

'JAI' TRILATERAL

In first such meet, PM, Abe, Trump align over Indo-Pacific

Meeting calls for open, rules-based order in region; Modi says historic

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NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 1

LESS THAN a month after a Quadrilateral meeting at the senior-officials level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met in a trilateral format and agreed that a "free, open, inclusive and rules-based" order is essential for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

Tweeting after the meeting, Modi called it "historic", while stressing India's firm commitment towards making the Indo-Pacific a region for shared economic growth and common prosperity.

Asserting that they will "continue to work together on shared values," he said, "When you look at the acronym of our three countries — Japan, America, and India — it is 'JAI', which stands for success in Hindi... JAI... trilateral marks the coming together of three friendly nations. Today's historic JAI meeting was a great beginning. PM @AbeShinzo, @POTUS and I held fruitful talks aimed at furthering connectivity, maritime cooperation and a



Modi, Chinese President Xi on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires. AP

stable Indo-Pacific."

Later, Abe said he was happy to be participating in "the first-ever 'JAI' meeting".

The first trilateral meeting between the three leaders took place hours after a meeting between Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Buenos Aires. India, China and Russia called for reforming multilateral institutions, including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

‘Jai’ Trilateral

the UN and WTO, while underlining the benefits of a multilateral trading system and an open world economy.

The trilateral meeting between India, the US and Japan comes at a time when China is engaged in territorial disputes in

the Indo-Pacific.

About his meeting with Trump and Abe, Modi said, “This is a very good occasion for the three countries – countries which have shared values, democratic values....”

The PM articulated five action points to help promote peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, and highlighted the importance of working jointly in areas such as connectivity, sustainable development, disaster relief, maritime security and unfettered mobility.

The Japanese premier hoped the trilateral would reinforce their partnership “towards realising a free and open Indo-Pacific”.

Appreciating “India’s growth story”, Trump said, “The relationship between our three countries is extremely good and extremely strong... with India, maybe stronger than ever... We are doing a lot of trade together. We are doing a lot of defence together, a lot of military purchases.”

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale described the trilateral meeting as “very good, very warm”. “They all agreed that a free, open, inclusive and rules-based order is essential for the region’s peace and prosperity... The Prime Minister in particular felt that it was necessary for the three countries to reach out to all the stakeholders to explain the benefits of the Indo-Pacific strategy.”

According to the Foreign Secretary, Trump and Abe also complimented Modi on his “reforms and development work”.