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PM Modi to Make First-Ever Indian PM Visit to Slovakia

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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HOW

WHY IN NEWS

Ahead of a visit on **June 14-16, 2026**, the government confirmed that **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will become the **first Indian Prime Minister to visit Slovakia** since the country's independence in 1993. The visit is at the invitation of Slovak Prime Minister **Robert Fico** and signals India's deepening engagement with Central Europe.

THE VISIT IN BRIEF

DETAIL	PARTICULARS
Visit dates	June 14-16, 2026
Host	Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico
Significance	First-ever visit by an Indian PM to Slovakia
Agenda	Defence, trade, technology, people-to-people ties

SLOVAKIA: KNOW THE COUNTRY

FEATURE	DETAIL
Capital	Bratislava
Currency	Euro
Membership	European Union and NATO
Independence	1993, from the peaceful split of Czechoslovakia (the “Velvet Divorce”)
Region	Central Europe, landlocked

Slovakia separated from the Czech Republic in 1993 in one of the most peaceful state dissolutions of the modern era, and is today an EU and NATO member integrated into European supply chains, particularly in the automotive sector.

WHY CENTRAL EUROPE MATTERS TO INDIA

India’s outreach to Central and Eastern Europe has grown for several reasons:

- ❶ **The European Union dimension.** Each EU member is also a vote and a voice within the bloc; as India negotiates an **India-EU Free Trade Agreement**, relationships with individual member states matter.
- ❷ **Defence and technology supply chains.** Central European economies have manufacturing and defence-industrial capacity, useful for India’s drive to diversify its defence and technology partnerships.
- ❸ **Beyond the major powers.** Engaging smaller and mid-sized European states reflects a strategy of building a wide network of partners rather than relying only on the largest capitals.

THE ANALYSIS: DIVERSIFYING THE EUROPEAN MAP

- ❶ **Filling the gaps.** A first-ever prime-ministerial visit fills a long-standing gap in India’s diplomatic map and signals that no EU member is too small to court.
- ❷ **The FTA backdrop.** With the India-EU FTA in advanced negotiation, **bilateral goodwill** with member states can ease the path to a wider agreement and to sector-specific cooperation.
- ❸ **A multi-aligned Europe policy.** India’s European engagement now spans the largest economies and the smaller Central European states alike, consistent with a foreign policy of strategic autonomy and diversified partnerships.

The way forward is to convert the symbolism of a first visit into substance: concrete agreements on trade, technology and defence-industrial cooperation that give the relationship lasting content.

UPSC RELEVANCE

- **GS Paper 2 (International Relations):** India and Europe, bilateral relations, the India-EU FTA, regional groupings.
- **Prelims:** Slovakia's capital, currency, EU and NATO membership, year of independence; the Velvet Divorce.
- **Mains:** India's strategy of diversified partnerships and engagement with the European Union.

FACTS CORNER

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THE VISIT:

PM Modi's visit to Slovakia, June 14-16, 2026; first by an Indian PM

Host: Slovak PM Robert Fico; agenda covers defence, trade, technology

SLOVAKIA:

Capital Bratislava; currency Euro; EU and NATO member

Independent since 1993 (the Velvet Divorce split Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia)

THE BACKDROP:

India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations; India's outreach to Central and Eastern Europe

Sources: Ministry of External Affairs, DD News

Source: PM Modi to Make First-Ever Indian PM Visit to Slovakia — Ujyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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