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## **CLIMATE SUMMIT - COP 21 AT PARIS**

### **Speech by Prime Minister at the Innovation Summit in COP 21**

*Paris, November 30, 2015*

President Hollande, President Obama, Excellencies,

Mr. Bill Gates,

Distinguished Guests,

Let me begin by saluting President Hollande and the people of France for their courage and resolve; and, to the world for coming together for Paris and France.

The outstanding arrangements reflect the character of this great nation. The world has assembled in Paris to change the course of our planet to a sustainable path.

We must speak about goals and targets on carbon emissions and rise in global temperature. But, it is just as important to focus on the instruments that will make it natural and easy for the world to get there.

A vast section of humanity lives at the edge of poverty and in darkness after the sun sets. They need energy to light up their homes and power their future.

And, they are also the most vulnerable to the consequences of an industrial age powered by fossil fuel.

Access to energy and a better life is a universal aspiration. And, so are clean environment and healthy habitats.

As the world's majority works its way to prosperity on a planet left with very limited carbon space, we have to do many things.

We have to ensure, in the spirit of climate justice, that the life of a few does not crowd out the opportunities for the many still on the initial steps of the development ladder.

The advanced countries must leave enough room for developing countries to grow. And, we must strive for a lighter carbon footprint on our growth path.

For that we must come together in a partnership to bring clean energy within the reach of all.

Innovation is vital for combating climate change and ensuring climate justice. That is what makes this Innovation Summit very special. This unites us behind a common purpose.

We need research and innovation to make renewable energy much cheaper; more reliable; and, easier to connect to transmission grids.

We can make conventional energy cleaner. And, we can develop newer sources of renewable energy. This is a global responsibility to our collective future.

Our innovation initiative should be driven by public purpose, not just market incentives, including

on intellectual property. That also means strong public commitment by suppliers to developing countries. That will make clean energy technology available, accessible and affordable for all.

This partnership will combine the responsibility of governments with the innovative capacity of the private sector. We will double our investments in research and innovation; and, deepen collaboration among ourselves.

We should have an international network of 30-40 universities and labs focusing for next ten years on renewable energy.

Innovation must be backed by means to make it affordable and ensure adoption.

We have successful models of public-private partnership with many countries present here. India is also building renewable capacity in developing countries, including small island states.

The progress on clean energy technology and costs is impressive. If we raise the level of our efforts, we can transform the world.

We will also lay the foundation of a new economy in new low carbon age.

We will restore the balance between ecology and economy, and between our inheritance and obligation to the future. And, live up to Gandhiji's call to care for the world we shall not see.

**Thank you.**

*([http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26073/Speech\\_by\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_at\\_the\\_Innovation\\_Summit\\_in\\_COP\\_21\\_Paris\\_November\\_30\\_2015](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26073/Speech_by_Prime_Minister_at_the_Innovation_Summit_in_COP_21_Paris_November_30_2015))*

## **Address by PM at the Inauguration of the India Pavilion at COP21**

*Paris, November 30, 2015*

**My Ministerial colleagues, Shri Prakash Javadekarji, Shri Piyush Goyalji, Distinguished guests.**

I am delighted to inaugurate the Indian Pavilion.

This is the first day of a historic summit in Paris.

We stand here in solidarity with Paris and France and in admiration for their resolve and courage. The entire world, 196 nations, have come together to shape the future of this world and the health of our planet. This summit is of great significance to India's future, too.

This pavilion is a window to our heritage and our progress; our traditions and our technology; our aspirations and our achievements.

India's new economic momentum is a subject of international attention and a source of global opportunity. Our progress will not just change the lives of one-sixth of humanity. It will also mean a more successful and prosperous world. Equally, the choices the world makes here will have an impact on our development.

Climate change is a major global challenge.

But, climate change is not of our making. It is the result of global warming that came from the prosperity and progress of an industrial age powered by fossil fuel.

But, we in India face its consequences today. We see it in the risks of our farmers, the changes in weather patterns, and the intensity of natural disasters.

We are concerned about the rising oceans that will threaten our 7500 km of coastline and over 1300 islands. We worry about the retreat of glaciers that feed our rivers and nurture our civilisation. That is why the outcome in Paris so important. That is why we are here.

We want the world to act with urgency. We want a comprehensive, equitable and durable agreement, which must lead us to restore the balance between humanity and Nature and between what we have inherited and what we will leave behind.

This will mean a partnership in which those who have the luxury of choices and the capability of technology will make adjustments to sharply reduce their carbon emission.

The extent of their commitment and the strength of their action must be consistent with the carbon space they occupy. And, they must leave enough of what is left of our carbon space to let developing countries grow. They should share resources and technology with those who live between want and hope, so that we can meet the universal aspiration for clean energy. It will also mean that the developing world will also try to have a lighter carbon footprint on their growth path.

We want the conviction of the world to be matched by efforts to create conditions in which we can succeed. Because our challenge is pressing, our efforts must be urgent.

Friends,

These will be the subject of negotiations over the next few days.

I am here in the Indian Pavilion to say something else. And, I speak not just to the world, but also to our people.

India's progress is our destiny and the right of our people. But, we are a nation that must also lead in combating climate change. It stems from our obligation to give our people clean air; clean rivers; resilient farms; healthy habitats; and, forests rich with life.

It comes from our conviction that we must aim not just for higher incomes, but better quality of life. It comes from our commitment to the world. Above all, it arises, from our timeless traditions and beliefs. The choices a people make are shaped by their culture and beliefs.

In India, Nature has always been treated as Mother.

Since ancient times, we have seen humanity as part of Nature, not superior to it. The divine has manifested in Nature's diverse forms.

We have always believed that Nature does not exist for human race, but that we can't exist without Nature. So, Nature is meant to provide and nurture, not to exploit. When Nature is in equilibrium, our lives and our world will be in balance. This is what we learn from Kshetrapati Sukta in our Rig Veda. This means:

*O Lord of Field, with the Sweet Waves of Mother Nature's blessings, may you milk our Fields like the Milk of a Cow With the Sweetness of Mother Nature's bounty, which falls like Clarified Butter, may You shed your Grace on us.*

This is why Atharva-Veda calls it a bounden duty that we must protect the Earth so that Life can be sustained. This is what we see in Gandhiji's life and his advice that the world has enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed.

This is what we have tried to capture in the publication PARAMPARA that we have released today. This is why recycling and conservation comes naturally to us. And, why we have sacred groves across our nation.

Friends,

And, it is this spirit that leads us to set an ambitious and comprehensive strategy to combat climate change. We have a target for renewable generation of 175 Gigawatt by 2022. We have got off to a good start, with nearly 12 GW likely to be installed by 2016, more than three times the current capacity.

Like cellular phones before, we can use renewable energy to bring power to our 18000 unconnected villages quickly and cleanly. By 2030, 40% of our installed capacity will be based on non-fossil fuel.

We will convert waste to energy. We will make our cities smart and sustainable, and transform public transportation, including through 50 new metro rail projects.

We are investing in supercritical technology in thermal plants. We have imposed tax on coal and reduced subsidies on petroleum products. We are raising fuel standards for automobiles. And, we have introduced tax free bonds for renewable energy.

We have a massive programme to expand our forest cover and protect our biodiversity. In the past few months, millions of households have switched to LED bulbs and we have plans to replace diesel by fuel cells to power the thousands of our telecom towers.

Our vision of India as a global manufacturing hub rests on the simple principle of "zero defect, zero effect" – production that is perfect and leaves no footprint on environment.

Our mission of "more crop per drop" will not only improve the lives of farmers, but will also reduce the pressure on a scarce resource. And, research and innovation in clean energy is a high priority.

We want to make conventional energy, like coal, cleaner. We will make renewable energy cheaper and convenient to install even in our homes. We want to make it more reliable and easier to feed into our transmission lines.

From governments to communities, there are countless examples of innovation and enterprise that are restoring the health of our environment.

I have tried to capture some of these initiatives in my book, Convenient Action, which we shall present today.

Friends,

This is the voice of our people, the call of our nation and the consensus of our polity.

India's leadership on environment has been the vision of Indian leaders and successive governments – from Stockholm in 1975 to Copenhagen in 2009. We are raising our national effort to an entirely new level. And, we are intensifying our international partnerships.

So, we come to Paris with our commitment, but we also come with hope.

So, we approach the negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in a spirit of partnership, which must be based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Later today, I will join leaders from major developed and developing world for an innovation summit; because I believe that innovation and technology hold the key to our collective success.

President Hollande and I will also co-chair the launch of my long cherished dream of an international solar alliance to promote greater use of solar energy in the 121 solar-rich nations. To call the world to look deep into the ancient wisdom of all our civilisations, cultures and religions, I had requested President Hollande to bring out a book of quotations from around the world. I am happy that we will release it today.

And, I will also call for a change in lifestyles, so that we reduce the burden on our planet. For, the enduring success of our efforts will depend on the way we live and think.

In conclusion, therefore, let me return to the theme that defines us in India – the spirit of partnership, the belief in oneness with the whole that is Nature. To the people of India and our friends in the world, I call you to live with the commitment of 'Lokah Samastah Sukhinah Bhavantu'.

The desire for well being should include our planet, our Nature, all countries and the entire humanity. If our thinking is right, we will form a true global partnership of capabilities and needs that leads us to a low carbon age.

Thank you very much.

*(<http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26072/>*

*Address\_by\_Prime\_Minister\_at\_the\_Inauguration\_of\_the\_India\_Pavilion\_at\_COP21\_Paris\_November\_30\_2015)*

## **Statement by Prime Minister at COP 21 Plenary**

*Paris, November 30, 2015*

**President Hollande,**

**Excellencies,**

The pain of Paris is yet to heal. So, I speak in admiration for your resilience and resolve. And, I salute the world for standing, in full strength, with France and Paris.

Over the next few days, we will decide the fate of this planet. We do so when the consequences

of the industrial age powered by fossil fuel are evident, especially on the lives of the poor.

The prosperous still have a strong carbon footprint. And, the world's billions at the bottom of the development ladder are seeking space to grow.

So, the choices are not easy. But, we have awareness and technology. We need now national will and a genuine global partnership.

Democratic India must grow rapidly to meet the aspirations of 1.25 billion people, 300 million of whom are without access to energy.

