

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi Of India Delivers Add..., sked FINAL

June 8, 2016 12:55PM ET

TRANSCRIPT

June 08, 2016

NEWS EVENT

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI OF INDIA DELIVERS ADDRESS TO A JOINT  
MEETING OF CONGRESS

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PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI OF INDIA DELIVERS ADDRESS  
TO A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS

JUNE 8, 2016

SPEAKER: INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

MODI: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished members of the U.S. Congress, ladies and gentlemen, I'm deeply honored by the invitation to address this joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for opening the doors of this magnificent capitol. This temple of democracy has encouraged and empowered other democracies the world over.

It manifests the spirit of this great nation (inaudible), in Abraham Lincoln's words, was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

(APPLAUSE)

MODI: In granting me this opportunity, you have honored the world's largest democracy and its (ph) 1.2 billion people.

(APPLAUSE)

As a representative of world's largest democracy, it is indeed a privilege to speak to the leaders of its (ph) 1.2 billion people.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker, two days ago, I began my visit by going to the Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place of many brave soldiers of this great land.

(APPLAUSE)

I honor their courage and sacrifice for the ideals of freedom and democracy.

It was also the 72nd anniversary of the D-Day. On that day, thousands from this great country fought to protect the torch of liberty.

(APPLAUSE)

They sacrificed their lives (ph) so that the world live in freedom. I applaud -- India applauds the great sacrifices of the men and women from the land of the free and the home of the brave in service of mankind.

(APPLAUSE)

India knows (ph) what this means, because our soldiers have fallen in distant battlefields for the same ideals. That is why the (inaudible) of freedom and liberty from a strong bond between our two democracies.

Mr. Speaker, our nations may have been shaped by diverse histories, cultures and faiths (ph), yet our belief in democracy for (ph) our nations and liberty for our countrymen is common. The idea that all citizens are created equal is a central pillar of the American Constitution. Our founding fathers do share the same belief and sought (ph) individual liberty for every citizen of India.

(APPLAUSE)

MODI: There were many who doubted India (inaudible) newly independent nation (inaudible) faith (ph) in democracy. Indeed, wagers (ph) were made on our future, but the people of India did not waver (ph).

Our founders created a modern nation, with freedom, democracy and equality at the essence of its soul (ph). And in doing so, they ensured that we continue to celebrate our age-old diversity.

Today, across its individuals and institutions, its -- and its villages and cities, (inaudible) and states are anchored in equal respect for all faiths (ph). And in the melody (ph) (inaudible) languages and dialects, India lives (ph) as one, India grows as one, India celebrates as one.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker, modern India is in its 70th (inaudible) year. For my government, the constitution is (inaudible) real holy book. And in that holy book, freedom of faith, speech and franchise, and equality of all citizens

(APPLAUSE)

Eight hundred million of my countrymen may exercise the freedom of franchise once every five years. But all the 1.25 billion of our citizens have freedom from fear, a freedom they exercise every moment of their lives.

(APPLAUSE)

Distinguished members, engagement between our two democracies has been visible in the manner in which our thinkers (ph) impacted one another and shaped the course of our societies.

(Inaudible) idea of civil disobedience influence our political talks.

And similarly, the call by the great sage of India, Swami Vivekananda, who embraced humanity, was most famously delivered in Chicago.

(APPLAUSE)

Gandhi's nonviolence inspired the heroism of Martin Luther King.

(APPLAUSE)

Today, a mere distance of three miles separates the Martin Luther King Memorial at Tidal Basin from the statue of Gandhi at Massachusetts Avenue.

(APPLAUSE)

MODI: This proximity of their memorials (ph) in Washington mirrors the closeness (ph) of ideals and values they believed in. The genius of Dr. Bhimrao Babasaheb Ambedkar (ph) was nurtured in the years he spent at the Columbia University a century ago.

(APPLAUSE)

The impact of U.S. Constitution on him was reflected in his drafting of Indian constitution some three decades later.

