

In Paris, Modi, Macron pledge to go 'above and beyond' Paris deal

TNN & AGENCIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron put forth a common front on the need to fight climate change on Saturday, with the French leader saying he would travel to India before year's end for a summit on promoting solar energy.

Modi vowed to "continue working above and beyond" the Paris Agreement on climate change, two days after Donald Trump had announ-

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ced America's exit from the 2015 accord.

Arriving at the presidential Elysee Palace in Paris, Modi hugged 39-year-old Ma-



A NEW BRONHOMIE: PM Modi and new French President Emmanuel Macron also voiced concern over the threat of terrorism

cron, in scenes contrasting with Macron's clenched-jawed, white-knuckle handshake with Trump in Brussels last week. An enthusias-

tic Modi said the French centrist's election had "encouraged the whole world".

► **Will visit India, P 10**

Macron says will visit India this year for summit on solar power

AP

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Saying that the accord represented “*sanjhi vi-rasat*” (shared heritage) of the whole world, Modi said India believed protection of the environment was an article of faith and part of an ancient tradition that respects nature. “It is our duty to give a gift to the next generation,” he said.

The PM said protecting “mother Earth” was part of Indian culture. “For Indians, environmental protection is a profession of faith because we learn it in the vedas,” he said.

Macron said he would visit India, the world’s third-largest polluter, by the end of the year for a summit on solar power — an area where the two planned greater coopera-



PM Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on the last leg of his four-nation tour

tion and on which they hoped to rope in “many other countries”. The Paris agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping the global temper-

ature rise in this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The two leaders voiced concern over the growing

threat of terrorism world-wide. “Terrorism is one of the biggest challenges the world is facing today,” Modi said, adding that he and Macron discussed extensively how to save the world from terrorism and radicalisation.

“We cannot see the danger of climate change but we can see the horrific effects of terrorism, we can feel it. Innocent people, women, children lose their lives to terror. Every child in France knows the face of terror,” Modi said, referring to a series of terror attacks that rocked France in recent years claiming dozens of lives.

He said terrorism is visible and it affects the entire world. “The world needs to unite to defeat the menace of terrorism,” Modi said.