We are determined to do so, guided by our ancient belief that people and planet are inseparable; that human well being and Nature are indivisible.

So, we have set ambitious targets. By 2030, we will reduce emissions intensity per unit GDP by 33-35% per cent of 2005 levels, and 40 per cent of our installed capacity will be from non- fossil fuels.

We will achieve it by expanding renewable energy - for, example, by adding 175 Gigawatts of renewable generation by 2022. We will enlarge our forest cover to absorb at least 2.5 billion tonnes worth of carbon dioxide.

We are reducing dependence on fossil fuel through levies and reduction in subsidies; switching sources of fuel where possible; and, transforming cities and public transportation.

We hope advanced nations will assume ambitious targets and pursue them sincerely. It is not just a question of historical responsibility. They also have the most room to make the cuts and make the strongest impact.

And, climate justice demands that, with the little carbon space we still have, developing countries should have enough scope to grow.

This also means aggressive mitigation action by developed countries before 2020, including ratification of 2nd Commitment period of Kyoto Protocol, removing conditions and revisiting targets.

The principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities must remain the bedrock of our collective enterprise across all areas - mitigation, adaptation and means for implementation. Anything else would be morally wrong; and disparities.

Equity means that national commitments must be consistent with the carbon space nations occupy.

We also need a strong Agreement on Adaptation and Loss and Damage.

Developed countries must fulfill their responsibility to make clean energy available, affordable and accessible to all in the developing world. This is in our collective interest.

So, we look to the developed countries to mobilize 100 billion US Dollars annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation in the developing countries. They must fulfill their commitment in a credible, transparent and meaningful manner.



Energy is a basic human need. So, we need an ambitious technology initiative, driven by a public purpose, not just market incentives. For this, we need to scale up Green Climate Fund that will improve access to technology and intellectual property.

We still need conventional energy. We should make it clean, not impose an end to its use. And, there should be no place for unilateral steps that become economic barriers for others.

We welcome stocktaking that is transparent, covers both support and commitments, and based on differentiation.

Ultimately, for success, moderating our lifestyle is necessary, and possible, for a low carbon future.

### **Excellencies,**

The presence of 196 countries tells us that we have a chance to unite behind a common purpose. We will succeed if we have the wisdom and courage to craft a genuinely collective partnership that balances responsibilities and capabilities with aspirations and needs.

I am confident that we will.

*([http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26071/Statement\\_by\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_at\\_COP\\_21\\_Plenary\\_in\\_Paris\\_November\\_30\\_2015](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26071/Statement_by_Prime_Minister_at_COP_21_Plenary_in_Paris_November_30_2015))*

## **Remarks by PM at the Launch of the International Solar Alliance**

*Paris, November 30, 2015*

President Hollande,  
Excellencies,  
Industry Leaders,

Let me begin by once again by expressing solidarity with the people of France; And, our deepest admiration being such an outstanding host to the world in a difficult moment.

To my long cherished dream of an international alliance of solar-rich countries, President Hollande responded with keen interest and immediate and full offer of support.

This is the inaugural day of a defining global conference on climate change. For his support at every step, and his decision to co-chair the launch, I am deeply grateful.

Just as positive was his response to the idea of a book of quotations on Nature from the world to remind us all of our timeless wisdom. I am honoured to co-author the preface with him.

Since ancient times, different civilizations have given a special place to Sun. In the Indian tradition, Sun is the source of all forms of energy. As Rig Veda says, Sun God is the Soul of all beings, moving and non-moving. Many in India begin their day with a prayer to the Sun.

Today, when the energy sources and excesses of our industrial age have put our planet in peril, the world must turn to Sun to power our future.

As the developing world lift billions of people into prosperity, our hope for a sustainable planet rests on a bold global initiative.

It will mean advanced countries leaving enough carbon space for developing countries to grow. That is natural climate justice. It also means a growth path with lighter carbon footprint.

So, convergence between economy, ecology and energy should define our future.

The vast majority of humanity is blessed with generous sunlight round the year. Yet, many are also without any source of power. This is why this alliance is so important.

We want to bring solar energy into our lives and homes, by making it cheaper, more reliable and easier to connect to grid.

We will collaborate on research and innovation. We will share knowledge and exchange best practices.

We will cooperate on training and building institutions. We will discuss regulatory issues and promote common standards.

We will attract investments in the solar sector, encourage joint ventures and develop innovative financing mechanisms. We will partner with other international initiatives on renewable energy.

There is already a revolution in solar energy. Technology is evolving, costs are coming down and grid connectivity is improving. It is making the dream of universal access to clean energy has become more real.

India has a capacity of 4GW and we have set a target of adding 100 GW of solar power by 2022. By the end of next year, we would have added 12 GW.

I am delighted with the industry response. As you put clean energy within the reach of all, it will create unlimited economic opportunities that will be the foundation of the new economy of this century.

This is an alliance that brings together developed and developing countries, governments and industries, laboratories and institutions, in a common enterprise.

India will be pleased to host this initiative at the premises of our National Institute of Solar Energy. We will provide land and contribute approximately 30 million U.S. dollars to build the Secretariat infrastructure.

We will support operations for five years, and together we will raise long terms funds to achieve our goals.

This day is the sunrise of new hope – not just for clean energy, but for villages and homes still in darkness; and for our mornings and evenings filled with a clear view of the glory of the sun.

Thank you.

*(<http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26070/>*

*Remarks by Prime Minister at the Launch of the International Solar Alliance during COP 21 summit in Paris, November 30, 2015)*

## **PM'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE**

### **PM's speech at India-Singapore Economic Convention**

*Singapore, November 24, 2015*

Mr S. Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry and;

Dear Friends !

It is a matter of great pleasure to be here with you. I am really happy to address the India-Singapore Economic Convention. My visit has been very productive and positive. I had excellent meetings with Singapore leaders today morning. We have concluded the Strategic Partnership which takes the relationship to a new level of engagement. We have set a high level of ambition for this relationship.

Friends! our historical ties and cultural proximity are our assets. A large Indian Diaspora is enriching the life and work environment of Singapore. In recent years, economic engagement has been a key driver of our relationship. Singapore is our 10th largest trade partner globally. It is also the 2nd largest in ASEAN. Bilateral trade has expanded manifold after the conclusion of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005. Singapore has emerged as the 2nd largest source of FDI into India. Outward Indian FDI to Singapore has also increased in recent times. Singapore is now one of the top destinations for Indian investments.

A significantly large number of Indian companies are registered in Singapore. Singapore companies also have a level of familiarity with Indian market due to involvement over the past few decades. Our companies are positioned to explore and develop promising engagements. With the significant and growing number of companies of both sides and of foreign companies in both markets, I expect even more exciting partnerships.

- You have the habit of precision; India has the scope for expansion;
- You are fond of going vertical; India's development is both vertical and horizontal
- You are an exciting incubator; India is a vast laboratory.

Thus, Singapore and India can work together in many promising areas.

Last month, I had the opportunity of laying the foundation of two projects in India with participation of Singapore. One is the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh–Amaravati. Singapore is involved in preparation of the Master Plan for this city. Secondly, I have laid the foundation stone for the fourth container terminal at JNPT, Mumbai which is being built in partnership with PSA, Singapore. We are also exploring collaboration with Changi Airport to operate two Indian airports. These are recent examples of the deepening of our economic partnership.

Singapore is also an important and valuable friend of India in our global outlook. We regard Singapore as an essential ally in the implementation of our Look and Act East Policy. I am fully aware of the important role Singapore has played in the implementation of this policy. I look forward to working with Singapore in a bigger way.

Beyond the bilateral scope, there are also significant opportunities through collaboration with third countries. One example is the ASEAN Economic Community which has come into effect. It is going to create a 2 trillion US Dollar market of 600 million people. It will further enable our businesses to jointly explore opportunities in the wider South East Asian region.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), comprising ASEAN and its six Dialogue Partners, is another potential opportunity for our companies. Recently, in the India Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi, Singapore was a special invitee. This is recognition of another dimension of India-Singapore togetherness. We can work jointly in the African countries.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

India is undergoing economic and social transformation on a scale and a speed that is unmatched in history. Our growth rate was 7.3% in the last year. World Bank has projected even better growth this year. Indian economy is the fastest growing economy among major countries. We are also working hard that the benefits of this growth reaches to the common man. We have launched major schemes on financial inclusion. Our strategy is to:

- Energise the Economy
- Empower the people
- fund the un-funded
- secure the poor
- and enhance the income level of all.

Money must reach the Marginalized. With this objective, we opened 190 million new bank accounts. Through them, we are trying to ensure direct transfer of benefits to the poor. This targeting is also bringing discipline in Government expenditure. We have also launched new insurance and pension schemes. Through a new Bank, called MUDRA, we are funding the small traders and businessmen. We have set time bound goals for providing access to housing, water, electricity and sanitation for all. Thus, India is now the next frontier of economic revolution. Our changing paradigm has created new opportunities for global investor community.

These opportunities range from building 50 million affordable houses to setting up 100 smart cities; modernization of railway network and re-development of stations to setting up new railway corridors; generation of 175 GW of renewable energy to transmission and distribution networks. Construction of National Highways, bridges, and Metro rail networks.

Such a huge potential for creation of infrastructure and production of goods will not be available in any other country. More importantly, no one place on the earth can offer the customer base on such a massive scale.

We are trying to harness this development potential through our policies and people. The campaigns like Digital India and Skill India are designed to prepare the people to take part in this process. We have witnessed massive growth in the number of start-ups in the recent past. Some of these have begun to challenge established global players. To tap this energy fully, we have recently launched the Start up India Campaign.

Friends! In past few months, the interest of foreign investors in India has gone up tremendously. However, there were a number of regulatory and taxation issues which were adversely impacting on their sentiments. We have taken very decisive steps to remove many of long the pending concerns.

To give you some examples:

- We have expedited regulatory clearances including security and environmental clearance;
- We have greatly liberalised the licencing regime;
- We have increased the validity period of defence industrial licences up to eighteen years from threeyears;
- We have taken almost 60% of the defence items out of the licensing process and liberalised a number of restrictions like end-use certificate for the exports
- We have clearly articulated that we will not resort to retrospective taxation
- and we demonstrated this position in a number of ways
- We have introduced the concept of composite sector caps for the FPIs and other foreign investors.
- We have notified the regulations for the Alternative Investment Funds and
- We have rationalized the capital gains tax regime for Real Estate Investment Trusts
- We have modified the Permanent Establishment norms;
- We have also decided to defer the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules for two years;
- We have introduced the GST Bill in parliament; we are hopeful to roll it out in 2016;
- A new bankruptcy code and a new IPR policy is being drafted
- The Company Law Tribunal is going to be formed soon.
- Our system for transparent auction and allocation of key natural resources like coal, spectrum, and iron ore has now become stable.

