

India Positive

Global Interactions of Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi

key highlights - (January - June 2021)



India - Sweden Virtual Summit (March 05, 2021)



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Sweden H.E. Stefan Löfven held a Virtual Summit where they discussed bilateral issues and other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.
- Prime Minister Modi expressed solidarity with the people of Sweden in the wake of the violent attack on 3rd March and prayed for early recovery of the injured.
- The Prime Minister fondly recalled his 2018 visit to Sweden for the first India-Nordic Summit, and the India visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Sweden in December, 2019.
- Both the leaders underlined that the longstanding close relations between India and Sweden were based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, pluralism, equality, freedom of speech, and respect for human rights. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to work for multilateralism, rules-based international order, counter terrorism and peace and security. They also acknowledged the growing salience of India's partnership with the European Union and EU countries.
- The two leaders reviewed the extensive ongoing engagement between India and Sweden, and expressed satisfaction at the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and Joint Innovation Partnership agreed during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sweden in 2018. They explored avenues of further diversifying the themes under the rubric of these partnerships.
- Prime Minister Modi welcomed Sweden's decision to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The leaders also noted the growing membership of the India-Sweden joint initiative – the Leadership Group on Industry Transition (LeadIT) that was launched during the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York.
- The two leaders also discussed the Covid-19 situation including the vaccination drive and stressed the need for vaccine equity by providing urgent and affordable access to vaccines across all nations.

- The two Prime Ministers:
 - 1 Welcomed the creation of a Sweden-India Health Hub at AIIMS-Jodhpur.
 - 2 Agreed to continue their outreach to expand the membership of the Leadership Group on Industry Transition.
 - 3 Welcomed Sweden's decision to join the International Solar Alliance.
 - 4 Welcomed the launch of a second joint industrial R&D call on Smart and Sustainable Cities, Transport Systems, Clean Technologies and Digitalization and Internet of Thing under India-Sweden Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme.
 - 5 Welcomed the India-Sweden Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme on Smart Grids.
 - 6 Welcomed the proposal of a MoU on Aviation Knowledge Exchange and Technical Transfer Programme.
 - 7 Welcomed the proposal of a MoU on cooperation between financial services to enhance cross-border participation and promote knowledge sharing.

India-Finland Virtual Summit (March 16, 2021)



- Shri Narendra Modi, and Ms. Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland, held wide-ranging discussions during a Virtual Summit on 16 March 2021.
- Both leaders noted that the close relations between India and Finland were based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, equality, freedom of speech, and respect for human rights. They reaffirmed their strong commitment to work for multilateralism, a rules-based international order, sustainable development and combating climate change.
- The two leaders reviewed the ongoing bilateral engagements and expressed their desire to further expand and diversify the relationship across sectors such as trade and investment, innovation, education, emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence, 5G/6G, and quantum computing.

Prime Minister Modi appreciated Finland's leading role in clean and green technologies, and noted the potential for Finnish companies to partner India's drive towards sustainable development. In this context, he suggested enhanced cooperation in the areas like renewable and bio-energy, sustainability, edu-tech, pharma and digitization.

- The leaders exchanged views on regional and global issues, including the India-EU partnership, cooperation in the Arctic region, WTO and UN reforms. Both sides noted the potential for India and Finland to cooperate in undertaking developmental activities in Africa.
- Prime Minister Modi invited Finland to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- The two leaders also discussed the Covid-19 situation including their respective vaccination drives, and emphasized the importance of global efforts for urgent and affordable access to vaccines across all nations.
- Prime Minister Marin highlighted, in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of bridging the gender digital divide in education through the UN Women led Generation Equality campaign. Prime Minister Modi briefed on increased use of digital technologies by India for women empowerment initiatives including financial inclusion of women and BetiBachao, BetiPadho(Save Daughters, Educate Daughters) schemes
- **The two Prime Ministers-**
 - 1 Announced a Digital Partnership in Future ICT, Future Mobile Technologies and Digital Education
 - 2 Announced a High-Level Dialogue in education between the Education Ministries of both countries.
 - 3 Announced a Sustainability Partnership involving Renewable and CleanEnergy, Circular Economy, and Sustainable Mobility and noted that green growth is an essential element of bilateral cooperation.
 - 4 Endorsed the Joint Commission and the India-Finland Science & Technology Committee to steer and coordinate developments in their respective domains.
 - 5 Look forward to signing of the renewed MoU between consortium of Ten Finnish Universities and 23 IITs in India for cooperation in higher education sector.

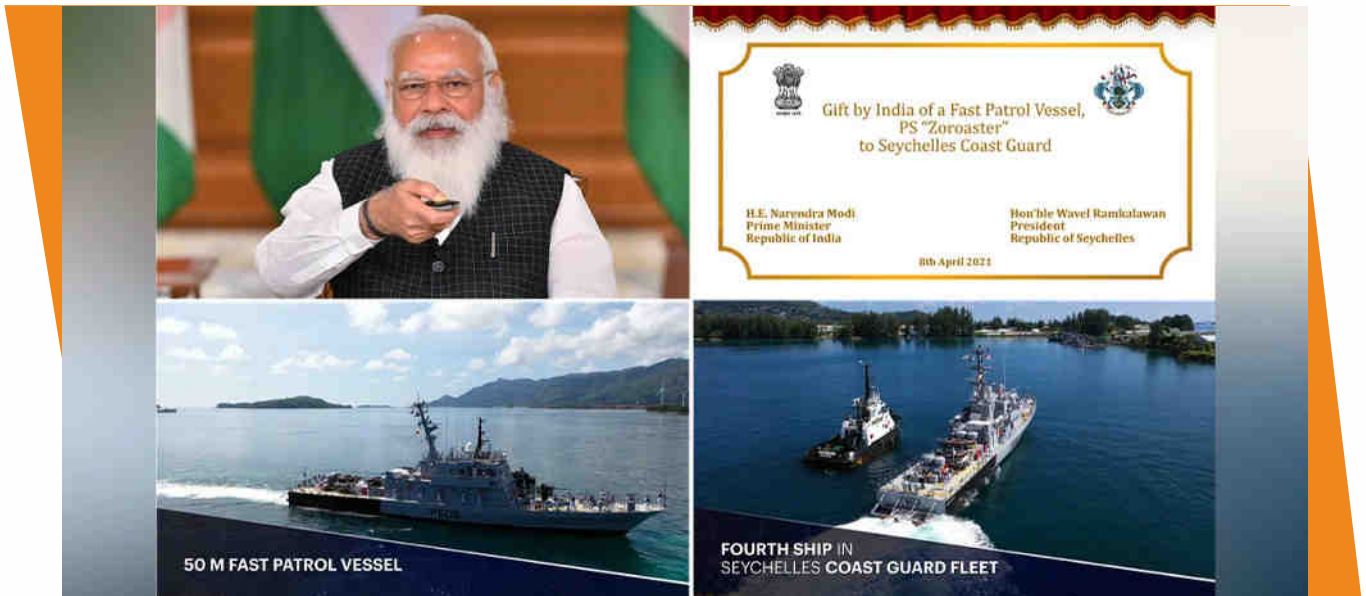
Visit of Prime Minister to Bangladesh (March 26-27, 2021)

- At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, paid a State Visit to Bangladesh to join the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh, the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and 50 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Bangladesh. The visit symbolised the partnership of half-a-century between India and Bangladesh that has strengthened, matured and evolved as a model for bilateral relations for the entire region.
- The Indian Prime Minister joined the National Day programme, Golden Jubilee celebrations and Mujib Borsho celebration at the National Parade Ground as the Guest of Honour.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a wreath at the National Martyrs' Memorial at Savar as a mark of respect to the memory and contribution of the great freedom fighters of Bangladesh. He also paid rich tribute and respect to the memory of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Mausoleum in Tungipara, Gopalganj.



- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep appreciation and gratitude for the wholehearted support extended by the Government and people of India, during the critical days of Bangladesh's Liberation War. Both Prime Ministers underscored the need for preserving the memory and legacy of the Great Liberation War.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina thanked India for conferring Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards social, economic and political transformation of Bangladesh through non-violent and other Gandhian methods.
- Both Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated the Bangabandhu - Bapu Digital Exhibition in Dhaka, which celebrates the life and legacy of these iconic leaders.
- To mark the 50th anniversary of India-Bangladesh friendship, both sides released respective commemorative postage stamps. It was decided to commemorate 06 December as Maitri Diwas, the day when India recognized Bangladesh in the year 1971.
- The Bangladesh side welcomed the decision of the Government of India to announce 1000 Shuborno Jayanti Scholarships for Bangladeshi students for pursuing education/courses in India.
- Bangladesh Prime Minister thanked the Indian side for considering Bangladesh's proposal to name the historic road from Mujib Nagar to Nadia on the Bangladesh- India border as "ShadhinotaShorok" commemorating the historic significance of the road during Bangladesh's Liberation War.
- The following bilateral documents were signed and exchanged during the visit:
 1. MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Disaster Management, Resilience and Mitigation;
 2. MoU between Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) and National Cadet Corps of India (INCC)
 3. MoU on Establishment of a Framework of Cooperation in the Area of Trade Remedial Measures between Bangladesh and India;
 4. Tripartite MoU on Supply of ICT Equipment, Courseware & Reference Books and Training for Bangladesh-Bharat Digital Service and Employment Training (BDSET) Centre;
 5. Tripartite MoU for Establishment of Sports Facilities at Rajshahi College Field and Surrounding Areas.

India-Seychelles High Level Virtual Event (April 8, 2021)



- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in a virtual event with the President of Seychelles, H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan. The virtual event was organized for the joint e-inauguration of several development assistance projects funded by India in Seychelles and the handing over of a Fast Patrol Vessel supplied by India for the use of the Seychelles Coast Guard.
- During the virtual event, Prime Minister Modi and President Ramkalawan jointly inaugurated the new Magistrates' Court building in Seychelles. The building is the first Indian assisted infrastructure project in Seychelles and has been completed with grant assistance of USD 3.5 million from Government of India.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also handed over a 48.9 m Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) to the President of Seychelles during the virtual event.. The supply of the vessel is in line with time-tested and deep cooperation between India and Seychelles in the field of maritime security and India's role as a trusted and preferred security partner of Seychelles.
- During the event, Prime Minister and the President of Seychelles also jointly e-inaugurated a 1 MW ground mounted Solar Power Plant built with Indian grant assistance in Romainville Island of Seychelles. Ten (10) Indian High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Seychelles were also e-inaugurated by the two dignitaries.
- Speaking at the occasion, Prime Minister Modi emphasized the importance of development partnership in people oriented infrastructure projects in further strengthening cooperation with Seychelles.
- President Wavel Ramkalawan expressed his deep gratitude for India's continuous support in meeting the security and developmental needs of Seychelles as reflective of the strong and close ties between the two countries.
- The e-inauguration of the new Magistrates' Court Building, 1 MW Solar Power plant, the HICDPs and the handing over of the FPV demonstrates India's steadfast role as a longstanding and reliable partner of Seychelles and its commitment towards a deepening bilateral relationship.