(APPLAUSE)

Our independence was ignited by the same idealism that fueled your struggle for freedom. No wonder that former prime minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, call India and the U.S. natural allies.

(APPLAUSE)

No wonder that the shared ideals and common philosophy of freedom shaped the bedrock of our ties. No wonder then that President Obama had called our ties the defining partnership of the 21st century.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker, more than 15 years ago, Prime Minister Vajpayee stood here and gave a call to step out of shadow (ph) of hesitation of the past. The pages of our friendship since then tell a remarkable story. To our relationship has overcome the hesitations of history.

(APPLAUSE)

Comfort, candor and convergence define our conversations. Through the cycle of elections and transi-

U.S. Congress has acted as its compass. You have help us turn barriers into bridges of partnership.

(APPLAUSE)

In the fall of 2008, when the Congress pass the India-U.S. civil nuclear cooperation agreement, it chang the very colors of leaves of our relationship.

(APPLAUSE)

We thank you for being there when the partnership needed you the most. You have also stood by us in times of sorrow. India will never forget the solidarity shown by the U.S. Congress when terrorists from across our border attacked Mumbai in November of 2008.

(APPLAUSE)

And for this, we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the working of the U.S. Congress is harmonious.

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

MODI: I am also told that you are well-known for your (inaudible).

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

Well, you are not alone.

(LAUGHTER)

Time and again, I also witness a similar spirit in the Indian Parliament.

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

Especially in upper house.

(LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE)

So, as you can see, we have many shared practices.

(LAUGHTER)

Mr. Speaker, as this country knows well, every journey had its pioneers (ph). Very early on (inaudible) e' when our meeting ground was more limited.

The genius of Norman Borlaug brought the Green Revolution and food security to my country.

(APPLAUSE)

The excellence of American universities nurtured institutions of technology and management in India.

(APPLAUSE)

human endeavor, from the depths of the oceans to the vastness of the space. Our science and technology collaboration continues to help us in cracking (ph) the age-old problems in the fields of public health, education, food and agriculture.

Ties of commerce and investment are flourishing. We trade more with the U.S. than with any other nation.  
(APPLAUSE)

And the flow of goods, services and capital between us generates jobs in both our societies.  
(APPLAUSE)

As in trade, so in defense. India exercises (ph) with the United States more than we do with any other partner.

(APPLAUSE)

Defense (inaudible) have moved from almost zero to \$10 billion in less than a decade.

(APPLAUSE)

Our cooperation also secures our cities and citizens from terrorists and protects our critical infrastructure from cyberspace.

Civil nuclear cooperation, as I told President Obama yesterday, is a reality.

MODI: Mr. Speaker, our people-to-people links are strong. And there is a close (inaudible) between our societies. Siri (ph) -- you are familiar with the Siri (ph). Siri (ph) tells us that India ancient heritage of yoga has over 30 million practitioners in the U.S.

(APPLAUSE)

It is estimated that more Americans bend (ph) for yoga than to throw a curveball.

(LAUGHTER)

And no (ph), Mr. Speaker, we have not yet claimed (ph) intellectual property right on yoga.

(APPLAUSE)

Connecting our two nations is also a unique and dynamic bridge (ph) of three million Indian-Americans.

(LAUGHTER)

Today, they are among your best CEOs, academics, astronauts, scientists, economists, doctors, even spelling bee champions.

(APPLAUSE)

They are your strengths (ph). They are also the pride of India.

(APPLAUSE)

They symbolize the best of both of our societies.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding of your great (ph) country began long before I entered public office. Long before assuming (ph) office, I travel coast-to-coast, covering more than 25 (ph) states of America.

I realized (ph) then that the real strength of the U.S. was (ph) in the dreams of its people and the boldness (ph) of their ambitions.