These are just a few examples. We are working hard to make sure that our tax regime is transparent and predictable. We are also keen to see that genuine investors and honest tax payers get quick and fair decisions on tax matters. To this objective we have already made a number of corrections.

As a result of our initiatives:

- The sentiments for inflow of foreign investment are turning into commitments;
- FDI inflows have gone up by 40% compared with previous year's corresponding period.

- Perceptions are turning into positive outcome-
  - We have jumped 12 ranks in the latest ranking by the World Bank on ease of doing business.
  - India climbs to become the world's 7th most valued nation brand with a 32% sprint in brand value.
  - India has consistently been ranked as the most attractive investment destination by several agencies and institutions.
  - India has also improved its UNCTAD ranking of investment attractiveness. We were 15th place so far. Now we are at 9th place.
  - India has also jumped 16 places on the World Economic Forum's global competitive index.
  - MOODY's have upgraded the rating of India as positive.

Thus, just in eighteen months, we have successfully restored the credibility of India in the eyes of global players. As soon as my government took over, we started liberalizing the FDI regime alongwith other reforms. We allowed 100% FDI in railways and enhanced the FDI limit to 49% in Defence and Insurance. We are also conscious of the last mile operational issues in such policies. In that spirit, we are finetuning the procedures. Early this month, we have taken very dynamic steps to further open up the economy for FDI.

With this last round of reforms:

- India is among the most open economies for FDI.
- Some new sectors have been fully opened for FDI
- For most of the sectors, FDI clearances are now on automatic route
- In addition to Greenfield areas, many sectors can freely absorb FDI in Brownfield projects. This includes Roads, construction and medical devices.
- Perce Entry and exit conditions have been greatly relaxed for FDI.

Friends! We are keen to scale up investments in next generation infrastructure including digital networks and clean energy. In addition to the core infrastructure, we are keen to invest in our social, industrial and agri-infrastructure to give better income and quality of life to our people.

With tight control over expenditure, we have greatly increased capital investment by the public sector. To leverage this, we are setting up National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. We are also coming up with Tax Free Infrastructure Bonds with a view to broaden the corporate bond market. This will also provide long term finance for infrastructure. For infrastructure, we have also decided to launch Rupee Bonds in some countries. Singapore could be among them. We are quite eager to work with Singapore in this regard.

Friends! About 800 million people in India are below the age of 35 years. Their aspirations, energy, enterprise and skills will be the force for India's economic transformation. But the immediate challenge is to productively employ the youth. For meeting this challenge, we need to

provide a huge push to manufacturing which has stagnated at around 16% of the GDP for several decades. This share must reach around 25% in the short and medium term. With this in view, we have launched the "Make in India" initiative. We are working on all fronts to make India a global manufacturing hub. We are creating the global skill pool to establish a modern economy with a world class manufacturing sector.

To achieve these objectives, apart from vigorous exercise for ease of doing business, we have fast tracked approvals and clearances for industry and infrastructure. The hall mark of our strategy is Good Governance which is Participative and Policy Driven.

Through PPP, we are encouraging private investments in areas where earlier only government used to invest. We are also divesting our stake in the public sector enterprises, to instill market discipline. We are consistently working to integrate our economy with the rest of the world. I hope to further dedicate the next three months to address even the remotest issues affecting free flow of capital and business to India.

Friends! Whatever we are doing; it is driven by two basic commitments: One is that our people should be in the center. It is for them that we want investments. Our faster growth will transform lives of one sixth of global community.

The second commitment is towards our climate, our planet, our Nature. Our commitment to mitigate the dangers of climate change do not arise from Economics or Politics. They also do not arise from Fear or Favour. They arise from our fundamental belief that nature is our Mother. Nature provides and sustains our life; hence we must nurture it. It is an article of faith. I assure the Global community that we will do more than required. We will stretch ourselves to do more than what we can normally do.

Both these commitments generate a wave of economic opportunities and activities which cannot be matched by any other country. They also open up enormous opportunities for investors.

To sum up; I would like to say that In the last eighteen months,

- Reforms are happening in a big way. They are now reaching to the last mile;
- Reform is to Transform the systems so that they Perform;
- Simply put, they aim at enabling the people to realise their potentials and dreams;
- Putting even more simply, it means more charm on the faces and less forms in offices;
- In addition, new frontiers and Deeper Foundations for financial markets have been laid;
- All together, Runways for take –off of the economy have been made.

Recently, the IMF chief has said that India is a bright spot in the Global economy. I did not want to wait for that brightness to reach to you on its own.

Hence, I am here. I am here to invite you to India in a bigger way. I have also come to assure you that I am there to carefully hold your hands.

*([http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26063/Speech\\_by\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_at\\_IndiaSingapore\\_Economic\\_Convention\\_November\\_24\\_2015](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26063/Speech_by_Prime_Minister_at_IndiaSingapore_Economic_Convention_November_24_2015))*



## 37th Singapore Lecture 'India's Singapore Story' by Prime Minister

*Singapore, November 23, 2015*

Excellency, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong  
Excellency, Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam  
Honourable Ministers,  
Professor Tan Tai Yong,  
**Distinguished guests,**

Thank you for the honour and privilege of delivering the Singapore Lecture.

I am conscious that I walk in the footsteps of leaders who have shaped modern India and our relationship with this region – President Shri APJ Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao, and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am deeply honoured that you have joined us here. We have been on the road together in the past few weeks – for the G20 and the ASEAN and East Asia Summits.

This tells you how deeply linked the destinies of our two nations are. To the people of Singapore, on 50 years of Independence, I extend the greetings and the good wishes of 1.25 billion friends and admirers. In the life of humans and nations, milestones of time are natural. But, few countries can celebrate the first fifty years of existence with a sense of pride and satisfaction that Singapore deserves to.

And, I can do no better than to begin with homage to one of the tallest leaders of our time and the architect of modern Singapore – Lee Kuan Yew. To capture his mission in own words, he gave his life to see a successful Singapore. And, it was with his well known steely determination that he saw Singapore through to its golden jubilee year.

His impact was global. And, in him, India had a well wisher, who spoke with the honesty of true friendship. He believed in India's potential at home and her role abroad more than many in India. For me, he was a personal inspiration. From his Singapore Stories, I drew many lessons.

The most profound, yet simple, idea was that transformation of a nation begins with a change in the way we are. And, that it was as important to keep your city and surroundings clean as it was to build modern infrastructure.

For me, too, in India, the Swachh Bharat campaign, is not just a programme to clean our environment, but to transform the way we think, live and work. For quality, efficiency, and productivity are not just technical measures, but also a state of mind and a way of life.

So, in my visit to Singapore this March and in the observance of a day's mourning in India, we wanted to honour a true friend and a very special relationship. Singapore is a nation that has become a metaphor for the reality of dreams. Singapore teaches us many things.

The size of a nation is no barrier to the scale of its achievements. And, the lack of resources is no constraint for inspiration, imagination, and innovation. When a nation embraces diversity, it can unite behind a common purpose.

And, international leadership flows from the power of thought, not just from the orthodox



measures of strength. Singapore has done more than just lift a nation into the highest levels of prosperity within a generation.

It has inspired this region's progress and led in its integration. And, it has made others believe that the possibility of progress is within our horizons, not an unseen and distant hope. Singapore's success flows not from the aggregate of numbers and the size of investments. It is based on what I believe is the key to success: the quality of human resources, the belief of a people and the resolve of a nation.

Distinguished members of the audience, it is with the same vision that we are pursuing the transformation of India. People are the purpose of our efforts; and, they will be the power behind change. I do not judge the success of our efforts from the cold statistics of number, but from the warm glow of smile on human faces.

So, one set of our policies are to empower our people. The other set to create the conditions in which enterprise flourishes, opportunities expand and the potential of our citizens are unlocked.

So, we are investing in our people through skills and education; special focus on the girl child; financial inclusion; sustainable habitats; clean rivers and smart cities; and, access to basic needs of all our citizens – from water and sanitation to power and housing.

We will nurture and defend an environment in which every citizen belongs and participates, secure of her rights and confident about her opportunities. And, we are creating opportunities by reforming our laws, regulations, policies, processes and institutions; by the way we govern ourselves; and the way we work with state governments.

Together with this software of change, we are also building the hardware of progress – next generation infrastructure, revived manufacturing, improved agriculture, easier trade and smarter services. That is why we are moving on many fronts at the same time, aware of the linkages that make up a comprehensive strategy.

I learnt long ago that Singaporeans are too well informed about India to be burdened with numbers by a visitor, even from India. In any case, for me, the emergence of India as the fastest growing major economy in the world is less important than what is more enduring: the wheels of change are moving; confidence is growing; resolve is stronger; and, the direction is clearer.

And, it is spreading across the nation, as the most distant village and the farthest citizen begin to join the mainstream of national economy.

Distinguished guests,

India and Singapore have been together at many crossroads of time. Our relationship is written in the pages of history, the footprints of culture, the ties of kinship and the old connection of commerce. We stood together in friendship at the dawn of freedom; and, we reached out to each other in a partnership of shared hopes.

Singapore's success became an aspiration of Indians. And, in turn, India became the hope for a more peaceful, balanced and stable world. As India opened itself, Singapore became India's springboard to the world and gateway to the East.

No one worked harder for it and no one deserves more credit for it than Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. He re-connected India to Singapore and the region. He also opened my eyes to its vast prospects.

Today, Singapore is one of our most important partners in the world. It is a relationship that is as strategic as it is wide-ranging. We have comprehensive defence and security relations. It flows out of shared interests and a common vision. Singapore holds regular exercises with and in India.

Singapore is the biggest investment source and destination for India in the world; the world's most connected nation to India; the largest trading partner in Southeast Asia; and, a popular destination for tourists and students.

