



India-Netherlands

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Recently, the King and Queen of the **Kingdom of Netherlands** visited India to give an impetus to the bilateral ties shared by the two nations.



- **Economic partnership** between India & Netherlands is a **key pillar** of the bilateral ties.
 - The Netherlands is **India's 4th largest trading partner** in the **European Union**. And is also **one of the leading investor nation** in India.
 - The Dutch companies (in India) have a global name in the fields of agriculture, water management, port development, waste management, and urban planning.
- **Historical Relations:** Indo-Dutch relations can be traced back to more than 400 years when the **first Dutch EIC** got established in India (in around 17th century AD).
 - The official relations between the two nations were established in the year 1947 which, since then, have been **cordial and friendly**.
 - The two countries also share common ideals of **democracy, pluralism and the rule of law**.

- **Cultural Relations:** The Netherlands currently is home to the **largest Indian community** on the European mainland. The growing Indian **student and professional community** in the Netherlands is making the cultural knot stronger and the technological partnership deeper.
- **Significance of Netherlands to India:**
 - Netherlands' has supported India's membership to the different **Export Control Regimes** and India's claim to a **permanent seat in the UN Security Council**.
 - India and the Netherlands share common concerns with regard to contemporary challenges that include **climate action, cyber-security, and terrorism**.
 - Smart Cities, green energy, start-ups, smart solutions, and new-age products are bringing the two nations closer. India is keen to share and learn from the Netherlands on the **river rejuvenation**.
 - **LOTUS:** During the recent visit, a joint launch of the second phase of the **Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for the Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR)** program was done by the **Union Minister for Science & Technology** for the treatment of sewage water.
 - The project was **initiated in July 2017** and aims to manifest a novel holistic **waste-water management approach** that will produce clean water, which could henceforth be reused for various purposes.
 - The LOTUS-HR project is jointly supported by the **Department of Biotechnology** and the **Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research /STW**.
 - **WETLAB:** It is a **design challenge** that is jointly supported by the Department of Biotechnology-Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (**DBT-BIRAC**) and Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

It provides a **unique learning and networking platform** for young professionals and students to **think differently for innovative ideas** to solve India's urban water challenges and contribute to cleaning up of India's rivers.

Source: PIB