

**MESSAGE DELIVERED****Not everything went right at the G7 summit, but PM Modi got the ear of President Trump**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's twin missions as a special invitee to the G7 summit in France over the weekend was to address the world's seven most advanced economies on Climate Change and Digital Transformation, but it was his meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump that wound up taking centre-stage. Mr. Modi took the initiative to clear the air about Jammu and Kashmir. This was necessitated by the repeated references that Mr. Trump has made about U.S. mediation between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, as well as a briefing by a senior administration official last week, who said that Mr. Trump would "want to hear from Prime Minister Modi on how he plans to reduce regional tensions and uphold respect for human rights in Kashmir". Both U.S. statements run counter to the Indian position that the withdrawal of special status to J&K under the Constitution is an "internal matter", and the issue of Kashmir will be resolved bilaterally with Pakistan. In the event, Mr. Modi appeared to have driven the message home, and Mr. Trump backed away from both statements. The two leaders also appeared to have made some headway on deadlocked trade talks between India and the U.S., and have decided that their trade representatives, USTR Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, will meet ahead of the Modi visit to the U.S. in September.

The interaction between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump appeared to be in line with the broader themes that characterised this year's G7 summit, where bilateral meetings appeared a little more successful than the multilateral meeting itself. As host, French President Emmanuel Macron decided to invite Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, but the other G7 members rejected any suggestion to include him in their conclave to discuss the future of the JCPOA nuclear deal. Mr. Trump's push to invite Russia back into the club (it was called the G-8 until Russia was suspended in 2014), which represents more than half the world's wealth also came a cropper as the other members did not agree to Russian President Putin's re-entry. As one of nine special guests invited to address various sessions, Mr. Modi spoke on how India is keeping its climate change commitments, but it was a session where Mr. Trump, whose presence was vital given the U.S.'s walkout from the Paris accord, didn't make an appearance. G7 members also discussed the Amazon fire crisis and pledged over \$20 million to Brazil, but were rebuffed after a spat broke out between Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Mr. Macron. It came as

no surprise that the summit ended as it did: for the first time in the grouping's 44-year old history, there was no joint communiqué.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Summit		Meeting, negotiation, conference, discussion, conclave
Transformation		Change, alteration, metamorphosis, revamping
Wound up		Very nervous, worries, angry, jittery
Initiative		Enterprise, inventiveness, capability, advantage
Air		expression, expounding
Mediation		Conciliation, arbitration, intervention
Briefing		A short meeting
Counter		Oppose, combat, cross
Withdrawal		Departure, pull out, exit, exodus, evacuation
Resolve		Settle, sort out, solve, deal with, rectify
Bilaterally		Involved with two parties
Back away		Move away from someone due to fear
Head way		Make progress, progress, advance, proceed
Deadlock (v)		Tie, draw, dead heat
Crupper		Unsuccess
Pledge		Promise, undertaking, vow, word, assurance
Rebuff		Reject, repudiate, jettison, turndown
Breakout		Spread
Communique		Official communication, bulletin, missive
Conclave		Meeting, negotiation, conference, summit

### **MURDER MOST FOUL**

#### **India needs a comprehensive law to deal with 'honour killing'.**

The use of murderous violence in the face of imagined threats to family or community honour is an unfortunate reality in most parts of the country. The term 'honour killing' is being used widely to describe the class of murders that family members commit while seeking to impose on young couples their medieval view that all marriages should be within their community. The Supreme Court, which has been intervening repeatedly to preserve the

freedom of marital choice of individuals, once remarked that there is no ‘honour’ in ‘honour killing’. Various judgments have highlighted the need to come down on such crimes, as well as the social structures that keep such a communal outlook alive. The judgment of the Principal Sessions Court, Kottayam, Kerala, awarding life imprisonment to 10 men involved in the abduction and murder of Kevin Joseph, a 23-year-old Dalit Christian, in May 2018, is in line with the apex court’s views. The investigation and trial into Kevin’s murder have been notably fast. Kevin was abducted by a group led by Shyanu Chacko, the principal accused and brother of Neenu, Kevin’s fiancée just as the young man was making arrangements to have his marriage registered. The court ruled that it was an ‘honour killing’ based on Neenu’s testimony that her family was vehemently against the marriage as Kevin was a Dalit. The police managed to drive home the guilt of the accused by digital and electronic evidence, including records showing mobile phone signal locations and CCTV footage, to confirm the time and the routes through which the accused had taken Kevin before drowning him.

The court rightly chose not to award the death penalty. Instead it handed down two separate life terms, one each for kidnapping with intention to threaten the victim with death, and for murder. Even though there is a Supreme Court judgment allowing trial courts to deem ‘honour killings’ as those that fall under the ‘rarest of rare cases’ category, the trial judge chose to take note of the fact that the accused were young and had no previous criminal background. It is disquieting that the ‘honour killing’ phenomenon persists in highly literate societies too. Discrimination against Dalits is not limited to Hindu communities listed as Scheduled Castes, but extends to those who have converted to other religions too. At a time when caste groups have become politically organised and caste associations attract the young and the educated, there is a need for a redoubled effort to eliminate the evils of a stratified society. In particular, administrators must give full effect to the various preventive, remedial and punitive measures recommended by the Supreme Court. The Centre may also examine the need for a comprehensive law to curb killings in the name of honour and prohibit interference in matrimonial choice of individuals.

<b><u>Words</u></b>	<b><u>Kind</u></b>	<b><u>Meaning</u></b>
Foul		Disgusting, revolting, repellent, repulsive, repugnant
Comprehensive		Extensive, all inclusive, compendious, embracive
Threat		Warring, ultimatum, intimidating, menace

Medieval	Primitive, antiquated, prehistoric, archaic
Intervene	Intercede, involve, oneself, get involved
Preserve	Conserve, protect, maintain, safeguard, keep
Various	Sundry, diverse, assorted, heterogeneous
Judgement	Discernment, acumen, shrewdness, astuteness
Abduction	Kidnap, carry off, seize, capture, hijack
Apex	Supreme, top, acme, crest, zenith, pinnacle
Trial	Court case, lawsuit, tribunal, litigation, proceeding
Notably	Particularly, especially, primarily, principally
Testimony	Evidence, attestation, affidavit, proof
Vehemently	Forcefully, passionately, intensely
Evidence	Proof, testimony, attestation, affidavit
Deem	Regard, consider, judge, adjudge, count, gauge
Disquiet	Unease, uneasiness, worry, anxiety, distress
Persist	Persevere, continue, carry on, plod on, hold
Discrimination	Prejudice, bias, bigotry, intolerance
Stratify	Arrange, organize, classify, broker
Punitive	Harsh, severe, stiff, austere, cruel, stringent
Curb	Control, harness, constrain, impede, hinder