Now, as we build the India of our dreams, Singapore is already a major partner in that enterprise: world class human resources, smart cities, clean rivers, clean energy, or next generation sustainable infrastructure. Starting from the first IT Park in Bengaluru, it now includes the newest state capital in India, Amravati in Andhra Pradesh.

Our partnership will expand as our economies grow and the framework of trade and investment improves further. But, I have always seen Singapore in loftier terms.

Singapore's success in overcoming odds leads me to seek a partnership that addresses the challenges of 21st century – from food and water to clean energy and sustainable habitats. And, in many ways, Singapore will also influence the course of our region in this century.

Mr. Prime Minister, Distinguished members, this area covers the arc of Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean Regions. However we choose to define it, the underlining theme of connected histories and interconnected destinies stand out clearly.

This is a region of expanding freedom and prosperity. It is home to two of the most populous nations; some of the world's largest economies; and, the world's most talented and hard working people.

Asia's re-emergence is the greatest phenomenon of our era. From the darkness of the middle of the last century, Japan led Asia's rise. It then extended to Southeast Asia, Korea and China.

And, India is now the bright hope for sustaining Asian dynamism and prosperity. But, this is also a region with many unsettled questions and unresolved disputes; of competing claims and contested norms; of expanding military power and extending shadow of terrorism; and, uncertainties on seas and vulnerability in cyber space.

The region is not an island in a vast ocean, but deeply connected and influenced by the world beyond. We are also a region of disparities within and between states; where the challenges of habitats, food and water remain; where our gifts of Nature and wealth of traditions feel the pressure of rapid progress; and, our agriculture and islands are threatened by climate change.

Asia has seen some of this at different points of its history. But, it has probably never been here before. And, Asia is still finding a path through its multiple transitions to a peaceful, stable and prosperous future.

It is a journey that must succeed. And, Singapore and India must work together to realize

it. India's history has been inseparable from Asia.

There were times when we turned inwards. And now, as we reintegrate more closely with Asia, we are returning to history. We are retracing our ancient maritime and land routes with the natural instincts of an ancient relationship.

And, in the course of last eighteen months, my government has engaged more with this region than any other in the world.

From a new opening with Pacific Island Nations, Australia and Mongolia to more intense engagement with China, Japan, Korea and ASEAN members, we have pursued our vision with purpose and vigour.

India and China share a boundary and five millennia of continuous engagement. Monks and merchants have nurtured our ties and enriched our societies.

It's a history reflected in the seventh century journey of XuanZang that I have had the privilege of connecting, from my birthplace in Gujarat to Xian in China, where President Xi hosted me this May.

We see it in religious texts written in Sanskrit, Pali, and Chinese; in the letters of the past, exchanged with warmth and grace; in India's famous tanchoi sarees; and, in Cinapatta, the Sanskrit name for silk.

Today, we constitute two-fifth of humanity and two of the world's fastest growing major economies. China's economic transformation is an inspiration for us.

And, as it rebalances its economy, and as India steps up the pace of its growth, we can both reinforce each other's progress. And, we can advance stability and prosperity in our region.

And, together, we can be more effective in addressing our common global challenges, from trade to climate change.

We have our unresolved issues, including our boundary question, but we have been able to keep our border region peaceful and stable. And, we have agreed to strengthen strategic communication and expand convergences. We explore shared economic opportunities while addressing common threats like terrorism.

India and China will engage constructively across the complexity of their relationship as two self-assured and confident nations, aware of their interests and responsibilities.

Just as China's rise has driven the global economy, the world looks to China to help advance global and regional peace and stability.

India and Japan may have discovered each other somewhat later. But, my friend, Prime Minister Abe, showed me in the magnificent shrines of Kyoto the symbols of our much longer spiritual engagement.

And, more than a hundred years ago, as Swami Vivekananda reached the shores of Japan, he exhorted the Indian youth to go east to Japan.

Independent India took that advice seriously. There are few partnerships that enjoy so much

goodwill in India as our relations with Japan. No nation has contributed so much to India's modernization and progress Japan – cars, metros and industrial parks, for example. And, no partner is likely to play as big a role in India's transformation as Japan.

We do more together now. We see this as a strategic partnership that is vital for securing a peaceful and stable Asia, Pacific and Indian Ocean Regions. With Korea and Australia, our relationships started with strong economic foundations, and have become strategic in content.

And, ASEAN is the anchor of our Act East Policy. We are linked by geography and history, united against many common challenges and bound by many shared aspirations.

With each ASEAN member, we have deepening political, security, defence and economic ties. And, as ASEAN Community leads the way to regional integration, we look forward to a more dynamic partnership between India and ASEAN that holds rich potential for our 1.9 billion people.

With almost the entire region, India has frameworks of economic cooperation. We want to be more deeply integrated with the regional economy. And, we will upgrade our partnership agreements and work for an early conclusion of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

In the flux and transition of our times, the most critical need in this region is to uphold and strengthen the rules and norms that must define our collective behavior. This is why we must all come together, in East Asia Summit and other forums, to build a cooperative and collaborative future, not on the strength of a few, but on the consent of all.

India will work with countries in the region and beyond, including the United States and Russia, our East Asia Summit partners, to ensure that our commons - ocean, space and cyber – remain avenues of shared prosperity, not become new theatres of contests.

India will lend its strength to keep the seas safe, secure and free for the benefit of all.

This is an age of inter-dependence when nations must come together, to realize the promise of this century. We must also do so because our pressing challenges are not from one another, but common to each of us.

Terrorism is one such major global challenge, and a force larger than individual groups. its shadow stretches across our societies and our nations, both in recruitment and choice of targets. It does not just take a toll of lives, but can derail economies.

The world must speak in one voice and act in unison. There will be political, legal, military and intelligence efforts. But, we must do more.

Countries also must be held accountable for sanctuaries, support, arms and funds.

Nations must cooperate more with each other. Societies must reach out within and to each other. We must delink terrorism from religion, and assert the human values that define every faith.

We are a few days away from Paris, where we must achieve concrete outcome, in accordance with the principles of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is especially important

for our region, particularly the small island states.

Friends,

Ours is a region of enormous promise. But, we know that enduring peace and prosperity are not inevitable. So, we must work hard to realize our vision of an Asian Century.

Asia has the wisdom of its ancient cultures and all the great religions of the world. It also has the energy and drive of youth.

As Asia's first Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore predicted on a visit to this region nearly a century ago, Asia is regaining its self-consciousness for realization of its own self.

Here in Singapore, where the region's currents merge; its diversity converges; ideas meet; and, aspirations gather wings, I feel that we are closer to that vision than ever before.

And as India pursues its transformation and strives for a peaceful and stable world, Singapore will be a major partner on that journey.

Thank you.

*([http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26058/37th\\_Singapore\\_Lecture\\_Indias\\_Singapore\\_Story\\_by\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_during\\_his\\_visit\\_to\\_Singapore\\_November\\_23\\_2015](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26058/37th_Singapore_Lecture_Indias_Singapore_Story_by_Prime_Minister_during_his_visit_to_Singapore_November_23_2015))*

## **PM'S VISIT TO MALAYSIA**

### **Remarks by PM at the 10th East Asia Summit**

*Kuala Lumpur, November 22, 2015*

Your Excellency Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohammad Najib

Your Majesty,

**Excellencies,**

Prime Minister Najib and the people of Malaysia deserve our deepest appreciation for outstanding arrangements for the Summits in this beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur.

And, I congratulate you for your excellent review of the processes of East Asia Summit.

This is a historic summit. We applaud the ASEAN members for realizing the vision of the ASEAN Community and charting the path to 2025.

We expect ASEAN to continue to play a leading and central role in realizing the vision of broader regional integration and cooperation.

In this forum, we often thought of terrorism as a peripheral problem for this region. The barbaric terrorist strikes in Paris, Ankara, Beirut, Mali and on the Russian aircraft is a stark reminder that its shadow stretches across our societies and our world, both in recruitment and choice of targets.

We must build new global resolve and new strategies for combating terrorism, without balancing it against political considerations. No country should use or supports terrorism. There is no distinction between groups. There are no sanctuaries. There are no funds. There is no access to arms. But, we also have to work within our societies and with our youth. I welcome the commitment to delink religion from terrorism and the efforts to promote human values that define every faith.

We are also days away from the summit on climate change in Paris. There, we must not only come together to craft a balanced and concrete outcome on climate change. But we must also stand together to send a clear message that we will not retreat in the face of terror.

### **Excellencies,**

Since my government entered office 18 months ago, no region has seen greater engagement from India than the Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean Region. This reflects a long standing national consensus in India on the importance of this region for India and the world.

The world still looks to the region to address our global challenges and uncertainties. Yet, our region is also navigating its way through multiple transitions to a stable, peaceful and prosperous future.

The East Asia Summit is the key forum for shaping the collective future of the region.

First, East Asia Summit must continue to support the evolution of an inclusive, balanced, transparent and open regional architecture for security and cooperation. We must deepen our collective commitment to strengthen and abide by international rules and norms.

Second, the oceans remain the pathway to our prosperity and security. India shares with ASEAN a commitment to freedom of navigation, over flight and unimpeded commerce, in accordance with accepted principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Territorial disputes must be settled through peaceful means.

India and Bangladesh recently settled their maritime boundary using the mechanism of UNCLOS. India hopes that all parties to the disputes in the South China Sea will abide by the Declaration on the Conduct on South China Sea and the guidelines on the implementation. Parties must also redouble efforts for early adoption of a Code of Conduct on the basis of consensus.

Third, we need stronger commitment and closer cooperation on cyber security. We will also have to work on certain norms of behavior in this area. Outer space is also emerging as a major area of security concern. We must also continue to strengthen cooperation on non-proliferation. India shares both land and maritime boundaries with ASEAN. India will continue to deepen bilateral security partnerships in ASEAN and with other EAS partners. We will remain active participants in the ASEAN-led security dialogue and cooperation forums.

Four, We must also work towards early conclusion of a balanced and broad-based Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Trans Pacific Partnership is also a major development. These, I hope, will eventually not become competing regimes, but the foundations of an integrated economic community in the region.

Finally, development cooperation is at the heart of the East Asia Summit. India will continue to support the efforts of our partner countries. And, we are taking the lead in establishing EAS

Virtual Knowledge Portals on Disaster Management and Trauma Care & Nursing. The Nalanda University is shaping up as a world class centre of knowledge and learning.

