India–Slovakia Comprehensive Partnership

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Bilateral Relations*

Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister paid the first-ever state visit by an Indian PM to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

- India and Slovakia elevated their ties to a Comprehensive Partnership, signing multiple MoUs.

Major Areas of Cooperation

- **Nature of Partnership** – Comprehensive Partnership (bilateral + multilateral cooperation).
- **India-European Union (EU) Integration-** Slovakia is an active member state of the European Union (EU).
- Slovakia's support for the early implementation of the ***India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)*** and ***the Comprehensive Framework of Cooperation on Mobility*** signed in January 2026.
- **Counter-Terrorism** – Established a ***Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism*** also explicitly condemned cross-border terrorism.
- **Backing UNSC Membership -** Slovakia backed ***India's permanent UNSC membership*** and confirmed a constructive approach to India's NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group) membership.
- **Defence and Security** – Signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on Defence Cooperation focusing on joint development, co-production, and technology transfer.
- **Digital and Quantum Tech** – Signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Quantum communication and critical Infrastructure protection.
- Established the ***1st ever Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair*** in Artificial Intelligence at the Technical University of Kosice, Slovakia.
- **Trade and Economy** –

    - Strengthening India–Slovakia Joint Economic Committee,
    - Improvising automotive, electronics, advanced manufacturing sectors;
    - Leveraging Slovakia's industrial ecosystem and India's innovation scale.
- **Energy and Climate** – Collaboration in nuclear, geothermal, green energy transition, net-zero goals.
- **Water and Infrastructure** – Cooperation in hydrology, dam safety, rural drinking water, climate-resilient infrastructure.
- **Mobility and Labour –** Signed a MoU on Labour Migration to address Slovak manpower shortages and protect Indian professionals, working towards a Social Security Agreement (SSA).
- **Aligning with Regional groupings -** It gives emphasis on aligning with Central European regional groupings like **Slavkov 3, Visegrad 4 (V4), and the 3 Seas Initiative.**

Visegrad Group (V4)	• Formed in 1991. • Alliance of Poland, Hungary, Czechia, Slovakia. • To promote military, economic, and energy cooperation.
Slavkov 3	• Established in 2015. • Trilateral format between Austria, Czechia, Slovakia. • Complements the V4 by focusing heavily on labor markets, transportation, infrastructure, and socio-economic integration.
3 Seas Initiative (3SI)	• Launched in 2016. • Platform of 13 EU states between Baltic, Adriatic, Black Seas. • To bridge the infrastructure and economic gap between member countries.

References

1. Indian Express | India-Slovakia
2. MEA | India-Slovakia
3. ANI | India-Slovakia

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering