

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT OF THE
NETHERLANDS
AND
THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Introduction

- Indian-Dutch partnership in the field of water safety, water availability and water quality is strong, diverse, mutually beneficial and cover a wide range of areas including tackling of river water pollution, delta management, waste water recycling, integrated water resource management systems and the accompanying water governance.
- During the Virtual Summit held between the Indian Prime Minister and the Dutch Prime Minister on 9 April 2021, both leaders acknowledged the strong synergies as far as the water related challenges and confirmed the 'STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER'.
- As a foremost step to commence the Strategic Partnership On Water, India and the Netherlands decided together to elevate the existing Joint Working Group on Water to Ministerial level.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER

- The Strategic Partnership On Water aims to further intensify and expand the on-going bilateral water cooperation through greater involvement of policy experts, academia, knowledge institutes, private companies and communities/stakeholders. The STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER also aims to combine the resources, (policy)expertise, and knowledge skills to address water related challenges and to add strategic direction to maximize benefits for both countries.

SIGNATORIES are the Ministry of Jal Shakti of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands and separately referred to as 'Signatory'.

ABIDING to further strengthen the friendly relations and between the Signatories on the basis of equality, mutual benefits and mutual respect;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals, water safety, water availability and water quality for the well-being of present and future generations and the development of the economies of both countries;

EXPRESSING the joint interest in the further development of a long-term Strategic Partnership On Water in the field of water safety, water availability and water quality in order to increase the exchange of information, knowledge and technology between Signatories;

UNDERSTANDING of the need for a coherent, sustainable, collaborative, adaptive and integrated approach in water related issues in order to achieve tangible and sustainable outcomes;

STATING THEIR WILLINGNESS to deepen and broaden the Strategic Partnership On Water in the field of water safety, water availability and water quality;

HAVE REACHED the following understanding:

Paragraph 1 Objective

The STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER is to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in the field of water safety, water availability and water quality and will provide the necessary impetus to expand the water cooperation as a programmatic approach with the focus on water safety, water availability and water quality, including the accompanying water governance.

The objectives of the Strategic Partnership On Water are:

- To leverage Dutch expertise and experience in effective and sustainable water programs in India and contribute to global efforts in achieving water related SDGs;
- To jointly explore innovative and sustainable technology solutions/nature based solutions for Integrated Water Resource Management and River Basin Management;
- To convene relevant experts, officials, industry leaders and innovative entrepreneurs from the water sector to exchange views on best practices and business solutions and suggest ways to adjust or reform policies and institutions;
- Exchange knowledge through capacity building.

Paragraph 2 Areas of cooperation

The Signatories will cooperate on all aspects related to water safety, water availability and water quality. Each Signatory will, subject to the laws and national policies in force in each country, endeavour to encourage and promote cooperation in the following areas:

1. Integrated Water Resource Management;
2. River Basin Management;
3. Water safety, flood management along rivers, delta's and coasts;
4. Water quality, river basin management, including pollution reduction;
5. Water availability, including drought management and re-use of water;
6. Any other areas as mutually decided on by the Signatories.

Paragraph 3 Forms of cooperation

The forms of cooperation by the Signatories in the fields defined in Paragraph 2 above may include:

- Promoting the exchange of expertise and knowledge through study visits, seminars, conferences and meetings of experts of the Signatories;
- Stimulating research;
- Development of programs;
- Stimulating capacity-building programs, exchange of training groups and other activities for the purpose of academic research and training;
- Mutual participation in and/or initiation of relevant collaboration programs;
- Promoting public private partnerships;
- Other methods of cooperation as decided by the Signatories.

Paragraph 4 Implementation

1. In the implementation of this Strategic Partnership On Water the Signatories will encourage and facilitate, where appropriate, cooperation between their respective government agencies, universities, knowledge institutes, private sector and other entities of both countries;
2. The Signatories will promote the conclusion of arrangements in specific areas of integrated water resource management by government agencies of both countries.

Paragraph 5 Ministerial Joint Working Group

The Joint Working Group, as established under the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding on Water, will continue the task as Ministerial Joint Working Group (hereafter JWG).

The Ministerial Joint Working Group will be mandated to steer the Indian-Dutch STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER and will closely review the implementation and monitoring of the partnership.

The JWG will meet at least once a year of which one meeting is at the Ministerial level, alternately in the Netherlands and in India, organized by the respective host country.

If decided by the Signatories, third parties (public and/or private) may become temporary or permanent members of the JWG.

Paragraph 6 Workplan

Under this Strategic Partnership On Water, the JWG will prepare a Work Plan for the implementation of this Strategic Partnership On Water. The Work Plan will be monitored, discussed and updated regularly. Jointly decided by the Signatories, supplementary activities and programs may be added to the Work Plan.

The Work Plan will describe specific joint programs, activities, cooperating partners as well as relevant financial and logistic arrangements and the role and responsibility of the Signatories in the JWG and will focus on the following:

- **Integrated Water Resource Management**
With a focus on water safety, water availability and water quality, including the accompanying water governance in both rural and urban areas;
- **Capacity Building**
Explore institutional mechanisms for capacity building and increase technical cooperation through study visits and expert missions;
- **Integrated River Basin Management**
Facilitate adoption of an integrated approach for river basin management with focus on spatial planning, sustainability, engineering and design, and disaster risk reduction;
- **Research and Innovation**
Build on existing collaborations to develop research activities.

Paragraph 7 Centers of Excellence

It is proposed to establish India-Dutch Centers of Excellence (CoEs) on Water. Priority areas for CoEs could be identified in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Possible issues for CoEs are:

- Water safety;
- Water availability;
- Water quality.

Paragraph 8 Financial Arrangements

Unless the Signatories mutually decide otherwise, each Signatory will finance its own expenses arising from the cooperation activities carried out under the Strategic Partnership On Water.

Paragraph 9 Intellectual Property Rights

The Signatories acknowledge that nothing in this Strategic Partnership On Water will affect ownership of any intellectual property rights.

Paragraph 10 Process, Term, Termination and Amendment

The Strategic Partnership On Water will come into effect on the date of Signature and will be valid for a period of five years. Thereafter, it may be updated and extended for further periods of five years with mutual consent of both Signatories.

Either Signatory may terminate its cooperation to the present STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON WATER at any time by giving a notice of its intention to terminate to the other Signatory at least two months in advance.

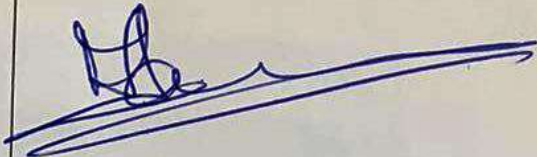
The Strategic Water Partnership may be amended in writing with the mutual consent of the Signatories.

Any dispute or other difference arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Strategic Water Partnership will be settled through consultations and amicable negotiation between the Signatories.

The Strategic Water Partnership is signed virtually at The New Delhi and The Hague on 29th March 2022 in two originals in Dutch, English and Hindi languages, all text having equal validity. In case of differences in interpretation of the texts, the English language version will prevail.

The Strategic Partnership on Water does not create any rights or obligations under international law nor does it constitute a contract or legal obligation of any kind according to national law.

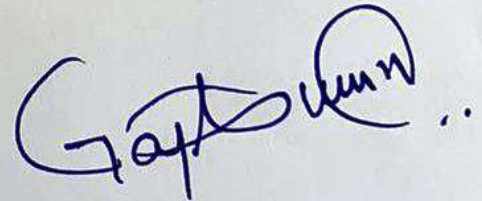
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