I share the vision of East Asia Summit focusing on strategic political, economic and security concerns in the region.

## **Statement by PM at 13th ASEAN-India Summit**

*Kuala Lumpur, November 21, 2015*

Your Excellency Prime Minister Dato Sri Mohammad Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak,

**Excellencies,**

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for hosting this Summit. I convey our deepest appreciation for the excellent arrangements and hospitality; and, for your leadership of ASEAN and East Asia Summit.

Rising from a double tragedy, Malaysia has demonstrated its resilience and resolve.

Kuala Lumpur is a symbol of Asian resurgence and of the region's promising future.

Congratulations on a historic milestone – the birth of the ASEAN Community.

As always, ASEAN is providing both inspiration and leadership for regional cooperation and integration. And, from India's perspective, ASEAN values and leadership will remain central to integration across Asia and Pacific.

Excellencies, I am delighted to return for my second ASEAN-India Summit. At the last Summit at Nay Pyi Taw, I saw the strength of our relationship and the potential of our partnership; and, even more important, the commitment and confidence that you showed for the India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership.

We meet at a time of multiple global challenges: economic uncertainties, political turmoil and security threats.

In this difficult moment, India and ASEAN are two bright spots of optimism.

India is today the fastest growing major economy in the world. The growth rate is touching 7.5 %, and is likely to go higher. Our inflation is down as also our fiscal and external deficits. And, business and international confidence has increased sharply.

The scale of transformation in India is vast; so, the size of economic opportunities in India are huge.

And, we now have environment that is open and welcoming. This is reflected in the sharp jump in India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business. And, we will continue with our reforms with speed and boldness.

ASEAN's economy continues to forge ahead with dynamism and energy.

I have no doubt that we will reinforce prosperity for our 1.9 billion people.



**Excellencies,**

I am pleased that after a temporary decline, our trade increased to about 76.5 billion U.S. dollars in 2014-15; and, so has investment in both directions. ASEAN remains the largest investment partner – both for inward and outward flows.

Much of the potential for economic partnership remains untapped. I am confident that our trade and investment will expand, as our economies grow.

**Excellencies,**

we can also draw confidence from the progress in our framework of cooperation. The entry into force of our Trade-in- Services and Investment Agreements in July 2015 is a major step forward.

We also look forward to progress in negotiations for a balanced and ambitious Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that covers goods and services as well as investments.

Connectivity is the pathway to shared prosperity. The Trilateral Highway project is making good progress and should be completed by 2018.

We also propose to commit a Line of Credit of 1.0 billion U.S. dollars to promote projects that support physical and digital connectivity between India and ASEAN.

As in the past, we place special emphasis on our partnership with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

Our partnership with them in capacity building projects will expand. In addition, we intend to create a Project Development Fund to develop manufacturing hubs in CLMV countries.

Excellencies, science, technology and innovation constitute a vital pillar of our cooperation and support our economic partnership. We will enlarge the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund from the current one million U.S. dollars to 5 million U.S. dollars.

We also intend to set up an ASEAN-India Innovation Platform to facilitate commercialization of low cost technologies, technology transfer and collaborative R&D projects.

Our cooperative project in Space, to be located in Vietnam, is now making concrete progress. I assure you of its early completion.

India also offers ASEAN our indigenously developed GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation or GAGAN services, which provides advanced navigation and location assistance and information facilities.

I also propose that we cooperate in sustainable development of Ocean or Blue Economy. This will be an increasingly important driver of our future economy, and a source of food security, medicines and clean energy. India has entered into collaboration with a number of ocean states.

**Excellencies,**

our research and innovation efforts must cover a range of common challenges – massive urbanization and mega cities; skills for the future; food security; water; and, affordable



healthcare.

An issue of global concern is climate change. India has ambitious clean energy plans: 175 GW of additional capacity of renewable energy by 2022; and, 40% of energy through non-fossil fuel by 2030.

**Excellencies,**

we would also be happy to offer over 100 training slots in renewable energy in our institutions.

I have also proposed an international solar alliance of 122 solar-rich countries, which French President Hollande and I will launch in Paris on November 30. We look forward to your participation in the launch and the alliance.

**Excellencies,**

I deeply value our collective efforts to revive the cultural pillar of our relations. An international conference on ASEAN-India Cultural Links was held in New Delhi in July. We are proposing to open an ASEAN Studies Centre in our Northeastern Hill University in Shillong, which is our gateway to the East.

I am delighted that the first recipient of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations Distinguished Alumni Award instituted this year is H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN.

India will soon extend electronic-visa facility to all 10 ASEAN countries. Our future prosperity rests on the foundation of security and stability in our region and the oceans, outer space and cyber world.

The first ASEAN-India Cyber Security Conference we hosted in January 2015 should be the springboard for greater cooperation in this area.

India shares with ASEAN a commitment to freedom of navigation, over flight and unimpeded commerce, in accordance with accepted principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Territorial disputes must be settled through peaceful means.

India hopes that all parties to the disputes in the South China Sea will abide by the guidelines on the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and redouble efforts for early adoption of a Code of Conduct on the basis of consensus.

We should evolve specific plans of cooperation in maritime security, counter-piracy and humanitarian and disaster relief.

Terrorism has emerged as a major global challenge that affects us all here. We have excellent bilateral cooperation with ASEAN members. And, we should see how we can enhance our cooperation at the regional and international level, including through support for adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Excellencies, as our rapidly transforming region navigates its way through uncertain times to a peaceful and prosperous future, we look forward to ASEAN leading the way in defining the regional architecture.

Let me conclude by thanking Your Excellencies for your presence and by reaffirming that India

attaches the highest priority to this partnership. In recognition of that, we have opened a permanent mission to ASEAN in Jakarta.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on how we can further develop our collaborative agenda.

**Thank you.**

## **Address by Prime Minister at ASEAN Business and Investment Summit**

*Kuala Lumpur, November 21, 2015*

Tan Sri Dato Dr Mohd Munir Abdul Majid, Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council,

Dato Ramesh Koddamal, Co-Chair of the ASEAN-India Business Council,

Business Leaders of ASEAN,

Members of the ASEAN Business Community,

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am very happy to be here with you. I feel honoured to address this privileged gathering of the leaders who have transformed South East Asia into one of the most dynamic regions of the world. I congratulate you for this achievement. I also congratulate you on the creation of One ASEAN Community which you are going to sign off tomorrow.

India and ASEAN are natural partners. Our ties date back to ancient times. They continue to serve as a bridge between our countries and regions.

Friends! I have been saying that the 21st century belongs to Asia. I say this because of the track record of the ASEAN countries. Together, ASEAN's ten member countries form an economic powerhouse. ASEAN has emerged as one of the largest economic zones in the world. Last fifteen years have seen your rapid and yet stable growth. Your Macro-economic stability has been the main reason for growth and stability in South East Asia. With good governance, futuristic infrastructure and focus on new age technologies, you have created excellence.

In simple things like tourism, you have done miracles. Once again, I compliment the leadership and people of ASEAN countries for what they have achieved.

When I analyse the Asian miracle, I find that small countries of ASEAN and a big country like China, both have done well. This shows that growth depends more on the spirit of people rather than the size of population. I have had personal relations with many leaders of this region. I have also visited a number of places a number of times. Even as Prime Minister, my engagements with the Asian leadership started as soon as I took over. I met a number of ASEAN leaders in the last Summit too.

My government took office nearly 18 months ago. The Indian economy faced serious challenges. A high fiscal deficit, a high current account deficit, a large number of stalled infrastructure projects and persistent inflation were among them.

It was obvious that reforms were needed. We asked ourselves the question – Reforms for what? What is the aim of reform? Is it just to increase the measured rate of GDP growth? Or is it to

bring about a transformation in society? My answer is clear: we must REFORM TO TRANSFORM.

In short, reform is not an end in itself. Reform for me is just a way station on the long journey to the destination. The destination is the transformation of India. We have to take the fruits of development to the margins of our geography and to the bottom of our demography. We have to touch lives, while reaching for the sky.

By almost every major economic indicator, India is doing better than when we took office 18 months ago.

- GDP growth is up and inflation is down
- Foreign investment is up and the Current Account Deficit is down.
- Tax revenues are up and interest rates are down.
- The fiscal deficit is down and the rupee is stable.

Obviously, this did not happen by accident. And the world economy is not exactly doing well. This success is the result of a series of concerted policies. We have embarked on a course of fiscal consolidation. We have entered, for the first time, into a monetary framework agreement with the Reserve Bank to curb inflation.

Even while cutting the fiscal deficit, we have substantially increased productive public investment. This has been made possible in two ways. Firstly, we have imposed carbon taxes on fossil fuels. We have taken the bold step of de-controlling diesel prices and thereby eliminated energy subsidies, and have in fact imposed taxes on fossil fuels. We have increased the cess on coal by 300%. Globally, there is much talk of carbon taxes. We have actually acted. Secondly, we have reduced wasteful expenditure through innovative methods including targeting subsidies to the deserving through technology.

Overall, there is increased confidence within and outside the country. The IMF and World Bank have expressed even better hope for our economy this year and after. The Economist magazine this week stated that "India is in healthier shape than any other big emerging economy." However, as I said, our aim is not mere reform, but "reform to transform". Macro-economic stability is good. But to transform India, much more needs to be done. We have begun a series of concerted steps. These include structural and institutional reforms.

Agriculture remains India's mainstay in terms of providing livelihood. We have introduced a series of simple but powerful structural reforms. There was a tendency to divert subsidised fertiliser for the production of chemicals. We have found a simple but very effective solution: by neem-coating the fertiliser, it becomes unsuitable for diversion. We are now moving towards universal neem-coating. This has already saved billions of rupees of diverted farm subsidies.

We have also introduced Soil Health Card. This tells every farmer the condition of his or her soil and then enables him to choose the right crop, best quantity and mix of inputs.

We have launched a housing for all program, one of the most ambitious in the world. It involves building 20 million urban houses and 29.5 million rural houses, totalling nearly 50 million. While the programme will make sure no Indian is houseless, it will also generate a large amount

of employment - that too, mainly for the unskilled, the semi-skilled and the poor.

We have undertaken major improvements in the transport sector. Our major ports witnessed a 4.65% growth in traffic and an 11.2% increase in operating income, in 2014-15 despite a global contraction in trade volume.

