

## **Embassy of India**

**The Hague**

### **Press Release**

**May 27, 2020**

#### **Indian Embassy, The Hague successfully repatriates around 200 stranded Indian Nationals from Amsterdam to Mumbai via a special flight**

Around 200 Indian Nationals stranded in the Netherlands were successfully evacuated yesterday by a special KLM flight. Besides, the Netherlands, the flight also included Indian nationals from Portugal, Mexico, and Peru. Ambassador of India to the Netherlands H.E. Mr. Venu Rajamony personally saw off the passengers as they boarded the aircraft at Amsterdam Schiphol airport. There were tears of joy and heartfelt gratitude as the individuals profusely thanked the Indian Embassy for coming to their aid in their time of distress.

Earlier in March, the Embassy played a major role in the evacuation of 117 Indian Nationals stranded at Schiphol airport when the travel ban on international commercial passenger flights came into force. Since then the Embassy has assisted the remaining stranded Indians by providing accommodation and meals during the course of the extended travel ban and has also guided those with a medical condition to health care support.

There are around 1000 Indians who are to be repatriated in the ensuing weeks. On June 8, the second batch of stranded Indian Nationals will be homeward bound on Air India flight from Amsterdam to New Delhi as part of the second leg of Vande Bharat Mission.

Netherlands has second largest population of people of Indian origin in Europe (next only to UK). It is home to about 240,000 members of Indian Diaspora including approximately 200,000 members of Hindustani-Surinami community wholly integrated into Dutch society. Although their fore bearers left India nearly 150 years ago, the Hindustani-Surinami community has deep cultural links with India and is active in promoting cultural cooperation through well-established institutions. The Indian community has played a significant role in contributing to the cultural traditions of both countries in a mutually harmonious and beneficial manner while also helping in expanding and creating a favourable climate for further improvement of bilateral business relations. The Indian community is the fastest growing group of expatriates in metropolitan Amsterdam and has in its own way contributed to the enrichment of cultural ethos as well as the commercial success of the city.

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