India-The Netherlands Virtual Summit - Towards a Strategic Partnership on Water (April 09, 2021)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E Mr. Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands held a Virtual Summit on April 09, 2021. It was the first high level Summit attended by PM Rutte after the general elections held in March 2021. Prime Minister Modi congratulated PM Rutte on his election victory and on becoming the Prime Minister of the Netherlands for the fourth consecutive term.
- During the Summit, the two leaders had a detailed review of the entire spectrum of bilateral engagements and exchanged views on further expanding and diversifying the relationship in trade and economy, water management, agriculture sector, smart cities, science & technology, healthcare and space.
- The two Prime Ministers also agreed on instituting a 'Strategic Partnership on Water' to further deepen the Indo-Dutch cooperation in the water related sector, and upgrading the Joint Working Group on water to Ministerial-level.
- The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global challenges such as climate change, counter-terrorism and Covid-19 pandemic and agreed to leverage the emerging convergences in new areas like Indo-Pacific, Resilient Supply Chains and Global Digital Governance.



- The Netherlands acknowledged that India's production capacity of Covid19 vaccines is crucial for the success of global efforts in tackling the pandemic and appreciated India's supply of Covid19 vaccines to more than 80 countries through its 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative as well as the COVAX facility.
- Prime Minister Modi thanked the Netherlands for their support to International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). PM Modi also welcomed the Netherlands' Indo-Pacific Policy and its desire to collaborate during India's G20 Presidency in 2023.
- The two leaders reiterated their commitment to a rules-based multilateral order for ensuring international peace, stability and prosperity and looked forward to a successful India-EU Leaders' Meeting in Porto, Portugal in May 2021.

India-U.K. Virtual Bilateral Summit (May 04, 2021)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom met virtually on May 04, 2021.
- An ambitious 'Roadmap 2030' was adopted at the Summit to elevate bilateral ties to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership'. The Roadmap will pave the way for a deeper and stronger engagement over the next ten years in the key areas of people to people contacts, trade and economy, defence and security, climate action and health.
- The two leaders discussed the Covid19 situation and ongoing cooperation in the fight against the pandemic, including the successful partnership on vaccines. Prime Minister Modi thanked Prime Minister Johnson for the prompt medical assistance provided by the UK in the wake of the severe second wave of Covid19 in India. Prime Minister Johnson appreciated India's role in extending assistance to the UK and other countries over the last year, including by way of supply of pharmaceuticals and vaccines.
- The two Prime Ministers launched an 'Enhanced Trade Partnership' (ETP) to unleash the trade potential between the 5th and 6th largest economies of the world and by setting an ambitious target of more than doubling bilateral trade by 2030. As part of the ETP, India and the UK agreed on a roadmap to negotiate a comprehensive and balanced FTA, including consideration of an Interim Trade Agreement for delivering early gains. The enhanced trade partnership between India and UK will generate several thousands of direct and indirect jobs in both the countries.
- The UK is India's second largest partner in research and innovation collaborations. A new India-UK 'Global Innovation Partnership' was announced at the Virtual Summit that aims to support the transfer of inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries, starting with Africa. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation on new and emerging technologies, including Digital and ICT products, and work on supply chain resilience. They also agreed to strengthen defence and security ties, including in the maritime, counter-terrorism and cyberspace domains.
- Both Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and G7. They reiterated commitment to climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and agreed to closely engage in the run up to CoP26 hosted by the UK later this year.
- India and the UK launched a comprehensive partnership on migration and mobility that will facilitate greater opportunities for the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries.



- The Prime Minister expressed his desire to be able to welcome Prime Minister Johnson in India as per his convenience after the situation stabilizes. Prime Minister Johnson also reiterated his invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit UK for the G-7 Summit.
- Following MoUs/Declarations were agreed/announced at the India-UK Virtual Summit-
 - 1 Declaration for the launch of an Enhanced Trade Partnership
 - 2 MOU on India-UK Global Innovation Partnership
 - 3 MoU on India-UK Migration and Mobility Partnership.
 - 4 Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in the fields of Digital and Technology
 - 5 MoU on cooperation in the field of Telecommunications/ICT
 - 6 Agreement on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in customs matters
 - 7 MoU in the field of medical products regulation between the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
 - 8 MoU on Pharmacopeial Cooperation between the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) and the British Pharmacopoeia (BP)

