India – Turkey Relations Part - II

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Why in news

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On May 1 2017 Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited India, this is expected to open a wide opportunities in bilateral relations.

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What is the ideology of turkey so far?

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- Turkey's position on Kashmir has traditionally **reflected its proximity to Pakistan.**
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- Turkey and Pakistan are part of the **Uniting for Consensus group** which opposes the idea of adding new permanent members proposing instead a doubling of the non-permanent category to make the UNSC more representative.
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- More recently, on India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Turkey supported the Chinese idea of a criteria-based approach for non-Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) member states, intended to accommodate Pakistan.
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- Turkey appeared a moderate and progressive Islamic state, and prospects for EU membership were bright.
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- Turkey is keen to join in the assault on the IS and ready to be global partner to fight against extremism.
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What are the problems in Turkey?

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- Turkey had a booming economy, Mr. Erdogan had clipped the wings of the army.
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- It is estimated that about 120,000 government employees have been suspended or dismissed, primarily from the judiciary and the education branches by the present government for involving in a coup.
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- In addition, 7,500 soldiers and officers including over a hundred with the rank of a brigadier and above, and over 10,000 police cadres have been sacked.
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- More than a dozen colleges and universities and a thousand schools are closed; licences of 24 radio and TV channels have been revoked and over a hundred journalists have been arrested.
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- The present government with a slim majority passed, 18 amendments to transform Turkey into a highly centralised presidential government.
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What are the similarities between turkey and India?

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- Both country’s ruling parties are associated with religious organisations, had overturned long standing **‘secular-nationalist elites’.**
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- India and Turkey as two of the world’s largest multi-ethnic and multi-religious democracies.
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- The leaders of both the country has ideas on reviving national pride and restoring greatness, harnessing militant nationalism, impatience with criticism and civil society, and their personal charismatic appeal.
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- Both sides sought to emphasise the potential for greater economic cooperation.
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What is the way forward?

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- It is important to India to use this cost positively since India with 1.3 billion people needed to have its place in the UNSC.
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- This visit is an ambitious agenda, even for a highly committed and driven leader like Mr. Erdogan and will keep him busy for the next two years.
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- Opening a new page in India-Turkey relations clearly needs to wait for better times.
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Source: The Hindu

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