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India-Netherlands Relations

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Why in News

Recently, India and Netherlands reviewed bilateral cooperation in Science and Technology and Innovation.



Key Points

Highlights of the Meeting:

- India **emphasized that the trinity of Health, Agriculture and Water** are bedrock of close mutual collaboration between the two nations.
- Netherlands proposed to work together in the area of **Green Hydrogen** and **ocean sciences**.
- Both countries agreed to support joint research and development regarding **Smart Energy Grids, Big Data** and **Internet of Things**.
- India invited Netherlands for exchanges in the Space sector particularly in the wake of path-breaking reforms initiated by India in the recent past **allowing the private sector to have a level playing field** in satellite launches and space based activities.
- Both countries also flagged future collaboration in **Solar Energy, Gas-based installations, Cyber Security, Data Science, Urban Water System and emerging areas**, which will create jobs for people in India.
- **Climate Change** as a key area of concern for the entire World was also highlighted.

Note

- The Government of India, on the occasion of Independence day, announced the **National Hydrogen Mission** to make **India a Global Hub for Green Hydrogen Production and Export**.
- Also, the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** has recently launched the **Deep Ocean Mission**, with a view to explore the deep ocean for resources and develop deep-sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources.

India-Netherlands Relations:

- **Economic and Trade:** The Netherlands is the **sixth largest contributor of foreign investment into** India in FY 2021.
The Netherlands is **India's 5th largest trading partner** in the **European Union**. It is also one of the leading investor nations in India.
- **Historical Relations:** Indo-Dutch relations **can be traced back to more than 400 years** when the **first Dutch EIC (East India Company)** was 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.**
An **Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Cultural Centre "The Gandhi Centre"** was established in The Hague in October 2011.
- **Cooperation in Science & Technology:** The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) collaborates with the various departments in the Indian Government.
 - For instance, there is an ongoing project titled **"Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Reuse (LOTUS-HR)"**.
 - The LOTUS-HR project is an India-Netherlands joint collaboration of universities and companies funded by the India's Department of Biotechnology and the Dutch NWO-TTW.
- **Collaboration in Water Management:**
A platform called **Dutch Indo Water Alliance Leadership Initiative (DIWALI)** has been developed in which India and Netherlands could participate in designing solutions for water challenges.
- **Collaboration in Agriculture:** Agriculture is one of the core sectors identified by the Netherlands for enhancing bilateral cooperation with India.
 - The **5th Joint Agriculture Working Group (JAWG)** meeting on Agriculture took place in New Delhi in 2018.
 - Under the JAWG, an Action Plan was signed which envisages cooperation in establishing **Centres of Excellence (CoE)** in horticulture, animal husbandry & dairy, fisheries and food processing.
 - This is also accompanied by **skill development & capacity building** in the fields of cold chain, supply chain management etc.
- **Healthcare Cooperation:**
An MoU for Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare and Public Health was signed in January 2014 to promote greater research collaboration in emerging health challenges associated with **communicable diseases** and **antimicrobial resistance.**

Source: PIB