

Italian PM to visit India on Tuesday for tech summit

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Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte will be in New Delhi on Tuesday on his first visit to India after taking over the coalition government in July.

The Italian premier will come with a large delegation to participate in the 24th edition of the Technology Summit, of which Italy is the country partner. His only other engagement during his six-hour visit to New Delhi is a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He is the 58th and current Prime Minister of Italy since 1 June 2018.

The visit is taking place after a very difficult phase that both India and Italy witnessed in their bilateral ties, especially after the Italian marines' issue which is now before the permanent court of arbitration in The Hague.

The other area that has seen a lot of controversy is the defence sector, but that has not disheartened the Italian side from making a bee-line to the Indian defence industry. Italy possesses some of the finest defence technologies in the world and can be an appropriate and suitable partner for India in many areas of need. Both sides would hope to put the past behind them and to move towards new horizons of collaboration, especially under the 'Make in India' programme.

Interestingly, the Italians are also bringing in a company that specialises in cleaning and restoration of heritage sites.

They are looking at taking up the Taj Mahal project: to clean up this historical wonder of the world.