

PM PITCHES FOR GREATER ROLE IN UNITED NATIONS

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: UNO and its various Agencies

“India will also help all the countries in enhancing their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of the vaccines.”

Mr. Modi highlighted some of India’s contribution to the UN and said that it was a basis for Indians wanting an “expanded role” in the organization.

“When we were strong, we were never a threat to the world; when we were weak, we never become a burden on the world,” Mr. Modi said.

He said the idea of *Vasudhaiva kutumbakam* [the world as one family] was in resonance with the UN’s founding ideals and said Indian troops had participated in about 50 UN peacekeeping missions.

“Today every Indian, while seeing the contribution of India in the United Nations, aspires for India’s expanded role in the United Nations.”

He spoke of India’s foreign policy as being driven by the interests of “the whole [of] humankind and not about its own vested interests.” Mr. Modi specifically mentioned India’s “Neighbourhood First Policy”, the “Act East Policy” and its views towards the Indo-Pacific Region.

Presumably in a message to the United States as well as China, Mr. Modi said, “Any gesture of friendship by India towards one country is not directed against any third country.”

“When India strengthens its development partnership, it is not with any mala fide intent of making the partner country dependent or hapless,” he said. This was presumably an oblique reference to China’s model of infrastructure financing in the Indo-Pacific which has led to several countries falling into debt-traps with Beijing.

Mr. Modi thanked member states for trusting India with a non-permanent seat at the Security Council starting January 2020 and said India will bring its developmental experience to the job. He outlined his administration’s official record in areas such as financial inclusion, health care and targets to eradicate tuberculosis (by 2025) and other development goals. Mr. Modi also mentioned that India had 26 weeks of paid maternity leave and was promoting the rights of transgendered persons.

“In its journey towards progress, India wants to learn from the world as well as share its own experiences with the world,” he said.

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