

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, and with their consent, the Chair announces that, when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, May 26, 2016, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly, (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1050

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Narendra Modi into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS);

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN);

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER);

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE);

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE);
The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON);

The gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY);

The gentleman from California (Mr. BERA);

The gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE);

The gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD);

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY);

The gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN); and

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Narendra Modi into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN);

The Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER);

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER);

The Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR); and

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Her Excellency Hunaina Sultan Ahmed Al Mughairy, the Sultanate of Oman.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for her.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable Paul D. Irving, announced His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister MODI. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of the U.S. Congress, ladies and gentlemen, I am deeply honored by the invitation to address this joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for opening the door 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 which, in Abraham Lincoln's words, "was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

In granting me this opportunity, you have honored the world's largest democracy and its 1.25 billion people. As a representative of the world's largest democracy, it is, indeed, a privilege to speak to the leaders of its oldest.

Mr. Speaker, 2 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. I honored 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. They sacrificed their lives so that the world lives 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.

India knows what this means because our soldiers have fallen in distant battlefields for the same ideals. That is why the threads of freedom and liberty form a strong bond between our two democracies.

Mr. Speaker, our nations may have been shaped by differing histories, cultures, and faiths. Yet, our belief in democracy for 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, too, shared the same belief and sought individual liberty for every citizen of India. There were many who doubted India when, as a newly independent nation, we reposed our faith in democracy. Indeed, wagers were made on our failure. But the people of India did not waver.

Our founders created a modern nation with freedom, democracy, and

equality as the essence of its soul. And, in doing so, they ensured that we continued to celebrate our age-old diversity.

Today, across its individuals and institutions, in its villages and cities, in its streets and states, anchored in equal respect for all faiths, and in the melody of hundreds of its languages and dialects, India lives as one; India grows as one; India celebrates as one.

Mr. Speaker, modern India is in its 70th year. For my government, the constitution is its real holy book. And, in that holy book, freedom of faith, speech and franchise, and equality of all citizens, regardless of background, are enshrined as fundamental rights. Eight hundred million of my countrymen may exercise the freedom of franchise once every 5 years. But all the 1.25 billion of our citizens have freedom from fear, a freedom they exercise every moment of their lives.

Distinguished Members, engagement between our two democracies has been visible in the manner in which our thinkers impacted one another and shaped the course of our societies. Thoreau's idea of civil disobedience influenced our political thoughts. And, similarly, the call by the great sage of India, Swami Vivekananda, to embrace humanity was most famously delivered in Chicago.

Gandhi's nonviolence inspired the heroism of Martin Luther King. Today, a mere distance of 3 miles separates the Martin Luther King Memorial at the Tidal Basin from the statue of Gandhi at Massachusetts Avenue. This proximity of their memorials in Washington mirrors the closeness of ideals and values they believed in.

The genius of Dr. Bhimrao "Babasaheb" Ambedkar was nurtured in the years he spent at the Colombia University a century ago. The impact of the U.S. Constitution on him was reflected in his drafting of the Indian constitution some three decades later.

Our independence was ignited by the same idealism that fueled your struggle for freedom. No wonder, then, that former Prime Minister of India, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, called India and the U.S. "natural allies." No wonder that the shared ideals and common philosophy of freedom shaped the bedrock of our ties. No wonder, then, that President Obama has called our ties the defining partnership of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, more than 15 years ago, Prime Minister Vajpayee stood here and gave a call to step out of the "shadow of hesitation" of the past. The pages of our friendship since then tell a remarkable story.

Today, our relationship has overcome the hesitations of history. Comfort, candor, and convergence define our conversations. Through the cycle of elections and transitions of administrations, the intensity of our engagements has only grown. And, in this exciting journey, the U.S. Congress has acted as its compass. You helped us turn barriers into bridges of partnership.

In the fall of 2008, when the Congress passed the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, it changed the very colors of leaves of our relationship. 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. And for this, we are grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the working of the U.S. Congress is harmonious. I am also told that you are well known for your bipartisanship. Well, you are not alone. Time and again, I have also witnessed a similar spirit in the Indian Parliament, especially in our upper House. So, as you can see, we have many shared practices.

Mr. Speaker, as this country knows well, every journey has its pioneers. Very early on, they shaped a development partnership, even when the meeting ground was more limited. The genius of Norman Borlaug brought the Green Revolution and food security to my country. The excellence of the American universities nurtured institutions of technology and management in India. And I could go on, but fast forward to the present.

The embrace of our partnership extends to the totality of 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 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. And the flow of goods, services, and capital between us generates jobs in both our societies.

As in trade, so in defense. India exercises with the United States more than we do with any other partner. Defense purchases have moved from almost zero to \$10 billion in less than a decade. Our cooperation also secures our cities and citizens from terrorists, and protects our critical infrastructure from cyber threats. Civil nuclear cooperation, as I told President Obama yesterday, is a reality.

Mr. Speaker, our people-to-people links are strong, and there is a close cultural connect between our societies.

Siri—you are familiar with the Siri. Siri tells us that India's ancient heritage of yoga has over 30 million practitioners in the U.S. It is estimated that more Americans bend for yoga than to throw a curve ball.

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

Connecting our two nations is also a unique and dynamic bridge of 3 million Indian Americans. Today, they are among your best CEOs, academics, astronauts, scientists, economists, doctors, even spelling bee champions.

