

Modi discusses gains from India-EU FTA with leaders from Finland, Spain

Our Bureau
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday highlighted the boost to India-EU economic ties from the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) during meetings with the leaders of Finland and Spain on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.

The PM welcomed several world leaders, including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva, Sri Lanka President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay, Mauritius PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Croatia PM Andrej Plenkovic, Serbia President Aleksandar Vucic, Seychelles Vice-President Sebastien Pillay, Estonia President Alar Karis, Greece Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis at the ongoing AI Impact Summit on Wednesday.

Over 20 Heads of State, 60 Ministers and 500 global AI leaders are participating in the AI Impact Summit 2026, in New Delhi, according to the government.

"Held extensive discussions with the Prime Minister of Finland, Petteri Orpo. Thanked him for his personal support to the India-EU FTA, which ushers in a golden era in India-Europe relations," Modi said on X.

India and Finland aim to double bilateral trade,



CEMENTING TIES. PM Narendra Modi with President of Spain Pedro Sánchez in New Delhi on Wednesday ANI

strengthening economic linkages, he said. "We also talked about enhancing co-operation in futuristic technologies like 6G, innovation, clean energy, biofuels, circular economy and more," the PM added.

In a separate meeting with Spanish President Pedro Sánchez, the two leaders discussed the FTA's positive impact on the India-Spain economic partnership.

POSITIVE IMPACT

"The historic FTA with the EU will have a very positive impact on the economic partnership with Spain and provide new opportunities to the people of our nations," Modi noted.

The Prime Minister said talks also covered defence, security and technology. "Our nations are marking 2026 as the India-Spain year of culture, tourism and AI. This will deepen people-to-people linkages. Glad to see a

big delegation of universities also come to India. This too will go a long way in connecting our people," the PM said.

BILATERAL TALKS

Modi also held bilateral discussions with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic. Serbia is a candidate for EU accession.

Modi expressed confidence that the ties would gather momentum. "We discussed ways to deepen co-operation in areas such as defence, manufacturing, DPI, fertilizers and infrastructure. For many years, India and Serbia have worked closely and I am confident our ties will gain even more momentum in the times to come," he posted on X.

Negotiations on the India-EU FTA concluded last month. The pact is undergoing legal scrubbing and translation and will take effect after endorsement by the European Parliament.