The pace of award of new highway works has increased from 9 km/day in 2013-14 to 23 km/day currently. These will have large multiplier effects throughout the economy.

We were committed to restore credibility in the process of allocation of natural resources. My government has intervened with legislative and administrative measures to improve the supply of critical inputs and raw materials. They include Coal, other minerals and spectrum. The hallmark of this intervention is allocation through transparent auction.

We started the Jan Dhan Yojana. In less than a year, we opened 190 million new bank accounts. On Social security front, we have launched innovative and attractive schemes for insurance and pension. We have also set up MUDRA Bank to fund the small traders who were unfunded so far. More than six million small traders have already availed the loans.

While expanding the banking services, we are also taking steps to strengthen the Banking system. Credible and capable bankers have been appointed to head banks. For the first time since banks were nationalised 46 years ago, private sector professionals have been appointed in key positions. We have taken concerted action to revive stalled infrastructure projects – We have started a major revamp of the power sector. These measures will also benefit our banks.

Let me now turn to issues of investment, which may be of more direct relevance to you.

In a break with over 65 years of tradition, we have involved India's States in foreign policy. The Ministry of External Affairs has been asked to work with the States. When I visited China, a state-to-state summit was also held. And states have been asked to create export promotion councils. Making the States think globally is yet another reform with potential to transform.

Our aim is to create jobs for more than a billion young hands. To provide this, the share of manufacturing must reach around 25% in our GDP. We have launched a campaign called 'Make in India' and aggressively worked on the front of Ease of doing business. Reducing complicated procedures, making them available at one platform- preferably online, simplifying the forms and formats has been taken up on war footing. That is how we have jumped up by 12 ranks in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report of 2016. Industry is realizing the benefits of these changes. Index of Industrial Production in the current year shows a distinct improvement over the previous year. We are working in all ways to make India a global manufacturing hub.

World Class Infrastructure has remained a dream for India. Hence, our maximum focus is on building futuristic infrastructure. By exercising tight control over unproductive expenditure, we have greatly increased capital investment by the Public Sector. To further augment such investments, we are encouraging the PPP model. We are also setting up National Investment and Infrastructure Fund which will help us leverage public investments. We are also coming up with Tax Free Infrastructure Bonds with a view to broaden the corporate bond market and to provide long term finance for infrastructure. We are eager to work with Malaysia, Singapore and other ASEAN countries in this regard.

As a result of our initiatives,

- The sentiments for private investment and inflow of foreign investment have turned positive. Foreign investment is up 40%.
- India has been consistently ranked as the most attractive investment destination by several global agencies and institutions.
- India has also improved its UNCTAD ranking of investment attractiveness. Against 15th so far, now we are at 9th place.
- India has also jumped 16 places on the World Economic Forum's global competitive index after five years of decline in the list.
- MOODY's have upgraded the outlook for India.

Campaigns like Digital India and Skill India are designed to prepare the people to take part in this process. We have witnessed exponential growth in the number of start-ups in the recent past. To tap this energy fully, we have launched the Start up India Campaign.

We are aware of the interest of the Global investor community in the potential that India has. In recent months, this interest has gone up. Therefore, to re-vitalize the flow of investments, we have launched the second wave of structural and financial reforms. We are trying to further open up the economy and introduce an element of predictability and stability in taxation system.

**To give you some examples:**

- We have allowed and enhanced FDI levels in key sectors including Insurance, Defence and Railways.
- Now, most of these FDI sectors have been put on automatic approval route.
- We have also rationalised FDI policies in many sectors, including construction, plantation and medical devices.
- We have now allowed composite caps for Foreign portfolio investors in all sectors where FDI is allowed. Earlier, portfolio investments had a separate cap.
- We have greatly liberalised the licensing regime; to give you one example - we have taken out almost 60% of Defence items out of the licensing process.
- We have ended retrospective taxation.
- We have notified the regulations for the Alternative Investment Funds.
- We have rationalized capital gains tax for Real Estate Investment Trusts.
- We have also decided to defer the implementation of General Anti Avoidance Rules.
- We have introduced the Goods & Services Tax Bill in Parliament. We are hopeful of rolling it out in 2016. This will create a unified system of taxation across the country.

- We have drafted a new bankruptcy code. Formation of the Company Law Tribunal to expedite cases is on the way.

These are just a few examples. Almost on a daily basis, we are trying to remove the bottlenecks that were affecting our growth process. Even early this month, we have taken very dynamic steps to further open up the economy for FDI. With this round of reforms, we are among the most open economies in the world.

Going further, I want to assure you that India is committed to protect Intellectual Property Rights of all innovators. We have taken several initiatives for transparency and online processing in IP administration. A comprehensive National IPR policy is expected by the end of the year. We are moving fast to make sure that our tax regime is transparent and predictable. We are also keen to see that genuine investors and honest tax payers get quick and fair decisions on tax matters.

Friends, India is a land of immense opportunities. To give you some examples: our fifty cities are ready for putting up Metro Rail Systems. We have to build 50 million affordable houses. The requirement of road, rail and waterways is enormous. We have decided to go for renewable energy in a big way - 175 GW. We have to do all this in a short span of time. Our democratic values and an alert judicial system ensure the safety of your investments. We have set the tone of Governance with a long term vision and an open mind. We are particularly working to make India the easiest place to do business.

Friends, Most of the ASEAN economies have done their bit for Asia's resurgence. Now, it is India's turn. And we know that our time has come. We are at a take-off stage. I invite you to come and see the winds of change in India. Winds do take time to cross the borders. That is why; I am personally here to invite you. When you come, you will get the wings of a new business environment. And once you are there, I assure you of my full co-operation.

**Thank You.**

## **Speech by PM at the Indian Community Event**

*Kuala Lumpur, November 22, 2015*

Vanakkam

My dear friends, brothers and sisters

Ungalil palar tamilnattai sernthavargal.

Many of you are from Tamil Nadu..

Ungal anaivarukkum vanakkam. Vanakkam to all of you

Indiavin valarchiyil Tamilnattin pangu mukkiyam.

Tamil Nadu's role in India's growth is important.

**Namaskar,**

I am delighted to visit Malaysia. And, to be with you, here in this huge arena is a true pleasure.

For me, India is not confined to its territory. India also exists in every Indian in every part of the world. India is in you.

As I stand before you, I am reminded of the words of the great Tamil saint Thiruvalluvar:

“Friendship is not just a smile on the face. It is what is felt deep within a smiling heart.”

Mahatma Gandhi had once said that he wanted to learn Tamil to study Thiruvalluvar's Thirukurral in its original form, as there was no one who had given such treasures of wisdom as he had.

The saint's words on friendship capture the feeling that I get each time I come to Malaysia.

It does not matter, whether I came here without office or I come now as a Prime Minister of India.

I have felt the same embrace of friendship and welcome. The love and friendship of the Malaya-Indians has always had a special place in my heart.

Generations ago, many of your ancestors came to an unknown land.

Many of you came here more recently in the mobility of our globalised world.

Whenever you came here, whatever be the circumstance in which you came, time or distance has not reduced your love for India.

I see this in the light and colour of the festivals. They are as bright as they have always been.

I see this in the pure strains of music, the grace of the dancer, the bells of devotion and the call to prayer.

And, Malaya-Indians are the largest contingent to the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in India.

And, Malay Indians make Vibrant Gujarat Summit more vibrant.

India and Malaysia were once under the same colonial power. We both became free within a decade of each other.

And, Independent India owes a debt of gratitude to Malaya-Indians. The glory of India's freedom struggle was written, in part, by the struggles and sacrifices of Malaya-Indians.

Thousands of your forefathers came forward to join Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army. Women poured out in large numbers from the comfort of their homes to march shoulder to shoulder with Netaji Subhash Bose.

Today I pay special tribute to Puan Sri Capt. Janaky Athi Nahappan, who served as deputy to Capt. Lakshmi Sehgal. That was in the regiment named after yet another icon of India's war of Independence, Rani of Jhansi.

On behalf of every Indian, I also honour all the unnamed and unknown Malaya-Indians, who laid down their lives so that a free India could rise.

To their children and grand-children, I say a big thank you.

And, here in Kuala Lumpur, we will name our Indian Cultural Centre after Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



70 years ago a tragic and deadly World War came to an end.

I also pay homage to the countless Indian soldiers who lost their lives in the battle fields of Malaysia. A majority of those who laid down their lives were Sikhs.

Their blood is permanently mixed with the soil of Malaysia. It was a war that mattered for both our countries. And, their blood in the Malaysian soil now forms a bond between our two countries that can never be erased.

And, the valour and duty they stood for is alive in the spirit of the Punjab Regiment, the Sikh Regiment, the Jat Regiment and the Dogra Regiment in India.

We are prepared to work with the Government of Malaysia to build a War Memorial to our fallen soldiers at the site of Battle of Kampar in Perak.

Brothers and sisters,

While Malaya-Indians were responding with courage and passion to the call of Netaji, they were also inspired by the life and mission of Mahatma Gandhi.

To the Indian community in Sungai Petani, I salute you for the Gandhi Memorial Hall that you built within a few years of his martyrdom.

You had not met him. Gandhiji did not manage to visit Malaysia. But, he touched your hearts.

And, as a community you came together to build that memorial on your own: To honour his memory; in respect for his principles; in a tribute to what he had done for Mother India and mankind.

There are few things that can be as moving as this: a homage in silence, expressed in action, and built into a living memorial.

And it is my proud privilege to announce that we will install a Bust of Gandhiji at the Gandhi Memorial Hall.

Your spirit of service remains strong. And, in 2001, when the earthquake hit my state of Gujarat, Malay Indians came together on their own to raise funds to help victims reclaim life.

From your moving contribution to the freedom struggle to the thriving richness of your culture, India lives in your heart.

You always have a special place in our thoughts.

My dear brothers and sisters,

The spirit of India speaks in your deeds.

You reflect India's diversity of languages, religions and cultures. And, you stand together in a spirit of harmony. Not just with other Malay Indians, but also with all Malay people.

Your achievements have done us proud. You have toiled with your hands. With pride and dignity, you made your life here.



And, with every generation, you have achieved more success in politics, public life, government and professional services.

You prosper in trade and you make the plantation produce more.

You have contributed to build Malaysia into a vibrant modern nation and an economic power house.

