

JOINT STATEMENT FOR CZECHIA-INDIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON INNOVATION

The Czech Republic and India (hereinafter referred to as “the Partners”)

1. Noting with satisfaction the development of their bilateral relationship based on long-standing ties, mutual understanding and the shared desire for international peace, stability, values of democracy and rule of law;
2. Sharing an ambition to upgrade their bilateral relations to a new qualitative level and recognizing the benefits of strategic approach in advancing shared interests through partnerships and joint projects in scientific research, technology development, sustainable economy, defense and security and innovative industries, including, *inter alia*, cooperation in the environment, energy, transport, agriculture, health and people-to-people contacts;
3. Committed to deeper engagement within the Indo-Pacific region based on an open, free inclusive and rules-based approach with respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and recognizing the promotion of effective rules-based multilateralism as a way to achieve global prosperity and commitments of the UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals;
4. Underlining their commitments for multilateral cooperation as well as for the EU – India bilateral agenda, especially the conclusion of a free trade agreement and an investment protection agreement and operationalizing the EU – India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and EU – India Connectivity partnership to advance further the EU – India Strategic Partnership in the fields of trade, trusted technology and security;
5. Determined to strengthen further mutual ties to address untapped potential for innovation cooperation and to facilitate joint partnerships and projects, Czech Republic and India decide to elevate their relations in innovative sectors to the Strategic Partnership on Innovation and to further intensify bilateral high-level, professional and business exchanges, and declare their intention to work together in the following areas of mutual cooperation:

SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

6. Both Partners will explore all opportunities to expand cooperation in research and technology by promoting mutual exchanges and sharing of ideas and best practices between researchers and innovative entrepreneurs with a view to utilize such knowledge for future collaboration.

7. Both Partners recognize the importance of creating synergies between research universities and centers, higher education institutions, innovative industry and the corporate sector in order to accelerate technological progress and future smart solutions that would trigger modernization of industries.

8. Both Partners acknowledge the contribution of research and innovation to the economic growth and competitiveness. They wish to support more joint initiatives and projects aimed at the transfer of new knowledge and technologies into new applications and products. Priority areas include, among others, digital technologies and artificial intelligence, biotechnologies and health, key emerging technologies, semiconductors, new materials including nanotechnologies and quantum technologies, sustainable energy and environmental sciences, management of resources and food safety, security of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and creative industries.

9. The two countries will facilitate the mobility of scientists and researchers that would support joint research projects and R&D partnerships, enabling excellent research infrastructure and environment.

INNOVATION DRIVEN TRADE AND ECONOMY

10. Both Partners desire to encourage solutions based on knowledge, creativity and technological advancement. They confirm their readiness to support G2G, B2G, B2B, academic and other key stakeholder's partnerships to encourage and expand cooperation in the fields of innovation driven trade, joint ventures and investment.

11. Both Partners will contribute to encourage scalable and tailored solutions related to each other's policies, such as "Industry 4.0" or "Make in India" to boost the bilateral trade and encourage flows of investment and services. The two Partners will collaborate to raise awareness among entrepreneurs of their countries on related opportunities.

12. Both Partners express support for facilitation of investment and recognize the need for transparent conditions and legal certainty to investors. They wish to encourage market access activities and will work together to promote ease of doing business or intellectual property enforcement.

13. Both Partners intend to focus on innovative and value-added products as they significantly impact employment competitiveness and welfare. The two Partners also stress the potential of cooperation between SMEs and start-ups as an essential resource for diversifying their bilateral economic relations.

14. Both Partners underline the importance of joint promotion of networking channels between chambers of commerce, academia and researchers to facilitate the establishment of diverse business and professional platforms. They also wish to explore ways to increase bilateral trade of goods and services through business missions and participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, congresses and R&D symposia.

15. Both Partners emphasize their commitment to strengthen the work of the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation, established under the Agreement on Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of India, signed on 8 June 2010 in Prague and chaired by the Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India. They will also try to foster innovation cooperation under "Industry 4.0" through the aforementioned Joint Commission.

