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TODAY'S ANALYSIS

(12 July 2024)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- KEY OUTCOMES OF PM'S VISIT TO RUSSIA
- PM'S AUSTRIA VISIT
- MCQs



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KEY OUTCOMES OF PM'S VISIT TO RUSSIA

The Indian PM visited Russia as his **first destination post elections for a bilateral visit.**



Multiple domains were discussed between the two leaders from trade ties to expanding diplomatic reach, and much much more.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT

★ TRADE TIES & TRIUMPHS

- Aim to boost bilateral trade to **100 bn USD by 2030.**
- Promote bilateral settlement system **using national currencies.**

★ EXPANDING DIPLOMATIC REACH

- India will open **two new consulates** in Russia in **Kazan & Yekaterinburg.**

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★ CHARTING NEW CONNECTIVITY

- Implementing the **Chennai Vladivostok (Eastern) Maritime Corridor & International North South Trade Corridor.**
- Cooperation in developing shipping between Russia & India via **North Sea Route.**

★ STRENGTHENING DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

- **Joint manufacturing of spare parts & components** in India of Russian defence equipments under '**Make in India**' program.
- Transfer Technology & joint ventures to boost local production capabilities.

★ COUNTERING TERRORISM

- Both nations called for **zero tolerance for terrorism.**
- Multilateral cooperation against **organised crime, terrorist financing & drug trafficking.**
- Agreed on **peaceful resolution of Ukraine conflict** through dialogue.

★ COLLABORATION FOR A GREENER PLANET

- MoU to foster **collaboration on Climate Change & Low Carbon Development.**
- **Joint Research** for sustainable **Low-Cost Technologies.**

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★ THE GEOSPATIAL ENERGY

- MoU to **exchange knowledge & experience in Geodesy, Cartography & Spatial Data infrastructure.**
- **Cooperation between scientific & Educational Institutes.**

★ UNITING FOR POLAR RESEARCH & LOGISTICS

- MoU to share resources & data for studying Polar Environments & their variability.
- Collaborative logistics, joint research, personnel exchanges & participation in international Polar Programs.

★ BROADCASTING TOGETHER

- Collaboration on broadcasting between india's **Prasar Bharati** & Russia's **ANO "TV-Novosti"** (Russia Today TV Channel_

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PM'S AUSTRIA VISIT

At the **invitation of Chancellor Mr Karl Nehammer**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to Austria from **9-10 July 2024**.

During his visit, the Prime Minister called on **H.E. Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria**, and held bilateral discussions with **Chancellor Nehammer**.

This was the **Prime Minister's first visit to Austria** and that of an **Indian Prime Minister after 41 years**. This year marks the **75th year of diplomatic relations** between the two countries.

THE EMPHASISED AREAS DURING THE MEETING

The Prime Minister and the Chancellor emphasised that the

- Shared values of democracy,
- Freedom,
- International peace and security,
- A rules-based international order with the UN Charter at its core,
- The shared historical linkages, and

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- The long-standing ties between the two countries are at the centre of the growing enhanced partnership.

Chancellor Nehammer and Prime Minister Modi recognised that the **two countries have the potential to significantly upgrade their bilateral partnership** to A higher level. They agreed to **adopt a strategic approach** to advance this shared Objective.

AREAS OF COOPERATION

- **POLITICAL & SECURITY COOPERATION:**

- Both leaders underscored their **commitment to democracy, international and regional peace & prosperity.**
- They reinforced their commitment to a **free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific** in accordance with the **international law of the sea as Reflected in UNCLOS.**
- Concerning the **war in Ukraine**, both leaders **supported any collective effort** to facilitate a peaceful resolution **consistent with international law and the UN Charter.**
- The two leaders reiterated their **unequivocal condemnation of terrorism** in all its forms and manifestations. Both countries reiterated their commitment to work together in **FATF, NMFT** and other multilateral Platforms.

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- Austria expressed interest in joining **India- Middle East Europe Economic Corridor**.
- **SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP:**
 - The convening of the **first-ever high-level bilateral Business Forum** with the participation of the CEOs of several companies in Vienna.
 - Recognised the **vital importance of research, scientific tie-ups, technology partnerships and innovation** in driving forward the bilateral partnership.
 - Initiatives to link the **innovation and start-up ecosystems** of the two countries through the **Start-Up Bridge** set up during the visit of the **Austrian Minister of Labour and Economy to India in February 2024**.
 - The leaders recognised that this would **significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change**.
 - Noted the scope for engagement in the context of the **Austrian Government's Hydrogen Strategy and the National Green Hydrogen Mission**.
- **SKILL DEVELOPMENT**
 - Recognised the importance of **skill development and mobility of skilled personnel** to support an expanded engagement in high-tech sectors.