And, you are helping relations between India and Malaysia become stronger and stronger.

I see this in the work of Dr. Subramaniam, Malaysia's Cabinet Minister for Health. It is right that a Malay Indian holds this post, since Malay Indians love to become doctors!

And I am pleased that a distinguished Malay Indian, Datu Samy Vellu, is Malaysia's special Envoy for Cooperation in Infrastructure between India and South Asia.

My dear brothers and sisters,

You are the living bonds of friendship between our two nations.

You reflect a link between India and Malaysia that is ancient as our lands.

From the coast of Coromandal and Kalinga, the ocean carried trade, commerce and culture to the Malaya Peninsula.

If there is trade, Gujarat cannot be far behind. So, Gujaratis also joined the trade.

In the ruins of the Bujang valley in the State of Kedah, we see the glory of the great Pallava and Chola dynasties in Tamil Nadu.

And the spice route that connected us brought the same flavours to our food.

Our ties are seen in the footprints of the monks, who spread the message of peace from the land of Buddha to the Southeast Asia.

This is the richness of our heritage. This is the ancient foundation of our modern links.

Today, I had the honour of visiting the Ramakrishna Mission and unveiling the statue of Swami Vivekananda.

This is not only a deeply spiritual moment for me personally. It also recalls the great journey he undertook more than a century ago, through this region to America.

There he drew upon India's ancient wisdom to make a passionate call for unity in the world. He spoke for Asian spirit that is needed today when we dream of an Asian century.

And at a time of great challenges in the world, this statue on the soil of Malaysia is a reminder to the world of the values we so deeply need to repair the fault-lines that are tearing our societies apart.

And, tomorrow Prime Minister Najib and I will jointly inaugurate the Torana Gate at Little India in Brickfields.

This is a gift from India and it looks like the gate at the famous Sanchi Stupa in India. That was built more than two thousand years ago. It is one of the most venerated Buddhist sites in the world.

So, any visitor coming to Little India will be reminded of the message of peace between people; harmony between man and nature; and the relationship between the people of our two great countries.

Above all, the statue and the gate will be a tribute to Malaysia's diversity and harmony.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Malaysia's achievements are enormous. Just six decades after Malaysia gained independence, this nation of 30 million people has much to be proud of.

It has nearly eliminated poverty. It has placed basic needs within the reach of its entire population. It has achieved nearly 100 percent literacy. And, it is providing jobs to everyone who needs it or wants it.

Its tourism sector is flourishing. And, it has preserved its beautiful gifts of Nature.

Its infrastructure is world class. It ranks very high on the "ease of doing business". And, for five decades, it has averaged a growth rate of over 6 per cent per year.

And this is a truly extraordinary achievement for any country.

One of the famous tourism slogans of Malaysia is – "Malaysia, Truly Asia".

Malaysia truly lives up to that image: living in harmony across diversity; blending tradition with modernity; innovation and hard work; and, pursuit of peace in the region.

Friends,

India, the land of your heritage, has remarkable achievements since Independence.

This was a nation made weaker by colonialism; torn by Partition at its birth as Independent country.

It is a land of unparalleled diversity and vast social and political challenges.

There were questions whether the infant nation will even reach its teen years. There were some who did not want it to.

Today, India is not just united, but draws strength from its diversity.

There are many countries, where the high hopes of democracy at birth have faded along the way.

India is a proud democratic nation, of 1.25 billion people, who have a chance to exercise their franchise.

It is a young country, with 800 million youth under the age of 35 years.

It is nation, where every citizen belongs; where everyone has equal rights that the constitution guarantees, the courts protect and the government defends.

We have many achievements to our credit. We are a leading producer of food grain, fruits, vegetables and milk.

Our scientists are harnessing the power of Space to improve the quality of life of our people.

We have mastered the boundless power of the atom for energy and medicine.

We are developing vaccines and drugs that puts healthcare within the reach of the poorest.

We produce the best information technology specialists in the world.

We produce doctors and engineers who serve the world.

And, we are making products that are finding their way into the global market.

Our external relations advances peace in the world.

The Indian Armed Forces contribute to region's security and stability. They assist all in humanitarian disasters, without asking their nationality.

And, our forces participate in peacekeeping missions around the world.

We have generations of our leaders to thank for bringing us this far.

But, we know that we have a long way to go. The challenges we face and the goals we must pursue, are evident in villages and cities.

And, my government has come into office to change that:

We are eradicating poverty, by giving our people the fruits of modern economy, such as universal access to banks and insurance; not just tie them down in endless programmes.

Where in the world will 190 million bank accounts be opened in a few months?

We are empowering them with skills and education.

We are creating an environment in which enterprise flourishes and people have opportunities to raise their income levels.

We are creating infrastructure that gives people their basic needs of roof, water, sanitation, electricity, schools, and medical help within the reach and means.

We are facilitating business. And, we are creating a national digital infrastructure that allows ideas, information, communication, business and innovation to flow freely on the cyber space.

We are making our railways the engine of a new economic revolution in the country. And, we are turning our ports and airports into gateways to prosperity.

And, we have pledged to make our cities clean and healthy; restore our rivers; and transform our villages.

And, we will preserve the treasures of Nature for the tourists to enjoy and our future generations to see.

And, all this is not easy. After all, we are talking of 1.25 billion people, more than 500 major cities and six hundred thousand villages.

But, we have faith in the talent and enterprise of Indians. We have confidence in the strength of the joined hands of our people.

So, it is happening. The wheels of change have begun to move. And, they are gathering speed now.

And, it is showing in numbers.

India is today the fastest growing major economy in the world. I know you feel proud about it.

We are running at 7.5% per year, but will grow even faster in the coming years.

Every major global institution has placed its bets on India growing strongly. This is at a time when the rest of the world, including parts of this region, is experiencing a slowdown.

There is change in the cities. There is momentum in the villages. And, there is confidence in our citizens, especially our youth.

And, there is change in the way government is working.

We are making government transparent and accountable. We are eliminating corruption at all levels. We are making governance driven by policies and systems, not by discretion of individuals.

We are changing the way government and citizens interact with each other. And, Central and State Governments work with each other.

States compete with each other now. That is healthy.

My dear friends,

We live in an inter-dependent world. What happens in a far off country can affect the livelihood of workers in another place.

The decision that may be taken in a conference room in the UN or WTO can affect the life of a farmer in a village in India.

The lifestyle in one part of the world affects climate and agriculture in another part of the world.

We need each other's markets and resources.

So, our national progress will depend on the strength and success of our international partnerships.

We don't have to look far to find friends and partners.

Southeast Asia is our neighbour on land and sea. This is one of the most dynamic and peaceful regions of the world. This is a region of culture, talent, enterprise and hard work.

India has excellent relations with all Southeast Asian countries.

We have a strong partnership with ASEAN. I have just completed the India-ASEAN Summit.

This is the region, where our economic relations are growing rapidly. And, it attracts the maximum number of Indian tourists.

Friends,

I am happy to say that Malaysia is one of our strongest partners and among our closest friends in the region.

Malaysian companies are excellent in infrastructure. Their largest presence outside Malaysia is in India.

Malaysian investors are present in the world's second largest telecom market – that is India.

Indian company, IRCON, is helping improve the rail infrastructure in Malaysia.

There are over 150 Indian companies in Malaysia. There are over 50 Indian IT companies here.

Malaysia is one of our biggest trading partners in ASEAN, but we need to raise it further.

India is one of the biggest sources of tourists in Malaysia. And, 170 flights connect India and Malaysia every week.

One of our best partnerships in traditional medicine, such as Ayurveda and Unani, is with Malaysia.

We also work closely to keep our citizens safe.

We have strong defence relations. Indian Air Force helped train their partners in Malaysian Air Force for two years. We exercise together in air and on land and sea - *Jal thal aur nabh*.

Our security agencies work together against terrorism. I want to thank Malaysian Government for our strong security cooperation.

Terrorism is the biggest threat to the world today. It knows no boundary. It uses the name of religion to draw people to its cause. But, it is false.

And, it kills people of all faith. We have to delink religion from terror.

The only distinction is between those who believe in humanity and those who do not.

I have said it before and I will say it here. The world must come together to combat the biggest challenge of our times.

We can strengthen intelligence cooperation. We can use military force. We can make the international legal system for cooperation stronger.

But, when I say that the world must come together, it is not just about more security cooperation.

It also means ensuring that no country uses or promotes terrorism. There are no sanctuaries. There are no funds. There are no arms.

But, we also have to work within our societies and with our youth. We need the support of parents, communities and religions scholars. And, we have to make sure that internet does not become a recruiting ground..

We have to promote peaceful relations, mutual understanding and cooperation in our region. Peace is the only foundation for a prosperous future.

We have many common interests and challenges. So, all nations in the region, big and small, should work together to ensure that our nations remain safe, our seas secure and free for commerce, and our economies prosperous.

Friends,

I will meet His Excellency, Prime Minister Najib tomorrow to take our relationship forward.

India and Malaysia have much to benefit from a closer relationship.

Whatever we choose to do, you will be a part of it.

You will breathe more life and strength into relations between India and Malaysia.

We will always seek your partnership in India's march to progress and in taking this special relationship forward.

But, what we value even more, is the love and affection that binds us together. For, this is priceless and beyond any measure of value.

You have remained connected with us despite the difficulties of distances and regulations. You are the window to our heritage and the mirror to our progress.

You are the bridge between India and your country.

You support families and communities in India. Many of you help a child find her way to a school and a mother access to healthcare.

You do this without seeking an award or getting a headline. So we must do what we can for you.

We have merged the OCI and PIO cards and we have made the visas life-long. Besides, Indian origin up to 4th generation is enough to register for OCI now. This is especially helpful for people like Malay Indians, whose ancestors came here generations ago.

Minor children, who are foreign nationals, and foreign spouses can also get OCI status now.

We have introduced e-visa that has made travel simpler.

Here, in Malaysia, we have opened nine visa collection centres. There is an eMigrate portal to make it easier and safer for workers to go to certain countries. It also alerts officials about foreign employers with cases pending against them.

We have an Indian Community Welfare Fund and a fund to help distressed Indian women abroad.

There are times when workers from India get into difficulties here. Their welfare and security

are at the top of our concerns.

Last year, we assisted more than 8000 Indian workers to return home safely.