(APPLAUSE)

Today (ph), Mr. Speaker, our similar spirit animates (ph) India. Over 800 million youth (ph) are especially (ph) impatient (ph). India is undergoing a profound social and economic change. A billion of its citizens (ph) are already politically empowered. My dream is to economically empower them through many social and economical transformations, and do so by 2022, the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

MODI: My to-do list is long and (inaudible), but you will understand it includes a vibrant (ph) rural economy with a robust (ph) farm (ph) sector. A roof over each head and electricity for all households, to skill (ph)..

(APPLAUSE)

To skill (ph) millions of our youth build hundreds more cities, have broadband (ph) for a billion and connect our villages to the digital world.

(APPLAUSE)

And create a 21st century railroad import (ph) infrastructure.

These are not just aspirations. They are goals to be reached in a finite timeframe and to be achieved (ph) with a light carbon footprint with greater emphasis on renewables.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker, in every sector of India's (inaudible), I see the U.S. as an indispensable partner.

(APPLAUSE)

Many of you also believe that a stronger and prosperous India is in America's strategic interest.

(APPLAUSE)

Let us work together to convert (ph) shared ideas into practical cooperation.

There can be no doubt that in advancing this relationship, both nations stand to gain. As the U.S. businesses search (ph) for new areas of economic growth, markets for their goods, a pool of skilled (ph) resources, and a global location to produce and manufacture, India could be their ideal partner.

(APPLAUSE)

India's strong economy and growth rate of 7.6 percent annum is creating a new opportunity for our mutual prosperity. Transformative American technologies in India and growing investment by Indian companies in the United States both have a positive impact on the lives of our citizens.

Today, for the global research and development centers, India is the destination of choice for the U.S. companies. Looking (ph) (inaudible) from India (inaudible) specific, the innovation strand (ph) of our two countries comes together in California.

(APPLAUSE)

Here, the innovative genius of America and India's intellectual creativity are working to shape new industries of the future.

Mr. Speaker, the 21st century has brought with it great opportunities. But it has also come with own (inaudible) of challenges.

While some parts of the world are islands (ph) of growing economic prosperity, others are mired in confl  
In Asia, the absence of an agreed security architecture creates uncertainty (ph). (Inaudible) of terror (ph  
are responding (ph), and new challenges are emerging in cyber and outer space.

MODI: And global institutions conceived (ph) in 20th century seem unable to cope with new challenges  
take on new responsibilities.

In this world of multiple transitions and economic opportunities, growing uncertainties and political  
complexities, existing threats and new challenges, our engagement can make a difference by promoting  
cooperation, not dominance; connectivity, not isolation; inclusive, not exclusive mechanisms; respect for  
global commons (ph) and above all, for international (ph) rules and norms.

India is already assuming (ph) a responsibilities in securing the Indian Ocean region. A strong India-U.S  
partnership can anchor (ph) peace, prosperity and stability from Asia to Africa and from Indian Ocean to  
Pacific.

(APPLAUSE)

It can also help ensure security of the sea lanes (ph) of commerce and freedom of navigation on seas.

(APPLAUSE)

But the effectiveness of our cooperation would increase if international institutions came (ph) with the  
mindset of the 20th century where they (ph) reflect the reality of today.

Mr. Speaker, before arriving in Washington, D.C., I had visited Herat in western Afghanistan to inaugura  
Afghan-India friendship dam (ph) built with Indian assistance.

(APPLAUSE)

I was also there on the Christmas day last year to dedicate to that proud nation its parliament, a testimo  
to our democratic ties.

(APPLAUSE)

Afghans naturally recognize that the sacrifices of America have helped create a better life.

(APPLAUSE)

But your contribution in keeping the region safe and secure is deeply appreciated by even beyond. And  
India, too, has made an enormous contribution and sacrifices to support our friendship with Afghan peo  
A commitment to rebuild a peaceful and stable and prosperous Afghanistan is our shared objective. Yet  
(ph), distinguished members, not just in Afghanistan, but elsewhere in South Asia and globally, terrorism  
remains the biggest threat.

