



## Baltic Nations

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The Vice President of India is on a trip to **Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia** from 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August 2019, the **first-ever high-level visit** from India **to the three Baltic countries**.

- The Vice President's visit to the three Baltic nations is to advance India's outreach to the important countries in the region.
- Lithuania has backed India to have permanent membership in an expanded and reformed **United Nations Security Council**.
- The Vice President addressed the **first-ever India-Latvia Business Forum** and called for taking the bilateral trade and economic cooperation to new heights.  
He also **unveiled the bust of the Father of the Nation**, Mahatma Gandhi at the National Library of Latvia.
- The Vice President's visit to Estonia includes talks on the development of bilateral relations as well as possible cooperation in the UN and international organisations.

## Baltic Countries

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**Baltic states**, the northeastern region of Europe, includes the countries of **Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania**, on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea.



- The Baltic states are bounded on the west and north by the **Baltic Sea, which gives the region its name**, on the east by Russia, on the southeast by Belarus, and on the southwest by Poland and an exclave of Russia
- **In 1991**, their then popularly elected governments **declared independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)** with overwhelming support.
- The Baltic region is not rich in natural resources. Though Estonia is an important producer of oil shale, a large share of mineral and energy resources is imported.
- Agriculture remains important to the Baltic economy, with potatoes, cereal grains, and fodder crops produced and dairy cattle and pigs raised.
- **India and Baltic countries have historical connect and common linguistic roots.** The cutting edge technology and innovation ecosystems of the Baltic countries complement India's huge market and appetite for these technologies.

**Source: PIB**