

### "Not everything went right at the G7 summit, but PM Modi got the ear of President Trump"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's twin missions as a special invitee to the G7 summit in France over the weekend was to address the world's seven most advanced economies on Climate Change and Digital Transformation, but it was his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump that wound up taking centre-stage.

Mr. Modi took the initiative to clear the air about Jammu and Kashmir. This was necessitated by the repeated references that Mr. Trump has made about U.S. mediation between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, as well as a briefing by a senior administration official last week, who said that Mr. Trump would "want to hear from Prime Minister Modi on how he plans to reduce regional tensions and uphold respect for human rights in Kashmir".

Both U.S. statements run counter to the Indian position that the withdrawal of special status to J&K under the Constitution is an "internal matter", and the issue of Kashmir will be resolved bilaterally with Pakistan. In the event, Mr. Modi appeared to have driven the message home, and Mr. Trump backed away from both statements.

The two leaders also appeared to have made some headway on deadlocked trade talks between India and the U.S., and have decided that their trade representatives, USTR Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, will meet ahead of the Modi visit to the U.S. in September.

The interaction between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump appeared to be in line with the broader themes that characterised this year's G7 summit, where bilateral meetings appeared a little more successful than the multilateral meeting itself. As host, French President Emmanuel Macron decided to invite Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, but the other G7 members rejected any suggestion to include him in their conclave to discuss the future of the JCPOA nuclear deal.

Mr. Trump's push to invite Russia back into the club (it was called the G-8 until Russia was suspended in 2014), which represents more than half the world's wealth also came a cropper as the other members did not agree to Russian President Putin's re-entry.

As one of nine special guests invited to address various sessions, Mr. Modi spoke on how India is keeping its climate change commitments, but it was a session where Mr. Trump, whose presence was vital given the U.S.'s

walkout from the Paris accord, didn't make an appearance.

G7 members also discussed the Amazon fire crisis and pledged over \$20 million to Brazil, but were rebuffed after a spat broke out between Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Mr. Macron. It came as no surprise that the summit ended as it did: for the first time in the grouping's 44-year old history, there was no joint communiqué.

## GS World Team...

### G7 Group

#### Why in discussion?

- The summit of the G-7, (24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2019) a group of seven of the world's most highly developed economies, is being held in the city of Biarritz, France.
- It is the 45th summit of the G-7 group of countries, which is attended by many of the world's superpowers.
- Although India is not a member, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to join it.
- The agenda of this conference focuses on fighting income and gender inequality and protecting biodiversity.

#### What is it?

- The G-7 is a group of developed economies of the world. France, Germany, Italy, Britain, Japan, Canada and the United States are its members. This is called the Group of Seven.
- This group of industrially developed countries calls themselves the 'Community of Values', a community that respects values.
- The Protection of human rights, freedom, democracy, rule of law, economic prosperity and continuous development are its main principles.
- They are believed to play an important role in guiding the pace and pace of the world economy.

- While these countries account for a tenth of the world's total population, these countries account for 40 percent of the global GDP.

#### Group work

- Initially it was a group of six countries whose first meeting was in 1975. Possible solutions to the global economic crisis were considered in this meeting.
- The following year Canada joined the group and thus became the G-7. Ministers and bureaucrats from G-7 countries meet every year to discuss matters of mutual interest.
- Each member country alternately presides over this group and hosts a two-day annual summit.
- This process runs in a cycle. Energy policy, climate change, HIV-AIDS and global security are some of the topics that were discussed in previous summits.
- Representatives of other countries and international organizations are also invited to the summit.

#### Shift from G-8 to G-7 as Russia ejected

- The first summit of the group was held in 1975 and at that time it had only 6 members and was known as G-6. But after joining Canada in 1976, it became 7 members, after which it was named G-7.
- Russia also joined it in 1998, but was expelled from the group in 2014 due to the annexation of Crimea, after which it became known as the G7 again.

- Now once again, US President Donald Trump has insisted on including Russia in it.

#### **How effective is G-7?**

- The G-7 is criticized as saying that it has never been an effective organization, although the group claims many successes, including the introduction of a global fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria.
- The group claims that it has saved 2.7 million lives since 2002.
- The group also claims that it has a role behind implementing the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement.

#### **Why is India not part of China G7?**

- China, along with India, are is not a part of the G-7 countries, while it is considered the second largest economy in the world.
- One of the reasons for this is the large population here and the decrease in per capita income. Not only do these two countries have many times more population than the G7 group countries, but the per capita income is also much lower than them.
- As such, these two countries are not considered as developed economies and hence they are not part of this group.

#### **Why did PM Modi get invited in G7?**

- Although India is not a member of the G7, India was invited to the summit and was represented by PM Modi.
- PM Modi received this special invitation from the President of France, Emmanuel Macron. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the invitation received by PM Modi for the G-7 reflects India's growing presence on the global stage.
- It also shows the growing proximity of India and France. During the way he was welcomed by PM Modi when he reached France, he also saw warm relations with Macron.
- Along with India, this time countries like Australia, Spain, South Africa, Senegal and Rwanda have also been invited to attend the G7 summit.

#### **key challenges**

- Internally the G7 has many disagreements. At the 44<sup>th</sup> G-7 summit, President Trump clashed with other members over action on climate change and import taxes.
- There are no G-7 members from Africa, Latin America. Brazil and India are also not part of the fast-growing economy.
- Some global economists believe that this economy will overtake some of the G7 nations by 2050.

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**Expected Questions (Prelims Exams)**

**1. Consider the following statements regarding G-7.**

1. No countries from Africa and Latin American continent are members of this group.
2. Representatives of other countries and international organizations are also invited in this summit.
3. It's first summit was held in 1975.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) All of the above

**Expected Questions (Mains Exams)**

**Q. Recently, the G -7 meeting was held in France. In this meeting more emphasis was placed on bilateral issues than on multilateral. Why is the bilateral meeting between India and America important for India? Discuss (250Words)**

**Note:** Answer of Prelims Expected Question given on 28 Aug. is 1 (a)

