

At Shangri-La, PM calls for free sea, air lanes

Says international rules, norms must be upheld; collective solutions, not unilateral aggression, will do

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi today reiterated his government's commitment to Indo-Pacific region and centrality of ASEAN to India's 'Act East Policy'.

The first Indian Prime Minister to address the premier track one Asian security 'Shangri-La Dialogue' in Singapore since its inaugural edition in 2002, Modi underlined his vision for peace in Indo-Pacific region and advocated free sea and air lanes, connectivity and upholding international rules and norms.

"We believe that our common prosperity and security require us to evolve, through dialogue, a common rules-based order for the region. And, it must equally apply to all individually as well as to the global commons. Such an order must believe in sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as equality of all nations, irrespective of size and strength," he said.

In veiled references to the US and China, PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives for a dialogue at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore on Friday. PTI

emphasised that the region called for collective solutions, and not unilateral aggression. He called for international commitments to be upheld. The remarks come at a time when there

was global tumult following the Donald Trump administration's withdrawal from multilateral agreements, including the Iran nuclear deal to climate change pact and trans-Pacific partner-

ship. "These rules and norms should be based on the consent of all, and not on the power of the few. This must be based on faith in dialogue, and not dependence on force. It also

means that when nations make international commitments, they must uphold them," he said.

The PM steered clear of any mention of the revived quadrilateral dialogue

'CHINA TIES GROWING'

"No other relationship of India has as many layers as ours with China. We are two most populous nations and among fastest growing major economies. Our cooperation is expanding. Trade is growing. And, we have displayed maturity and wisdom in managing issues, ensuring a peaceful border. Narendra Modi, PM

INDIA, SINGAPORE TO DEEPEN DEFENCE TIES

India and Singapore on Friday agreed to deepen their economic, defence ties as they signed eight pacts, including on logistics cooperation, between their navies after wide-ranging talks between PM Modi and his counterpart Lee Hsien Loong. PTI

between India, the US, Japan and Australia. He focused on India's 'strategic autonomy' and need for multilateralism, highlighting recent informal summits with Russia and China.