

India: Statement on PM Modi's Threat - Nuclear Weapons, Elections, and War of Words

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It is with shock and dismay that the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP) takes note of the Indian Prime Minister's public nuclear sabre-rattling on April 21, 2019 in Barmer in Rajasthan when he mindlessly and sarcastically declared that India's nuclear weapons were not for celebrating '*Diwali*' (the festival of lights and sound)! To speak so casually about the possible use of nuclear weapons and that too for the purposes of winning votes through arousal of hatred and by promoting an ugly, masculinist militarism, is deeply disturbing. The very least that is demanded from nuclear armed governments is that their leaders should display some sense of responsibility and sobriety in what they say and do. That Prime Minister Modi has disregarded all this only goes to reinforce the view that South Asia is potentially the most dangerous place in the world.

Those who are really concerned about ensuring the safety and security of Indians would not indulge in such reckless rhetoric. How will the promise of obliterating Pakistan through a "second strike" guarantee the security of those Indians who are likely to be wiped out in a Pakistani "first strike"? The issue is of taking all necessary steps to prevent a nuclear war; it is not about retaliatory strikes.

Not for nothing, are nuclear weapons dubbed as "weapons of mass destruction" and a credible study has predicted that a nuclear war between India and Pakistan may wipe out the human civilisation itself ([1](#)).

CNDP calls on the PM and all other politicians to immediately stop fuelling and inciting reactions in such a manner from those who gather in large numbers at such rallies. This is not just a further debasement of our public political discourse but such cavalier boasts and threats may provoke a war of words leading to an unwanted and unwarranted escalation of inter-country tensions which in turn can set off a very dangerous dynamic.

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Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace (CNDP)

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Footnotes

[1] ref.:

<https://www.ibtimes.com/india-pakistan-nuclear-war-would-kill-2-billion-people-end-civilization-report-150360>