



## President's Three Nations Visit

The President of India recently concluded his visit to the three nations namely, **Iceland, Switzerland, and Slovenia**.

### India-Iceland

#### Historical Background

- India and Iceland's friendship is based on the shared values and mutuality of interests. [//](#)



- A string of high-level visits between the two nations since 2000, imparted a new dynamism to the bilateral relations.
- Iceland was the **first Nordic country** that publicly extended support to India's candidature for permanent membership at the [United Nations Security Council \(UNSC\)](#).
- Iceland was one of the countries that **co-sponsored** the resolution at the UN to declare **June 21** as the [International Day of Yoga](#).

### Key Highlights of the Visit

- India and Iceland signed and exchanged **three agreements** in the fields of,
  - Fisheries** collaboration,
  - Cultural** cooperation, and
  - Visa waiver** for the holders of diplomatic and official passport.
- Culturally**, India's long-pending demand for setting up a **Hindi Chair** at the University of Iceland was fulfilled.
  - The Hindi language will now be taught at the University of Iceland.
- On the economic front**, with India's aim to become a **\$5 trillion economy by 2024-25**, India's **transformative growth** and Iceland's **technological** know-how can add immense value.
  - In the purview of Climate Change, India wants to combine its economic progress with clean

technology.

- In this regard, Iceland's pioneering efforts in green technologies, be it carbon capture, energy-efficient buildings or waste-to-wealth projects can leverage significant benefits to India.
- The **future areas of cooperation** between India and Iceland lie in the field of pharma, healthcare and biotech space, finance, hospitality and tourism services.

## India-Switzerland

### Historical Background

- India is one of Switzerland's principal partners in Asia. The two countries signed the **Treaty of**



**Friendship** in the year 1948.

- Since then, Switzerland and India have signed numerous bilateral agreements that cover a wide range of areas such as trade, education and vocational training, visas, migration, air traffic, investment, finance, taxation, and scientific and technological cooperation.

### Key Highlights of the Visit

- The Indian President addressed the **Federal Council** of Switzerland (which is the highest executive authority of Switzerland) and unveiled a statue of **Mahatma Gandhi at Villeneuve, Switzerland.**
- Both the countries agreed to have their **first** automatic **exchange of information** on tax matters.
- Switzerland is the **largest exporter to India from Europe.**
  - The bilateral trade volume stands at around **US\$ 19 billion** and India is committed to expand the trading ties further.
- The future opportunities lie in the field of capital, technology, science and skills, inter alia for mutual benefit.

## India-Slovenia

### Historical Background

- The **Republic of Slovenia attained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.** And, India recognized the independent state of Slovenia in 1992 and supported its candidature for the



membership at the UN.

- Since then both the nations share cordial bilateral relations.
- The balance of trade between the two nations is tilted in favour of India.

### Key Highlights of the Visit

- This is the **first-ever presidential visit** from India to Slovenia.
- India and Slovenia signed and exchanged **seven MoUs and Programmes of Cooperation** in the fields of Investment, Sports, Culture, River Rejuvenation (**Clean Ganga Mission**), Science & Technology and Standards.
- India sought for Slovenia's support in its bid to get permanent membership at the UN Security Council and the membership of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group**.
- The future cooperation possibilities between the two countries lie in the fields of high technology (especially clean technology), robotics and artificial intelligence, start-ups and innovation sectors.

**Source: PIB**

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