

Topic: 5 Nations in 140 Hours

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarks on a **five-nation visit to Afghanistan, Qatar, Switzerland, the US and Mexico** on 4<sup>th</sup> June to strengthen ties with these countries. A **140-hour long trip** covering **five nations** including the US, **45-plus engagements** over five days and **flying for nearly 44 hours**, bulk of it at night, to cover nearly **33,000 kilometers** - this in nutshell is how Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going about his present foreign trip.

**Top 6 Things:**

- 1) **Inauguration of Salma Dam:** PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Herat on Saturday to inaugurate **the Salma Dam**. At over **\$275 million**, this is the most expensive of India's infrastructure projects in the region and is expected to generate **42 MW of electricity** for the rapidly growing city of **435,000** and irrigate some **75,000 hectares**.
- 2) **Extensive talks with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani:** During the two-day visit to energy-rich Qatar, Modi will hold talks on a range of **bilateral issues** including ways to further boost economic ties, particularly in the hydrocarbon sector.
- 3) **Talks with Switzerland's President Johann Schneider-Ammann:** In Switzerland, the Prime Minister will hold talks with the Swiss leadership, and is likely to seek cooperation to **unearth black money accounts of Indians in Switzerland** which was a promise made by him during elections in 2014. According to sources, the two countries are working on finalizing an arrangement that could pave the way for **automatic exchange of information** on tax-related issues.
- 4) **Meeting with Barack Obama:** PM Modi will travel to the US on June 7 at the invitation of the President, with whom he will review the progress made in key areas of defence, security and energy.
- 5) **Addressing Joint Meeting of the US Congress:** During his stay, he will also address a Joint Meeting of the US Congress.
- 6) **Eyeing trade and investment tie ups with Mexico:** On June 8, at the invitation of Mexican **President Enrique Pena Nieto**, PM would be visiting Mexico. The main objective of Modi's visit would be to carry forward the momentum in the bilateral relations and discuss cooperation in areas such as space, energy, agriculture and science and technology among others.

**AFGHANISTAN:**

- On his first leg of the tour, PM Modi **visited Afghanistan**, where he inaugurated a **\$290 million hydroelectric dam** with Afghan President **Ashraf Ghani** in the western Herat province.
- PM Modi was also accorded **the highest-civilian award in Afghanistan** before he left for Qatar.

**QATAR:**

- The agenda of Modi's two-day Qatar visit shall be dominated by energy deals and Diaspora's issues. This will be the **fourth country in the Gulf region** that Modi will be visiting, after a visit to **UAE last August, Saudi Arabia this April and Iran in May**.
- It will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Qatar in **the last eight years** after the then Prime Minister **Manmohan Singh's Doha visit in 2008**.

- On 5 June, PM Narendra Modi held talks with Qatar **Emir Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani** in Doha.
- He also held a meeting with business leaders to **discuss trade and investment in Doha**.
- India and Qatar signed **seven bilateral agreements** - including MoUs in cooperation in the field of **sports, health and skill development**.

#### GENEVA:

- Modi and **Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann** held discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest
- Following the meeting with President Johann, he met businessmen to expand economic and investment ties.
- PM Modi also met **Indian scientists working at CERN** as India takes pride in its contribution to exploring new frontiers of science in the service of humanity.
- The visit is expected to give an impetus to the process of **exchanging information on black money stashed in Swiss banks**.

#### US:

Modi met President **Barack Obama** on 7 June. His tightly-packed US schedule included:

- Delivering an address at **the 40th AGM of the USIBC**.
- Meeting **US business leaders**.
- Visiting the **Arlington Cemetery** - where he will pay homage and lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Space Shuttle Columbia Memorial, which also claimed the life of Indian-origin astronaut Kalpana Chawla.

On 8 June, he visited **the US Capitol** and interact with the members House of Representatives and the Senate and address a **Joint Meeting of the US Congress - the high point of his trip there**.

#### MEXICO:

- In the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Mexico in **30 years**, Modi landed in Mexico City on 8 June, where he met **Mexican President Peña Nieto**.
- The **bilateral relations** between India and Mexico have witnessed renewed vigour and activity in the last **two years**.
- In Mexico, PM Modi aims to carry forward the momentum in the bilateral relations and discuss cooperation in areas such as **space, energy, agriculture and science and technology**.

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<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/pm-narendra-modis-tour-covers-five-nations-in-140-hours/articleshow/52627909.cms>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/india-news/pm-modi-to-visit-us-mexico-afghanistan-as-part-of-5-nation-tour-6-things-on-his-agenda/272799/>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-pm-modi-kick-starts-his-five-nation-tour-here-s-what-we-need-to-know-2219809>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/PM-Narendra-Modis-five-nation-tour/liveblog/52585165.cms>