16. Both Partners are committed to exploring new ways and means of collaboration, inter alia, in engineering, automotive industry, space activities, air navigation services, clean technologies, information and communication technologies, digital trade including e-commerce, mining, sustainable agriculture, food processing, water and water treatment and pharmaceuticals, wellness and Indian system of medicine, waste and secondary material management.

DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND CYBER SECURITY

17. Both Partners underline the importance of innovations in the defence field and the defence industry. They note with satisfaction the existing connections among their entities

in the areas. They are committed to further encouraging their cooperation including, R&D, training and innovative production solutions involving Czech and Indian stakeholders.

18. The two Partners express their desire to enhance the dialogue on cyber security, cyber governance, cybercrime, space security, CBRN Defense and countering hybrid threats through cooperation between relevant agencies and stakeholders, sharing of best practices, skills and capacity building. In this regard, both Partners intend to cooperate in the multilateral fora including the United Nations on cyber matters of mutual interest.

19. The two Partners wish to intensify proposed cooperation within the framework of the Joint Committee on Defense Cooperation established by the Agreement on Defense Cooperation between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the Republic of India signed on 21 October 2003 in Prague.

HEALTH SECTOR AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

20. Both Partners confirm their readiness to encourage closer bilateral cooperation in the health sector. The Partners take note of the existing development and production capacities in the field of pharmaceuticals and opportunities to collaborate in the affordable health care sector.

21. They wish to promote further linkages given untapped opportunities in commerce and capacity building in the health sector, including health and life sciences, medical research or medical technologies and devices.

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN ENERGY

22. Both Partners wish to expand their cooperation in promoting innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly technological solutions that align with the principles of the circular economy.

23. Both Partners will work together in tackling issues related to the climate change and wish to advance their cooperation in the clean energy transition, disaster risk reduction and use of innovative clean technologies.

24. Both Partners emphasize the untapped potential in areas of wastewater treatment, sanitation and water management to promote a sustainable urban and rural environment.

25. Both Partners express their interest in strengthening cooperation in renewable energy development and other energy-related issues including green hydrogen, energy efficiency and savings, energy conservation, decarbonization, green digital technologies and smart power distribution grids.

26. Both Partners underline the importance of promoting the peaceful use of civil nuclear energy. They express support to fully developing and strengthening bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, including by building links between relevant institutions and enhancing mutual capacities in nuclear energy research.

SMART TRANSPORT, SMART CITIES

27. Both Partners wish to enhance cooperation in the areas of transport infrastructure and sustainable transport, smart public transport systems, mobility and e-mobility. They will foster collaboration in all transport modes and related innovation development. The two Partners propose to focus more closely on the rail industry and rail transport. They express their wish to encourage more technological cooperation and exchange of expertise to address safety, efficiency and accessibility of the railway transport and infrastructure.

28. Both Partners support the introduction of direct flights between the countries to boost bilateral trade and commerce and explore avenues to collaborate in the field of air navigation services.

29. Both Partners will explore the potential for collaboration in the area of "smart cities" to develop innovative technologies and approaches.

30. Both Partners also intend to collaborate in the sectors of Used Water Treatment, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy to foster cooperation in sustainable urban development.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

31. Both Partners wish to explore further opportunities and potential in the area of sustainable agriculture and the food industry. They want to encourage closer connections among public and private sectors, including research and educational facilities, in promoting the transfer and use of food processing and food industry technologies, machinery and equipment.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION AND SCIENTIFIC MOBILITY

32. The two Partners emphasize the potential to promote people-to-people links across all target sectors within the strategic partnership by creating a conducive environment to ease the mobility of skilled personnel as well as to advance joint cooperation in countering irregular migration, trafficking of human beings and return. Such cooperation will include a senior level dialogue on migration and mobility partnership to facilitate the mobility of researchers, scholars, students and business people and to countering irregular migration and trafficking of human beings.

33. In addition, the two Partners will further examine the mobility possibilities through reinforced visa and consular consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

34. To harness the innovative potential on both sides, both Partners confirm their support for the further development of cultural ties through the collaboration of dedicated stakeholders in creative industries and applied arts.

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