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The Globalist

It is a rare moment in global politics when the political dynamic of India, Germany and the US are converging in a single country.

India’s growing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel and the US’ President Barack Obama will gather Sunday and Monday in New Delhi for the first annual trilateral summit that will be a key moment in the political dynamics of each country.

Merkel, in India’s capital, will rarely have been so prominent since her days as a young lawyer in the GDR. Obama, who is on his first visit to India, will also be under the spotlight. Modi, on the other hand, is probably enjoying the most dramatic political high of his political career.

The question is which country is the most important for the other two leaders. That will be determined not only by what they say in public, but also by what they choose to omit.

In the end, the test for these three leaders will be in how they deal with the world’s most important crisis of our time. It is hard to imagine a trilateral summit in which the issue of climate change is not discussed.

There are also the manifold regional complexities, such as in South Asia and Northeast Asia, which will probably be on the agenda.

The meeting is significant because it is the first time the three leaders have met together in any forum, but also because it marks the first time they have met since those initial early days of the Obama presidency, when they were all embroiled in the global financial crisis.

With the US in the midst of a government shutdown and the European Union teetering on the brink, the meeting could not have come at a more important moment.

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