

Topic of the week for discussion: 8th to 14th June 2017

Topic: PM Modi Four Nation Tour

According to recent headlines, Prime Minister Modi is going on a **4 legged tour** to maintain India's diplomatic relations across Europe and Russia. India, which has maintained a **bilateral relationship** with both the **contrasting world powers** i.e. US and Russia, was for long awaiting a response over recent political developments; mainly *US withdrawal from the Paris climate change pact, the British exit from the European Union (aka Brexit) and Russian stand against Terrorism.*

PM Modi, who had an itinerary planned to visit France, Germany, Spain and Russia concluded the trip on Sunday. The trip also took place against the backdrop of tensions in **India-Russia bilateral relationship** over the past year—over the role of Taliban in Afghan talks and Russian overtures to Pakistan.

Support For India's Bid To Enter Export Control Regimes

India **found support from almost all the four countries** Modi visited for its bid to join the **Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG)** that **sets the rules** for global **nuclear commerce**. *The Australia Group* sets rules for exports of substances aimed at curbing trade and proliferation of chemical or biological weapons and the **Wassenaar Arrangement** sets down export control regulations for conventional arms and dual-use of goods and technologies. ***India's bid to join the NSG has been blocked mainly by China.***

MODI ON E.U.

Modi, who supports a united European Union, in his meetings with the leaders of Germany, Spain and France, **backed** the idea of a strong and united European Union which he said was **in India's interest**. "A strong, progressive EU, a forceful EU is something India has always supported and I would like to see France's energetic visionary and young leadership impart new strength not only to France but also to the EU. A successful and powerful EU will play a big role, a balancing role in global affairs,"

MODI IN SPAIN

A **joint statement** issued following a meeting between visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Mariano Rajoy said that, *"both leaders recognised that terrorism poses the gravest threat to international peace and stability and expressed their strong commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations".*

*"We reiterate that the fight against terrorism requires a **robust international cooperation**, and we call on all the states to fully implement **SC (UN security council) Resolution 1373** and all other relevant SC Resolutions, by establishing strong legal provisions against terrorism, terrorist networks, incitement to terrorism and financing for terrorism and by satisfying requests from other states for cooperation against terrorism."*

Topic
Introduction

MODI IN RUSSIA

India and Russia **agreed to “upgrade and intensify”** cooperation, **through joint** manufacturing, co-production & co-development of military hardware and military spares and sharing of future technologies. Both agreed to hold regular joint land and sea military exercises with the **first-ever Tri-services exercises** later this year.

Also, India and Russia signed the general framework agreement and the Credit Protocol for Units 5 and 6 of the **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant**. **Russia will offer credit for half of the Rs. 50,000 crore** required to set up the plants, which will be built by **India’s Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL)** and **Russia’s Atomstroyexport**, *a subsidiary of Rosatom*, the regulatory body of the Russian nuclear complex. Each of the two units will have a capacity to produce 1,000 megawatt (MW) of power.

Both the countries also decided to **build an “Energy Bridge”** to expand the scope of bilateral relations in **all areas of energy** - nuclear, hydrocarbon and renewable energy sources and in improving energy efficiency.

MODI IN GERMANY

In Germany, **Modi and Merkel** agreed to *“pursue closer cooperation and strive to conclude negotiations in 2017 on a binding agreement concerning enhanced cooperation in the defence field including the defence industry cooperation.”*

In a statement against terrorism, Modi says in Berlin, “Terrorism poses grave threat to future generations. Humanitarian forces must unite to combat the menace.”

MODI IN FRANCE

With US withdrawing from the Paris Climate Change Pact, **all eyes were on** the next move by **India**, which is seen as **one of the biggest sources of carbon emissions**. Modi, on his part, **assured** German chancellor Angela Merkel and French president Emmanuel Macron that India **would not step back** from its commitment. In Paris, Modi said the Paris pact was “part of the world’s shared heritage” and that India would “continue working... **above and beyond** the Paris Accord”. In Berlin, Modi said that climate protection and living in harmony with nature is a part of the Indian ethos.

Read further:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/modi-s-four-nation-tour-india-spain-commit-cooperation-in-combating-terrorism/story-ryujOoloTOMM5cw7Cx6rcP.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modis-four-nation-tour-detailed-itinerary/articleshow/58888587.cms>

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/narendra-modis-four-nation-tour-global-equations-are-shifting-india-russia-must-reinvigorate-bilateral-ties-3504285.html>