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- In this regard, they welcomed the **operationalisation of the bilateral Migration and Mobility Agreement**, which provides an institutional framework to facilitate such exchanges, while at the same time combating irregular migration.
- They **encouraged academic institutions of both countries** to build future-oriented partnerships focused on areas of mutual interest, especially in science, technology, and engineering.
- **PEOPLE TO PEOPLE TIES:**
 - The leaders also noted the growing **interest among Austrians in yoga and Ayurveda**.
 - They welcomed efforts to promote further **bilateral cultural ties in music, dance, opera, theatre, films, literature, sports and other fields**, including in the framework of the recently signed MOU on Cultural Cooperation.
- **MULTILATERAL COOPERATION:**
 - Both leaders affirmed their support for **reforms in the UN**.
 - Prime Minister Modi conveyed India's invitation to Austria for its membership in the **International Solar Alliance**

<https://pib.gov.in/pressreleaseframepage.aspx?prid=2032251>

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Prime Minister Modi extended an invitation to Chancellor Nehammer to visit India at his convenience, which the Chancellor accepted with pleasure.



THE PREVIOUS VISITS

Diplomatic relations between India and Austria were established on **November 10, 1949** — this year marks its **75th anniversary**.

- In June 1955, about a month after Austria had gained full independence through the conclusion of the State Treaty, Nehru paid a State Visit to the country, the first by a foreign leader.

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- The year after **Indira's visit in 1983, Austria's Chancellor Fred Sinowatz Came to India on a reciprocal visit.**
- **President K R Narayanan went to Austria on a State Visit in November 1999; Austria's President Dr Heinz Fischer came in February 2005, and**
- **President Pratibha Patil visited Austria in October 2011.**

WHY AUSTRIA MATTERS?

- Austria offers tremendous opportunities for bilateral collaboration in **infrastructure, renewable energy, e-commerce, fintech, enterprise tech, consumer services, and media and entertainment.**
- Both countries have taken **balanced positions in the Russia-Ukraine war.**
 - Even though **Austria supported the EU's sanctions against Russia**, on April 11, 2022, **Chancellor Nehammer became the first European leader to visit President Putin** to discuss the end of the war.
 - **Austria has publicly criticised Russian actions in Ukraine**, but **commercial ties** between the two countries **remain largely intact**, and it **continues to import gas from russia.**

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MCQs

1. Consider the following statements and mark the correct one:

1. PM Modi, in his third term as PM, decided to visit Russia as his first destination for a bilateral meeting.

2. Austria would be his second destination post Russia.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Both 1 & 2

(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans. (C)

2. In 2024 visit of the Indian PM to Russia, it has been decided to open an Indian consulate in which city of Russia?

(A) Vladivostok

(B) St. Petersburg

(C) Yekaterinburg

(D) Both A & C

Ans. (C)

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3. Recently, India & Russia signed an agreement on Geodesy. What does Geodesy mean?

- (A) It is a study of maps using Geospatial Technology.
- (B) It is the science of measuring and understanding the Earth's geometry, gravity, And spatial orientation in 3D over time.
- (C) It is a study of evaluating the Oil & Natural Gas Resources in the oceans.
- (D) None of the above

Ans. (B)

4. Which of the following statements is/are true about India-Austria relations?

- 1. India & Austria established their diplomatic relations in 1949 with J.L. Nehru's visit in the same year.
 - 2. Austria was part of the capitalist bloc during the cold war era.
- (A) Only 1
 - (B) Only 2
 - (C) Neither 1 nor 2
 - (D) Both 1 & 2

Ans. (D)

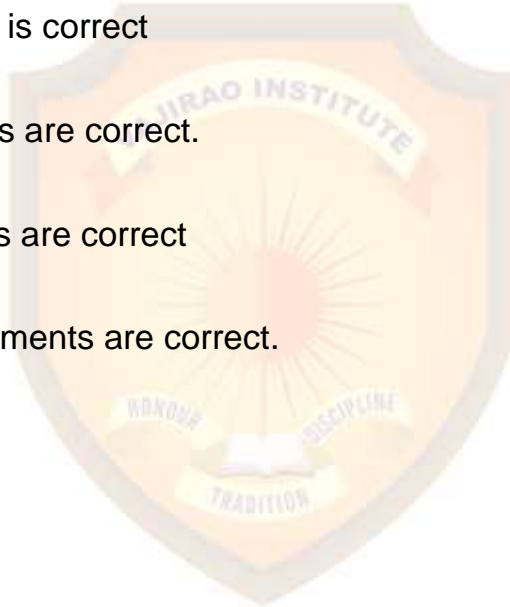
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5. Consider the following statements and mark **how many** of them are correct.
1. Austria & India have been neutral in the ongoing Russia Ukraine war.
 2. Austria being part of NATO, stopped importing energy from Russia.
 3. No President of India has visited Austria in the 21st century.
- (A) Only 1 statement is correct
(B) Only 2 statements are correct.
(C) All the statements are correct
(D) None of the statements are correct.

Ans. (A)



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