

India-Netherlands seal 'strategic partnership' pact

The two nations sign 17 deals during Modi's two-day visit to The Hague, writes Archis Mohan

India and the Netherlands announced 17 outcomes at the end of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the country, which concluded Sunday afternoon. Commitments included deepening bilateral cooperation in semiconductors, critical minerals, renewable energy and green transition, defence co-production, mobility, horticulture and dairying.

The Netherlands is one of India's largest trade destinations in Europe, with bilateral trade worth \$27.8 billion (2024-25). It is India's fourth largest investor with cumulative foreign direct investment of \$55.6 billion.

The joint statement issued at the end of PM Modi's two-day visit to The Hague stated that the Netherlands with its world class logistics network serves as a strategic gateway to Europe for Indian exporters, including via the Rotterdam port. India in turn offers a vast and dynamic market for Dutch companies, and has a vast and skilled talent pool, it said.

Among the highlights was an agreement inked by Tata Electronics with Dutch semiconductor equipment supplier ASML to support the

former's chip fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat. PM Modi and his Dutch counterpart Rob Jetten welcomed the agreement. ASML is one of the leading suppliers for high-precision lithography equipment, a key component of semiconductor chips manufacturing.

The Netherlands was the second leg of the PM's overseas tour. He landed in Gothenburg, Sweden's manufacturing hub on Sunday evening, where he will have talks with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, and address the European Roundtable for Industry.

India and the Netherlands elevated their relationship to a 'strategic partnership'. The two sides adopted a strategic partnership road map to foster closer ties by regular and structured cooperation in all areas, including political, trade and investment, defence and security cooperation, critical and emerging technologies, and energy transition, among others.

Modi and Jetten welcomed the establishment of a Joint Trade and Investment Committee and the Fast Track Mechanism to expand bilateral

trade and investment leveraging the India-European free trade agreement. They discussed the Russia-Ukraine war, as well as the conflict in West Asia and its implications on disruptions to global energy supplies and trade networks. The two sides called for freedom of navigation and global flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz. They also called for a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific region, based on respect for international law, sovereignty and territorial integrity, freedom of navigation and "absence of coercion and conflicts".

In emerging technology, the two sides welcomed the initiative to connect the Dutch Semicon Competence Centre to the Indian Semiconductor Mission, for the Indo-Dutch Semicon Online School. A pact was signed between Eindhoven University of Technology and University of Twente with six Indian technical institutes, including Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science as well as Indian Institutes of Technology in Delhi, Gandhinagar, Mumbai and Chennai for a brain bridge in semiconductors and related technologies.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Netherlands counterpart Rob Jetten on Sunday. PM Modi later in the day landed in Sweden's Gothenburg

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