

Netherlands concludes largest trade delegation to India

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By TIOL News Service



NEW DELHI, MAY 28, 2018: INDO-DUTCH relationship is at apex level at this point in time. Netherlands just concluded its most successful business delegation to India. The Trade delegation from the Netherlands was in India from 23rd to 25th May. Dutch Prime Minister, Mark Rutte was accompanied by Minister of Agriculture, Carola Schouten, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Sigrid Kaag, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister for Healthcare and Sport, Bruno Bruins and over 230 participants representing 130 companies from the Netherlands. This is the largest ever trade delegation from the Netherlands to India.

The delegation visited Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Key Highlights of the trade delegation was signing of over 30 MOUTMs in area of Agriculture, Health, Science & Business, Finance, Education, Smart Cities and Infrastructure. According to Dr. Vikas Chaturvedi, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Europe and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India - Netherlands Chapter, "these MOUs will give significant impetus to India-Netherlands business in years to come. Important is to have a good follow up from both the sides to achieve full potential of what both sides can add to each other. Often MOUs are signed but there is not sufficient follow up which leads to inadequate results. He stated that through ASSOCHAM Netherlands they will ensure an adequate follow up from participants and will render all possible help where required."

In addition there was very successful round table of CEOs which was attended by over 20 key CEOTMs from both sides in presence of PM Modi and PM Rutte.

Over 10 sector specific seminars were conducted during the mission where experts and companies brain stormed on how to collaborate as there are multi-dimension opportunities. Key seminars were : Indo-Dutch Ganga Forum held in New Delhi, Seminar on Connecting farmers with market in Mumbai, Partners in Innovation and Infrastructure in Bengaluru, Indo Dutch Smart & Sustainable Port Forum in Mumbai, INDUS Forum on sustainability in New Delhi, etc. Lot of ideas has been exchanged and lots of opportunities has been identified by companies from both sides.

PM Rutte, Minister Kaag, Dutch Ambassador, Hans de Boer Chairman of Confederation of Industries of Netherlands launched book prepared by ASSOCHAM Netherlands and NFIA. The book is aimed to promote trade and Investment Opportunities between Netherlands

and India. According to Dr. Chaturvedi who has been working on this book with NFIA team for almost 1 year, "This book gives an excellent overview of doing business in the Netherlands, which is a gateway to Europe and acts as a handbook for all the practical aspects that investors seek. At the same time it provides sectoral overview of key sectors between two countries."

India and The Netherlands are partners of natural choice. Netherlands is the fifth largest investor in India. India's 20% export to EU passes through the Netherlands. Current bilateral trade is over 7 billion Euros between 2 countries.

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