# PM’s three nation visit

## Why in news?

\n\n

Prime Minister completed his three-nation tour of Portugal, United States and Netherlands.

\n\n

## What are the outcomes?

\n\n

\n
- **Portugal -** PM met his Portuguese counterpart and signed 11 MoUs in areas including double taxation avoidance, investments, science and technology, and culture.
\n
- The two nations have agreed to establish a joint science and technology fund worth 4 million euros.
\n
- **U.S -** PM met with US President, following which the two nations issued a joint statement.
\n

\n\n

\n\n

\n
- He also interacted with the Indian diaspora as well as top US CEOs inviting them to invest in India.
\n
- PM faced three imperatives in making U.S visit a success.
\n

\n\n

\n
- **Establishing a personal understanding** with U.S President - Both the leaders established some personal warmth.

\n
- But they should also move beyond their early affinity and identify global issues on which they can seek each other's advice and support.
\n
- **To signal that the US-India relationship remains solid -**
\n
- The joint statement reaffirmed an emphasis on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific maritime collaboration and articulated a common understanding of the terrorist threat.
\n
- It also highlighted deepening defense ties, including a significant offer of Guardian UAVs.
\n
- The UAV deal is significant because it required the administration to overcome a 'presumption of denial' under its MTCR obligations.
\n
- But issues like India's concerns on the immigration process, H1B visa curbs and U.S' withdrawal from the Paris climate accord were not brought up.
\n

\n\n

\n
- **To shape the new administration's view of regional challenges -** It is particularly related to that of China and Pakistan. Here the fruits of the summit are somewhat less clear.
\n
- The joint statement reaffirmed the US-India strategic convergence in Asia.
\n
- **On China -** It highlighted a shared concern over North Korea and posed a critique of China's Belt and Road Initiative.
\n
- But it did not made it clear whether India and U.S have a similar view of the challenge that China poses to our shared interests in Asia.
\n
- Without that common view, US-India defence cooperation could eventually wane.
\n
- **On Pakistan -** US made a strong statement in the wake of the Uri attacks.
\n
- It also designated Syed Salahuddin as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist.
\n
- This might suggest that U.S is moving towards present Indian goverment's view of Pakistan.
\n

- But it is yet to develop a complete South Asia strategy to address the problems of cross-border militancy from Pakistani territory.
  \n
- U.S still has numerous investments with Pakistan.
  \n
- It also cannot afford to alienate Pakistani when it is considering reinvesting in an Afghan peace process.
  \n
- For the US, the visit might mean finding ways to ensure that trade disputes are handled respectfully and involving in areas of strategic importance with ease.
  \n
- **Netherlands -** PM lauded the Netherlands for helping India successfully get a membership of MTCR.
  \n
- The Netherlands expressed its support for India's early membership to the 48-member NSG and the Wassenaar Arrangement.
  \n
- Netherlands also welcomed India's recent application for membership in the Australia Group and supported the country's bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat.
  \n
- MTCR membership enables India to buy high-end missile technology and also enhances its joint ventures with Russia.
  \n
- The aim of the MTCR is to restrict the proliferation of missiles, complete rocket systems, unmanned air vehicles and related technology for those systems capable of carrying a 500 kilogramme payload for at least 300 kilometres, as well as systems intended for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
  \n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Indian Express**

\n

SHANKAR IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering