

LOOKING FORWARD TO 'FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS': PM

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a community programme in Munich, Germany. PTI-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he was looking forward to "fruitful discussions" with world leaders on topical issues such as climate, energy, food security, counterterrorism, environment, gender equality and democracy as he arrived in Munich, Germany to attend the G7 Summit.

Mr. Modi is attending the summit, being held on June 26 and 27, following an invitation by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The summit is being hosted by Germany in its capacity as the chair of G7, a grouping of the world's seven richest nations.

"Landed in Munich to participate in the G-7 Summit. I look forward to fruitful discussions with world leaders during the Summit," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Addressing the Indian diaspora during a massive event at the Audi Dome indoor arena here, Mr. Modi said that democracy was in the DNA of every Indian.

"Forty-seven years ago, an attempt was made to hold that democracy hostage and crush it. Emergency is a black spot on India's vibrant democracy," Mr. Modi said, targeting the Congress Party.

"We Indians feel proud of our democracy wherever we live. Every Indian can say with pride that India is the mother of democracy," he said.

Ukraine crisis

"At the invitation of @Bundestkanzler Olaf Scholz, PM @narendramodi arrives in Germany for the G7 Summit. Besides participating in @G7 discussions on climate, energy, food security, health, gender equality and more, PM will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet.

The G7 leaders are expected to focus on the Ukraine crisis that has triggered geopolitical turmoil besides fuelling a global food and energy crisis.

"During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest International Organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," Mr. Modi said in a statement ahead of his visit.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Friday that Mr. Modi would hold bilateral meetings and discussions with the leaders of the G7 and also the guest countries on the sidelines of the summit.

Besides India, Germany, the host of the G7 Summit, has also invited Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa as guests for the summit to recognise the democracies of the global

south as its partners.

From Germany, Mr. Modi will travel to the UAE on June 28 to pay condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former President.

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