

Arun Krishnan

Listening to Modi's address to the US Congress. A short thread.

It is clear that there is genuine respect for the man going by the number of people who came over to shake his hands on his way to the podium.

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Large strides in AI (Artificial Intelligence) but even more progress in another AI (America India)

Says we must have a difference of opinion at home but come together as one when we speak for our nations. (Dig at someone?)

Millions who have roots in India and some who sit in this chamber. And there is one behind me (pointing to the VP).

Loud cheers.

Tribute to MKG and MLK. Also to Congressman John Louis (?)

"Democracy is the spirit that supports equality and dignity"

"India is the mother of democracy"

I like this hammering home of the message. We have to say it if we want others to say it. Marketing 101.

And then a few more bromides about democracy.

"Together we shall give a better future to the world and a better world to the future"

Nice line that. Whoever wrote it.

"We celebrated a remarkable journey of 75 years of freedom after a 1000 years of foreign rule":-)

Ooh. Delicious.

"We have over 250p political parties. Yes, you heard that right!"

Need to showcase the scale of our diversity more like this.

"20 different parties governing our states, 22 official languages and 1000s of dialects and yet we speak in one voice"

Again, hitting the Americans over the head with the scale of our diversity.

"We are home to all faiths in the world and we celebrate all of them"

Shifts gears to the economy.

"When I became PM, India was the 10th largest economy. Now it is the 5th. And .. and.. India will be the 3rd largest economy soon." Thumps the lectern.

That's a statement of intent and confidence right there.

"We have provided 40 million homes to 150 M people, that is nearly 6 times the population of Australia

We run a health insurance program that gives free medical care for 500M people. Greater than the population of South America"

"Took banking to the unbanked. Nearly 500 million people benefited. Close to the population of North America. 850 Million smart phone and internet users. More than the population of Europe"

"2.2 Billion free Covid vaccinations. I may be running out of continents soon"

This is how to communicate scale. With comparisons. Have seen Dr. J doing this before. It gives folks an idea about the sheer size and scale of our challenges.

"India's vision is of women-led development "

Talks of Hon President and her humble origins.

Of Indian women in Indian armed forces.

Of India having highest % of women pilots in the world.
Led our Mars mission.

Switches to digitisation and JAM

"Last year, out of every 100 real time digital payments I'm the world, 46 happened in India"

Switches now to sustainable growth.

"We believe earth is our mother.

We became the only G20 country to meet its Paris commitment.

We grew our solar capacity by 2300%"

Good. Need to hammer this home to the Americans who go on about us being a major polluter.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam now.

Some more bromides.

Then Yoga and Intl Yoga Day. Peacekeeping. Intl Year of Millets.

Showing how we are leading the world I suppose. Good.

"During Covid, delivered vaccines and medicines to over

150 countries "

"We r Disaster First Responders"

"We share our modest resources with those that need them the most"

Powerful statement that.

"We build capabilities. Not dependencies" an obvious dig at China

This is new.

"When defence and aerospace in India grow. Industries in (a few states) in the US grow"

Saying that we also create your jobs. We are not just seekers of your largesse. That last 10 minutes has been about ramming home this message.

"When Indians fly, a single order can create 1 Million jobs in 44 states of America."

"US has become one of our most important defence partners"

Standing ovation for this. The Americans know where the 💰 is.

A nod to the Indian Americans now. "They are brilliant in every field

...not just in Spelling Bees"

"We will work together to diversify, decentralize and democratise supply chains"

Onto Ukraine conflict. "War has returned to Europe". A sly dig that it is not the world's war?

"As I have said directly and publicly, this is not an era for war"

Could be aimed at Russia and the US methinks.

"But od dialogue and diplomacy and we all must do what we can to stop the bloodshed". Surely this is aimed at the US too :)

"The dark clouds of coercion and confrontation are casting their shadow on the Indo Pacific "

Ahha. China now.

Alludes to the Chinese debt trap without calling out the country's name.

"Where connectivity is not leverages for strategic purposes." The Chinese one belt one road initiative of course.

And now to terrorism. 9-11 reference.

As also with 26-11.

"Terrorism is an enemy of humanity and there can be no ifs and buts in dealing with it."

Now on to Covid19 - human loss and suffering.

Remembering Congressman Ron Wright (?) and staff members who lost their lives to COVID.

"We must give shape to a new world order. Consideration, care and concern is the need of the hour. Giving a voice to the Global South is the need of the hour. I believe that the African Union be given FULL membership of the G20"

"We must reform multilateral institutions. With better representation. Especially the UN"

"When the world has changed, our institutions too must change or risk getting replaced by a world of rivalries without rules."

Pitch for a new world order with India at the high table.

Quotes an American poet.

General bromide time again. "Our trusted partnership is like the sun spreading its light all around on a new dawn"
(Who wrote THIS muck?)

Now quotes a poem he wrote. "Abhi to suraj uga hai" Nice

lines.

Don't expect me transcribe it :)

"We are united by a common reason and destiny"

General bromides continues. blah blah blah "Democracy"
... blah blah shine ... partnership blah blah .. positive
transformation .. blah blah .. democracies matter and
democracies deliver.

Wah wah. Standing ovation!

Modi Modi chants

"In 2016, I had said, "Our relationship is primed for a
momentous future". That future is today"

Taaliyaan. Taaliyaan. Standing ovation.

Thanking one and all. Ooh. "God Bless America". "Jai
Hind", "Long Live India US friendship"

And he is done. Standing ovation again.

Desis in the stands whistling :-)

Bharat Mata ki Jai chants. Kamala mami shakes hands.
Boss swaggers off the stage.

Now Vande Mataram chants.

Autograph time.

Well, that was quite a show by our PM!:-)

Just realized, this was quite a long thread. Sorry about that.

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