



PM Modi's visits to France, Germany and Canada

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2015 gave a nine-day, three nation visit to France, Germany and Canada with the objective of holding bilateral talks as well as people to people contacts with all three key global economic powerhouses.

1. Significance of the visits

- All the three countries are G7 nations and industrialised democracies. India has a considerable economic interest in partnering with these countries which is very relevant to our industrial programmes.
- PM Modi used the “Make in India” initiative to encourage investment from three of the world’s major economies.
- Defense, energy, and infrastructure took center-stage in Paris; In Germany, the real European powerhouse, Modi met Chancellor Angela Merkel and inaugurated the Hannover Messe; and with Canada, Modi secured a landmark nuclear energy deal.

2. Visit to France

- PM Modi visited France from April 9 to April 12 2015. During his visit he is expected to encourage French companies to participate in the Make In India programme in defense, civil nuclear power and food processing.
- Modi held wide-ranging consultations with French PM Francois Hollande and conducted round-table discussions with French CEOs.
- He also had a ‘naav pe charcha’ with Hollande as he went on a cruise on the Seine river with the French premier.
- French President Francois Hollande announced that France would invest €2 billion in India and develop three smart cities in the country.
- Important agreements signed between the two countries are:
 - ✓ MOU between L&T and Areva aimed at cost reduction by increasing localisation at the Jaitapur nuclear plant project. Transfer of technology in this regard is also enabled.
 - ✓ MoU between ISRO and CNES on the Indo-French Megha Tropiques satellite which was launched by ISRO in 2011.



- ✓ Deal to supply 36 Rafale fighter jets in 'fly-away' condition to India as quickly as possible. This deal will bypass the earlier plan to buy 126 Rafale fighters, "of which 108 would be produced at HAL plant in Bengaluru.
- ✓ MoU in the field of renewable energy.
- ✓ A railway protocol to upgrade the semi high-speed Delhi-Chandigarh line to 200 kmph, and the redevelopment of Ambala and Ludhiana railway stations.
- Airbus Group agreed to increase its sourcing of aerospace parts from Indian companies to \$2 billion in the next five years.
- France will also help in development of Smart Cities in India to be identified by the host government.
- Modi visited the Neuve-Chapelle Memorial, paying rich tributes to all Indian soldiers martyred in First World War.

3. Visit to Germany

- PM Modi was in Germany from 12 April to 14 April 2015. This was the first ever bilateral interaction between Modi and German chancellor Angela Merkel.
- Modi inaugurated the famous Hannover industrial fair along with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
- Both leaders spoke in favour of a free trade agreement between the European Union and India. Modi said that this was important for the expansion of India as a manufacturing hub.
- PM Modi promised to set up a mechanism to help German companies invest and do business in India — something that he has done only for Japan and the US.
- Modi made his strongest pitch for the Make in India initiative, seeking to learn from Germany's leading role as a manufacturing hub in Europe.
- While addressing a diaspora event in Berlin, PM Modi said that India would lead the way in dealing with climate change. He added that India is not answerable to the world in relation to climate change.



4. Visit to Canada

- Canada an important partner for our own developmental objectives through investment, trade and technology. Canada is also an energy superpower and has a vibrant Indian community of 1.2 million.
- PM Modi visited Canada between April 14 to 16, 2015. This is the first stand-alone visit to Canada by an Indian Prime Minister in 42 years.
- Modi secured a landmark nuclear energy deal, which will supply India with 3.2 million kilograms of uranium over a five-year period, formally ending a long-standing moratorium on Canadian exports of nuclear materials to India. In the 1970s, India used Canadian technology in its nuclear program.
- India and Canada looked forward to an investment of CAD \$2.5 million in five health innovations in India by Grand Challenges Canada and its Indian partner – the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- 13 MoUs were signed between the National Skill Development Council of India and 13 Canadian colleges, institutes, and Sector Skills Councils in the fields such as agriculture, automotive, aviation, construction, healthcare, hydrocarbons and IT.



- The two countries signed an MoU for technical cooperation in the railways. On the civil aviation front, MoU was signed between the ministry of civil aviation and Transport Canada.
- Modi addressed an estimated over 10,000-strong Indian diaspora at Ricoh Coliseum in Toronto, underlining the role that the Indian diaspora can play in creating these opportunities.
- The Parrot Girl, a 900-year old Khajuraho temple sculpture was returned to India by Canada, in line with the 1970 Unesco Convention. The sculpture was seized by Canadian authorities in 2011 while smuggling.

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