MULTILATERAL INTERACTIONS



First Quad Leaders' Virtual Summit (March 12, 2021)

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the first summit of the leaders' of the QUAD (Quadrilateral Framework). The meeting was hosted by the USA on a virtual platform.
- QUAD pledged to promote a free, open rules-based order, rooted in international law to advance security and prosperity and counter threats to both in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.
- The group reaffirmed their support to the rule of law, freedom of navigation and over flight, peaceful resolution of disputes, democratic values, and territorial integrity and commitment to work together and with a range of partners.
- While discussing about global challenges, the QUAD pledged to respond to the economic and health impacts of COVID-19, combat climate change, and address shared challenges, including in cyber space, critical technologies, counterterrorism, quality infrastructure investment, and humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief as well as maritime domains.

- With steadfast commitment to the health and safety of our own people, the group recognized that none of us can be safe as long as the pandemic continues to spread. Therefore, they agreed to collaborate to strengthen equitable vaccine access for the Indo-Pacific, with close coordination with multilateral organizations including the World Health Organization and COVAX.
- We will begin cooperation on the critical technologies of the future to ensure that innovation is consistent with a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific. We will continue to prioritize the role of international law in the maritime domain, particularly as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.
- The countries reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, and also confirm the necessity of immediate resolution of the issue of Japanese abductees.
- As long-standing supporters of Myanmar and its people, they emphasized the urgent need to restore democracy and the priority of strengthening democratic resilience.
- The QUAD countries agreed to combine their nations' medical, scientific, financing, manufacturing and delivery, and development capabilities and establish a vaccine expert working group to implement our path-breaking commitment to safe and effective vaccine distribution.
- They agreed establish a climate working group to strengthen climate actions globally on mitigation, adaptation, resilience, technology, capacity-building, and climate finance.
- They reiterated their commitment to leveraging their partnership to help the world's most dynamic region respond to historic crisis, so that it may be the free, open, accessible, diverse, and thriving Indo-Pacific we all seek.

Leaders' Summit on Climate (April 22-23, 2021)

- The Leaders' Summit on Climate was convened by the US President virtually.
- 40 world leaders, including the Prime Minister of India, were invited to the event to underscore the urgency of stronger climate action.
- This summit is seen as a key milestone on the road to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Conference of the Parties 26 (COP 26) in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland.



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for “concrete action at a high speed, on large scale, and with a global scope” to combat climate change
- Prime Minister also said sustainable lifestyles and guiding philosophy of “back to basics” must be important pillars of the economic strategy for the post-COVID era
- India reiterated its target of 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden agreed to launch a high-level India-US Partnership which envisages bilateral cooperation on strong actions in the current decade to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

India-EU Leaders Meeting (May 08, 2021)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the India-EU Leaders’ Meeting with the leaders of all 27 member states of the European Union (EU).
- The leaders agreed to relaunch free trade negotiations by resuming talks that were suspended for the Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).
- An ambitious and comprehensive ‘Connectivity Partnership’ which is focused on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity was launched. It is based on the shared principles of social, economic, fiscal, climate and environmental sustainability, and respect for international law and commitments. It will catalyse private and public financing for connectivity projects. It will also foster new synergies for supporting connectivity initiatives in third countries, including in the Indo-Pacific.
- They reiterated their commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and agreed to strengthen joint efforts for mitigation, adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change, as well as providing means of implementation including finance in the context of Conference of the Parties (COP 26).
- India welcomed the EU’s decision to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- India appreciated the prompt assistance provided by the EU and its member states to combat its second Covid wave.
- India also requested the EU’s support for its joint proposal with South Africa for a Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) waiver on vaccine production-related patents in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- The leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation on digital and emerging technologies such as 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum and High-Performance Computing including through the early operationalization of the Joint Task Force on AI and the Digital Investment Forum.

All the leaders desired to further strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership based on a shared commitment to democracy, fundamental freedoms, rule of law and multilateralism.





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