindustani ) schools in The Hague.
- **Indian Community and Students:** The Netherlands hosts the second largest Indian Diaspora (after UK) in Europe and the largest on mainland Europe, totaling around 2,60,000 comprising 60,000 Indians and 2,00,000 strong Surinami-Hindustani community of Indian origin. Netherlands is a popular education destination for Indian students, particularly in the field of science & technology. Many Dutch Universities like TU Delft, Leiden University and Masstricht University have long standing collaboration with Indian universities. The number of Indian students has been growing over the years and more than 3500 Indian Students are studying in the Netherlands presently.

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