

Topic: The Tour

Topic
Introduction

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on an official **tour to Belgium, United States and Saudi Arabia** from **March 30, 2016 to April 3, 2016**. During the five day tour, Modi met several leaders and also participated in two different summits, namely **India-EU summit in Brussels and 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC**.

Major Highlights of the visit to Belgium

- In the first leg of his visit to Belgium, Modi was given a ceremonial welcome at **Egmont Palace in Brussels**. Brussels is the headquarters of European Union and NATO.
- He attended **13th India-EU summit** and held meeting with **Belgium Prime Minister Charles Michel**.
- From Belgium, he also activated **Asia's largest 'general purpose' optical telescope** installed in '**Devsthal**', 60 km from Nainital, through '**Remote Technical Activation**'
- During the visit, the two nations released a joint statement and an agenda that will serve as a roadmap for EU-India cooperation in what is referred to as **Action 2020**.
- The Joint Declaration on the India-EU **Water Partnership** was adopted to enhance cooperation on environment issues, including on the '**Clean India**' and '**Clean Ganga**' flagship programmes.
- The EU-India strategic partnership was **launched in 2004**. **The last summit was held in Delhi in 2012**.

Major Highlights of the visit to the United States

- In the second leg of his tour to three nations, Modi visited the United States where he attended the **4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington DC**. The summit focused on a gamut of issues pertaining to **nuclear security**.
- The **two-day summit** highlighted achievements and commitments of several countries towards safeguarding nuclear devices and technologies and reducing the threat of nuclear terrorism.
- He also announced a contribution of **1 million US dollars** to Nuclear Security Fund of International Atomic Energy Agency.
- India, US signed MoU for setting up **Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO)** observatory in India.

Major Highlights of the visit to Saudi Arabia

- Prime Minister inspected the guard of honour at the Ceremonial Welcome in Riyadh.
- India and Saudi Arabia signed **five agreements and MoUs**.

- During the visit, Modi met with **Saudi King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud** and visited gold-plated replica of the **Cheraman Juma Masjid** of Kerala, situated in Thrissur district, the mosque is believed to be the **first mosque built in India by Arab traders around 629 AD**.
- He also met with other ministers of the nation and **invited Saudi Arabia's top business tycoons** to invest in India's key sectors like **defence, insurance, railway and oil**.
- He interacted with the **business leaders at Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry** in Riyadh during his visit to Saudi Arabia.
- He visited **TCS All Women IT Centre** and **Masmak Fortress** in Riyadh.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bestowed with **Saudi Arabia's highest civilian order award** dubbed King Abdul-Aziz Sash. The honour was named after Abdul-Aziz Al Saud, the founder of the modern Saudi state.

Read further:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-Belgium-US-and-Saudi-Arabia-visit/liveblog/51608934.cms>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/pm-modi-to-visit-belgium-saudi-arabia-and-us-next-month/>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/pm-modi-to-visit-saudi-arabia-us-during-his-3-nation-tour-next-month-1282104>

<http://www.ibnlive.com/news/india/modi-embarks-on-3-nation-tour-to-attend-india-eu-summit-nuclear-security-summit-1222788.html>