In the territory -- in the territory stretching from west of India's border of -- to Africa, it may go by differen  
names, from Lashkar-e-Taiba, to Taliban to ISIS, but its philosophy is common; of hate, murder and  
violence.

commend the members of the U.S. Congress for sending a clear message to those who preach and practice terrorism for political gains.

(APPLAUSE)

MODI: Refusing to reward them is the first step towards holding them accountable for their actions.

(APPLAUSE)

The fight against terrorism has to be fought at many levels, and the traditional tools of military intelligence diplomacy alone will not be able to win this fight.

Mr. Speaker, we have both lost civilians and soldiers in combating terrorism. The (inaudible) is for us to deepen our security cooperation and build it on a policy that isolates those who harbor, support and sponsor terrorists.

(APPLAUSE)

That does not distinguish between good and bad terrorists, and that de-links (ph) religion from terrorism

(APPLAUSE)

Also for us to succeed, those who believe in humanity must come together to fight for it as one, and speak against this menace in one voice.

(APPLAUSE)

Terrorism must be de-legitimized (ph).

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of our partnership extend (ph) not just to the nations and regions (ph) that need most. On our own, and by combining (ph) our capacities, we are also responding to other global challenges including when disaster strikes and when humanitarian relief (ph) is needed.

(Inaudible), we have evacuated (ph) thousands from Yemen (ph), Americans and Indians and others. Nearer home, we are the first responders during Nepal's earthquake; in the Maldives (ph), (inaudible), a most recent, during landslide in Sri Lanka.

(APPLAUSE)

We are also one of the largest contributors of troops to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

(APPLAUSE)

(Inaudible), India and the U.S. have combined their strengths in science and technology and innovation help fight hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy (ph) in different parts of the world.

The success of our partnership is also opening up new opportunities for learning (ph), security and development from Asia to Africa. And the protection of environment and caring (ph) planet is central for shared vision of a just world.

(APPLAUSE)

For us in India, to live in harmony with Mother Earth is a part of our ancient belief. And to take from nature only what is most essential is a part of our Indian culture. Our partnership, therefore, aims to balance responsibilities with capabilities. And it also focuses on new ways to increase the availability and use of



(APPLAUSE)

A strong U.S. support for our initiative to form an international solar alliance is one such effort.

(APPLAUSE)

We are working together, not just for better future for ourselves, but for the whole world.

(APPLAUSE)

MODI: This has also been the goal of our efforts in G-20, East Asia summits (ph), and climate change summits.

(APPLAUSE)

Mr. Speaker, as we deepen our partnership, there will be times when we will have different perspectives. But since our interests and concerns converge (ph), the autonomy in decisionmaking and diversity (inaudible) our perspectives (ph) can only add values to our partnership.

(APPLAUSE)

So, as we embark on a new journey and seek new goals, let us focus not just on matters routine, but also transformation of ideas (ph), ideas which can focus not just on creating wealth (ph), but also creating value for our societies.

(APPLAUSE)

Not just on immediate gains, but also long-term benefits.

(APPLAUSE)

Not just on starting (ph) best practices, but also shaping partnerships.

And not just on building a bright future of -- for our people, but in being a (inaudible) more united, human (ph) and prosperous world.

(APPLAUSE)

And important for the success of this journey will be a need to view it with new eyes and new sensitivities. When do this (ph), we will realize the full promise of this extraordinary relationship.

Mr. Speaker, in my final thoughts (ph) and words, let me emphasize that our relationship is primed (ph) for a momentous future. The constraints of the past are behind us, and foundations of the future are firmly in place.

In the lines (ph) of Walt Whitman, "The orchestra have sufficiently tuned their instruments. The baton has given the signal." And to that if I might add, there is a new symphony in place.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Vice President, distinguished members, for this honor.

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thanks a lot.

(APPLAUSE)

END