

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ, ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ

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'America will always be a loyal and faithful friend'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: In a relationship-defining speech at a packed Motera Stadium on Monday, US President Donald Trump declared that his country would always be faithful and loyal to Indians, and enthusiastically embraced the entire gamut of India-US ties.

Trump's speech signalled a strong confluence on major issues of concern to India. "India and the US are committed to defending our people from radical Islamic terrorism," he said. "Every nation has the right to secure and controlled borders," he added.

Trump said the US had a "very good relationship with Pakistan" and "we are working with them to crack down on terror organisations and militants" in that country.

On trade, Trump said he and PM Narendra Modi would be making "very very major deals" but added that

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they were in the "early stages of discussion". Modi, he wryly said, was a "very tough negotiator".

Trump dwelt at length on the burgeoning defence ties as he highlighted joint military drills and sale of American weapons — "the best and most feared military equipment on the planet" — to declare that the "US should be India's premier defence partner".

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'India-US no longer just an partnership, it's far closer'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: India and the US are "natural partners" and their ties cooperation would play a big role in determining the world's direction in 21st century, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Monday in an unprecedented and unabashed public celebration of the bilateral relations.

"In the 21st century, when alignments, new competition, challenges and new opportunities laying the foundation of change, the US ties and cooperation will play important role in determining world's direction. I firmly believe India and the US are natural partners. We can make an effective contribution to peace, progress and security not in the Indo-Pacific region but in the world as a whole," the PM said before a crowd of over a lakh at Motera Stadium, the world's largest cricket arena.

Modi's remarks came after US President Donald Trump's speech hailed India and its people while taking as his view of ties with India. Reciprocating his optimism, the PM said, "The next phase of India-US ties is beginning... we believe in a long-term visible bilateral economic ties and digital operation will grow and we will be able to fulfil our common dreams." Earlier, in remarks before Trump spoke, Modi said, "India-US relations are no longer just another partnership, it's far greater and closer relationship."

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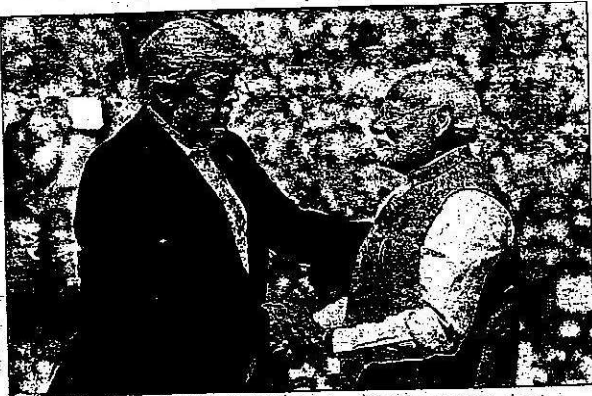
From Bollywood to cricket, many references to India

From bhangra and Bollywood to cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli, there were multiple references to India in Trump's speech. He struggled with some words and names, such as Swami Vivekananda's. The reference to Modi being the son of a "chiwala" got a huge roar. P7

Modi showers praise on Trump family members

Modi had glowing words for the entire Trump family. Trump had worked hard to realise the American dream, he said, and acknowledged Melania's "work for society". Modi said he was happy to meet Ivanka and lauded Kushner's "ability to stay away from limelight, yet work effectively".

PM: In defeating terror, US has served humanity



PM Modi with President Trump at Motera Stadium on Monday

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The title of this programme, 'namaste', has a deep meaning. Its sense is that not just the individual but the divinity inside is being saluted," PM Narendra Modi said in introductory remarks before US President Donald Trump spoke.

The two speeches and, more crucially, the teeming crowds that filled Ahmedabad's Motera Stadium to its gills and lined up the entire 22-km route from the airport marked a new high point in the growing bilateral ties. While it is now close to 20 years since the two democracies overcame "hesitations of history" to end the long spell of estrangement, the public celebration of ties marked another peak. The advice that he should not get into a tighter clinch with Trump in the year of presidential polls in the US was no deterrent, as Modi made the throng shout "long live India-US ties" at the beginning of his speech. The continuing divergence over trade issues—something that Trump alluded to by terming Modi a "tough negotiator"—was not a dampener either.

Modi referred to Trump's comments on the US's leading role against the Islamic State terror group and said, "In defeating terrorism, the US and the leadership of President Trump have served the cause of humanity." He described

significant that Trump was visiting India at the beginning of a new decade.

Modi emphasised the upward trajectory of India-US ties and said, "Whether it is a matter of individuals or nations, the basis of their relationship is trust... to trust one another". He quoted a Sanskrit phrase to say "friendship is where trust is unshakable" and added, "Our trust is at a historic level. I have seen this trust grow in my visits to the US. When I first met President Trump, he said India has a true friend in the White House."

The PM dwelt on several economic and welfare measures taken by the government, saying India had the biggest health assurance scheme in the world and it was also working towards accelerated financial inclusion. "Whether it is infrastructure or social sector, we are working on global benchmarks," he added.

He also said India was the US's largest trading partner and biggest research partner. "Ties in defence, energy, health and information technology... every area is expanding," he said. Reciprocating Trump's view that a growing US offered opportunities for India, he said the same was true for American investment in India. "The US will have more opportunities as India's manufacturing grows and presents the US with new

Songs played by the Navy band at the banquet at Rashtrapati Bhavan will include numbers by Crazy Horse, the American rock band of which Neil Young, learned to be President Trump's favourite singer-songwriter, was earlier a part. As the symphonies play softly, chef Montu Sami and his team, which has been whipping up some magic in the President's House kitchen, will dish out appetisers and main courses to about 90 guests with a careful combination of spices to suit Indian palates.

Four hours, at least half-a-dozen hugs! PM Modi and US President Donald Trump did not stop at just calling each other "true friends". They actually shared at least six hugs in less than four hours that Trump spent in Ahmedabad. The PM received him with the famous "bear-hug" as he emerged out of the Air Force One. Later, they shared the first of their many hugs at the Namaste Trump event at Motera stadium. Both the leaders hugged again even as the compere invited Modi to make his introductory remarks. Then, when Modi invited Trump to deliver his speech by saying, "Friends, I present to you my friend, India's friend, the President of the United States of America, Mr Donald Trump", they hugged yet again. The PM stood up to acknowledge Trump after the US President's speech, and hugged him once more. They embraced each other again after Modi ended his speech at the stadium. TN

an and American palates. The trademark "dal-ris-roti" and "yuan aachhar in roghanigrahy"—marinated overnight so the flavours soak in—will be the mainstays of the evening spread. The vegetarian platter will include "dum gujiar mator", a mushroom preparation, mint raita and "deg ki bhindi", while meat-eaters can dig into "dum gosht bhari". The dinner will end on a sweet note with "malpua", and "rabri", apart from a hazelnut apple pie with salty caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream. The evening's formalities, which will begin with President Ram Nath Kovind receiving Trump at Darbar Hall shortly after 7pm, will also have the two presidents engage in an official discussion in the northern drawing room.

Savouring 'Dal Raisina' with symphony