After seven years, Modi to visit China as trade tensions with the US surge
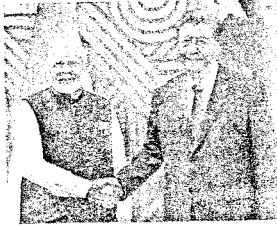
Reuters
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit China for the first time in over seven years, a government source said on Wednesday, in a further sign of a diplomatic thaw with Beijing even as tensions with the US rise.

Modi will go to China for the multilateral Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit that begins on August 31, a government source with direct knowledge of the matter told *Reuters*.

The Ministry of External Affairs did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Modi's trip will come at a time when India's relationship with the US faces its most serious crisis in years.

His visit to the Chinese city of Tianjin for the summit of the SCO, a Eurasian political and security group-

A file photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping ANI

ing that includes Russia, will be his first since June 2018.

Subsequently, Sino-Indian ties deteriorated sharply after a military clash along the Himalayan border in 2020.

DIPLOMATIC THAW

Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks on the sidelines of a BRICS summit in Russia last October that led to a thaw.

The giant Asian neighbours are now slowly defusing tensions that have hampered business relations

and travel between the two countries.

On Wednesday, US President Donald Trump said his administration would decide on the penalty for buying Russian oil after the outcome of Washington's efforts for a last-minute breakthrough to bring about a ceasefire in the Russia-Ukraine war.

Trump's top diplomatic envoy, Steve Witkoff, is in Moscow with two days to go for a deadline he set for Russia to agree to peace in Ukraine or face new sanctions.

DOVAL IN MOSCOW

Coincidentally, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is also in Moscow on a scheduled visit and is expected to discuss purchase of Russian oil in the wake of Trump's pressure on India to stop buying Russian crude, according to another government source, who also did not want to be named.

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