They are your strength. They are also the pride of India. They symbolize the best of both of our societies.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding of your great country began long before I entered public office. Long before assuming office, I traveled coast to coast, covering more than 25 States of America.

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

Today, Mr. Speaker, a similar spirit animates India. Our 800 million youth are especially impatient. India is undergoing a profound social and economic change.

A billion of its citizens are already politically empowered. My dream is to economically empower them through many social and economic transformations and do so by 2022, the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

My to-do list is long and ambitious but, you will understand, it includes: a vibrant rural economy with a robust farm sector; a roof over each head and electricity for all households; to skill millions of our youth; build 100 smart cities; have broadband for a billion, and connect our villages to the digital world; and create a 21st century rail, road, and port infrastructure.

These are not just aspirations; they are goals to be reached in a finite time frame, and to be achieved with a light carbon footprint, with greater emphasis on renewables.

Mr. Speaker, in every sector of India's forward march, I see the U.S. as an indispensable partner. Many of you also believe that a stronger and prosperous India is in America's strategic interest.

Let us work together to convert shared ideals into practical cooperation. There can be no doubt that, in advancing this relationship, both nations stand to gain.

As the U.S. businesses search for new areas of economic growth, markets for their goods, a pool of skilled resources, and a global location to produce and manufacture, India could be their ideal partner.

India's strong economy and growth rate of 7.6 percent per 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 their global research and development centers, India is the destination of choice for the U.S. companies.

Looking eastward from India, across the Pacific, the innovation strength of our two countries comes together in California. 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 its own set of challenges.

While some parts of the world are islands of growing economic prosperity,

others are mired in conflicts. In Asia, the absence of an agreed security architecture creates uncertainty. Threats of terror are expanding, and new challenges are emerging in cyber and outer space.

And global institutions conceived in the 20th century seem unable to cope with new challenges or take on new responsibilities. In this world full 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; and, above all, adherence to international rules and norms.

India is already assuming her responsibilities in securing the Indian Ocean region. A strong India-U.S. partnership can anchor peace, prosperity, and stability from Asia to Africa and from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. It can also help ensure security of the sea lanes of commerce and freedom of navigation on the seas. But the effectiveness of our cooperation would increase if international institutions, framed with the mind-set of the 20th century, were to reflect the realities of today.

Mr. Speaker, before arriving in Washington, D.C., I had visited Herat, in western Afghanistan, to inaugurate the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, built with Indian assistance. I was also there on Christmas Day last year to dedicate to that proud nation its Parliament, a testimony to our democratic ties.

Afghans naturally recognize that the sacrifices of Americans have helped create a better life, but your contribution in keeping the region safe and secure is deeply appreciated even beyond.

India, too, has made an enormous contribution and sacrifices to support our friendship with the Afghan people. A commitment to rebuild a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is our shared objective.

Yet, distinguished Members, not just in Afghanistan, but elsewhere in south Asia and globally, terrorism remains the biggest threat. In the territory stretching from west of India's border to Africa, it may go by different names, from Lashkar-e-Taiba, to Taliban, to ISIS, but its philosophy is common: of hate, murder, and violence. Although, its shadow is spreading across the world, it is incubated in India's neighborhood.

I commend the Members of the U.S. Congress for sending a clear message to those who preach and practice terrorism for political gains. Refusing to reward them is the first step towards holding them accountable for their actions.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have both lost civilians and soldiers in combating terrorism. The need of the hour is for us to deepen our security cooperation and base it on a policy that isolates those who harbor, support, and sponsor terrorists; that does not distinguish between "good" and "bad" terrorists; and that delinks religion from terrorism.

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. Terrorism must be delegitimized.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of our partnership extend not just to the nations and regions that need it most. On our own, and by combining our capacities, we are also responding to other global challenges, including when disaster strikes and where humanitarian relief is needed. Far from our shores, we evacuated thousands from Yemen—Indians, Americans, and others. Nearer home, we were the first responders during Nepal's earthquake, in the Maldives water crisis, and, most recently, during the landslide in Sri Lanka.

We are also one of the largest contributors of troops to U.N. peacekeeping operations. Often, India and the U.S. have combined their strengths in science, technology, and innovation to help fight hunger, poverty, diseases, and illiteracy in different parts of the world. The success of our partnership is also opening up new opportunities for learning, security, and development from Asia to Africa.

And the protection of the environment and caring for the planet is central to our shared vision of a just world. For us in India, to live in harmony with Mother Earth is part of our ancient belief, and to take from nature only what is most essential is 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 renewable energy.

A strong U.S. support for our initiative to form an International Solar Alliance is one such effort. We are working together not just for a better future for ourselves, but for the whole world. This has also been the goal of our efforts in G20, East Asia Summit, and climate change summits.

Mr. Speaker, as we deepen our partnership, there would be times when we would have differing perspectives; but since our interests and concerns converge, the autonomy in decisionmaking and diversity in our perspectives can only add value to our partnership.

So, as we embark on a new journey and seek new goals, let us focus not just on matters routine, but also transformational ideas, ideas which can focus not just on creating wealth, but also creating value for our societies; not just on immediate gains, but also long-term benefits; not just on sharing

best practices, but also shaping partnerships; and not just on building a bright future for our peoples, but in being a bridge to a more united, humane, and prosperous world.

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

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

In the lines 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 play.

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

Thank you very much.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m., His Excellency Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1246

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York) at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.