In Malaysia an India-students Trust Fund was set up in 1954 to give financial assistance to Malaysian-Indian children who lacked the means for education.

This Fund is still needed by a section of the Indian community in Malaysia. We are happy to announce grant of about 1 million US dollars in additional funds to the corpus of the Trust Fund.

Thousands of your children go to India to become doctors. While doctors are a critical need for our societies, I hope that you will take the opportunity to get education in other areas as well.

Malaysia and India should immediately recognize the degrees conferred by both our countries. This is something I intend to take up with Prime Minister Najib.

In conclusion, let me say how proud we are of what you stand for, how you live in this society and what you have achieved. There are always challenges, but there are also dreams.

And each succeeding generation has been defined more by their successes than by their challenges.

So I ask you to continue to pursue your dreams for yourself, for Malaysia and for our two great nations.

I want to leave with you the words of a great son of India, a great symbol of humanity, who also came from the shores of Tamil Nadu.

The late former President APJ Abdul Kalam, one of the makers of modern India, came here in 2008.

He wanted to be here again with you, but God had other plans. But, his life, his message and his dreams remain forever a source of inspiration.

He said : “My message specially to the young people is to have courage to think differently, courage to invent, to travel the unexplored path, courage to discover the impossible, and to conquer the problems and succeed.

So in your success, remember that you will have the joy and pride, not just of fellow Malaysians, but also of the 1.25 billion Indians.

God bless you. Thank you.

*([http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26054/Speech\\_by\\_Prime\\_Minister\\_at\\_the\\_Indian\\_Community\\_Event\\_in\\_Malaysia\\_November\\_22\\_2015](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26054/Speech_by_Prime_Minister_at_the_Indian_Community_Event_in_Malaysia_November_22_2015))*

## **G20 SUMMIT AT ANTALYA**

### **Interventions by Prime Minister, Working Dinner on Global Challenges - Terrorism and Refugee Crisis**

*November 15, 2015*

Excellencies,

Terrorism is a principle global challenge. From regions in conflict to the streets of distant cities, terrorism extracts a deadly price.

Old structures of terrorism remain. There are countries that still use it as an instrument of state policy.

But, we also see the changing character of terrorism: global links, franchise relations, home-grown terrorism and use of cyber space for recruitment and propaganda.

There is a new level of threat to pluralist and open societies.

The territory of recruitment and the target of attacks is the same – society.

Our global framework for security is defined for another era and for other security challenges. We don't have a comprehensive global strategy to combat terrorism. And, we tend to be selective in using the instruments that we have.

Excellencies, even more important than what we face is how we respond to the threat.

The world must speak in one voice and act in unison against terrorism, without any political considerations.

There should be no distinction between terrorist groups or discrimination between states.

We must isolate those who support and sponsor terrorism; and, stand with those who share our values of humanism.

We need to restructure the international legal framework to deal with the unique challenges of terrorism.

We should also adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism without any delay.

International cooperation in intelligence and counter-terrorism should increase.

We should strengthen efforts to prevent supply of arms to terrorists, disrupt terrorist movements, and curb and criminalise terror financing.

We have to help each other secure our cyber space, and minimize use of internet and social media for terrorist activities.

We need to involve religious leaders, thinkers and opinion makers for a social movement against extremism, particularly addressed to the youth. This is needed most in countries where it is



most prevalent.

We need to delink terror and religion and work together to counter radicalization.

It is equally important to promote broader peace and stability in West Asia and Africa.

This is also required for addressing the current refugee crisis.

### **Excellencies,**

Today, there are an estimated 60 million people in need of protection worldwide.

The West Asian crisis has focused global attention on this acute humanitarian challenge. It also has wide-ranging impact in receiving countries.

We thank the countries that have opened their borders and shelters.

We also need a long term approach and a stronger role for the United Nations in dealing with one of our greatest human challenges across the world.

## **Working Lunch on Trade and Energy**

*November 16, 2015, Excellencies,*

Slowdown in global trade is a major concern. Prospects for increase in trade momentum remain bleak in the prevailing global economic environment. Efforts to accelerate global economic growth will help trade.

A transparent, equitable, non-discriminatory and rule-based global trading system, is essential for the global economy.

It is absolutely vital that the Doha Development Round achieves its goals. All elements of the Bali package should be implemented fully. We look forward to a successful outcome at the Nairobi Meeting in December.

Regional Trade Agreements should not lead to fragmentation of the global trading system and should support a more liberalised multilateral trade regime.

Increasing the role of small and medium enterprises in the global value chain will help expand global employment.

Balanced and sustained global economic growth also needs increase in labour mobility and skill portability.

With respect to energy, there are three basic challenges: energy to power growth in developing countries; meeting the needs of the hundreds of millions without access to energy; and, increasing the use of clean and renewable energy.

### **Energy, ecology and economy are deeply integrated.**

That is why India intends to meet its vast and growing energy needs in as sustainable manner as possible.

We have targeted additional 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022; cut back on subsidies on fossil fuel and imposed carbon cess on coal. We are working on clean coal technology. We have an ambitious expansion plan for nuclear energy. By 2030, we have targeted 40% of our energy through non-fossil fuel.

International support and cooperation will enable us to achieve our goals.

**As G 20, we need to promote a number of measures:**

- Increase research and development in clean and renewable energy; and, reduce cost and make it affordable and accessible for all.
- Increase financial support and technology transfer to increase access and transition to clean energy.
- Focus research efforts on clean coal technology and coal gasification.
- Develop proliferation-resistant nuclear energy technology.
- Increase energy efficiency and moderate energy use.
- Promote an integrated global gas market.
- Give greater voice to major emerging economies in the global governance structure for energy.

These will meet our energy needs, combat climate change, and create huge economic opportunities.

## **Session-II on Enhancing Resilience**

*November 16, 2015,*

### **Excellencies**

I commend the G 20 for its successful efforts to build a more resilient and open global financial system.

It is an essential foundation of growth and stability in the global economy.

In India, Government and the Central Bank, are taking steps to further strengthen the financial and banking sector.

As we work on this important issue in G20, I wish to highlight a few points.

We should bear in mind that higher capital requirements should not become a constraint on promoting financial inclusion or functioning of the banking sector in developing countries.

Indeed, effective supervision and better use of technology can reduce capital requirements.

Cyber security is important for the protection of the banking infrastructure.

IMF should remain a quota based institution and not depend on borrowed resources.

I hope that the ratification of the reforms of 2010 in the United States would be completed at the earliest.

I congratulate the Turkish Presidency for delivering the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting package for our endorsement within the agreed timeframe.

I also welcome the Automatic Exchange of Information initiative, and look forward to collective action to implement it.

In India, my Government has zero tolerance on corruption and black money. We have enacted a new law to deal with undisclosed assets and income kept abroad. We have also entered into a number of bilateral tax treaties.

We have also launched an effective drive against domestic unaccounted money. We will soon bring out a legislation on public procurement.

To strengthen international efforts, all countries should implement the Common Reporting Standard based on Automatic Exchange of Tax Information.

G20 must continue to give priority on combating corruption.

I welcome the promotion of transparency and integrity in the private sector.

We need greater international cooperation for return of illicit money to the country of origin. We must address the barriers of excessive banking secrecy, and complex legal and regulatory frameworks.

We must also deepen cooperation against terrorism financing, including through targeted financial sanctions and more effective counter-terrorism financing tools.

Country specific reports of FATF should be shared and FATF should work out a mechanism to work with deficient countries.

**Thank you!**

## **Session-I on Inclusive Growth, Global Economy, Growth Strategies, Employment and Investment Strategies**

*November 15, 2015*

### **Excellencies,**

The global economic growth remains weak, with slowdown in several major economies, volatile financial markets and competitive devaluation of currencies.

I congratulate the Turkish Presidency for coordinating efforts on Growth and Investment strategies and Employment Plans. We must all now implement our commitments.

To stimulate growth, we need to enhance public investments, not just rely on monetary policy.

G20's continued call to Central Banks for careful communication on monetary policy actions will be helpful in keeping financial and currency markets stable.

Multilateral Development Banks should enlarge their capital base to support infrastructure needs of the developing countries. New institutions such as the New Development Bank are welcome additional sources of financing.

There is global consensus on the need to address climate change. However, multilateral institutions should not impose such difficult safeguards and conditions on loans that they become barriers to development in many countries and undermine sustainable development.

G20 efforts must be aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, adopted this year, particularly with the number one goal of elimination of all poverty by 2030.

We welcome the G20 focus on employment of women and, on youth this year.

Stable long term global economic growth requires not just capital flows, but also efforts to facilitate labour mobility and skill portability.

Excellencies,

India's economy is likely to grow at 7.5% this year and achieve a growth rate of 8% next year. We have reduced inflation and current account and fiscal deficits.

Our programmes of inclusive development, including Financial Inclusion, universal access to basic needs by target year, Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, Industrial Corridors and Smart Cities will boost growth and, employment in India.

This will be a source of strength for the global economy.

**Thank you!**

## **Working Lunch on Development and Climate Change**

*November 15, 2015*

President Erdogan,

**Excellencies,**

I thank President Erdogan and Turkey for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in this beautiful setting of Anatolia.

We gather as G 20 to build a prosperous future for the world.

Today, we meet in the tragic shadow of dreadful acts of terrorism, united by a sense of shock, pain and outrage.

We are united in condemning the barbaric attacks in Paris this week; and, the recent bombings in Ankara and Lebanon. We share the sorrow of Russia for the lost lives in the fallen aircraft in Sinai.

These alone are a stark reminder of the dark force we face— larger than specific groups and particular targets and territories.

It is a major global challenge of our times. It not only takes a tragic toll of lives, it also extracts a huge economic cost and threatens our way of life.

It calls for a comprehensive global response. Combating it must be major priority for G20.

I thank Turkey for scheduling a session on this challenge.

**Excellencies**, we are here in this session to discuss two other major global challenges—development and climate change.

This year is a milestone. The United Nations turned 70. We have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations. We are days away from charting a sustainable future for our planet.

**Excellencies**,

The SDGs are a comprehensive set of goals that place complete elimination of poverty in the world by 2030 as its top goal. And, it creates the right balance between growth, development, human welfare and environment.

G20 must align itself with the SDGs. In doing so, we will also stimulate faster and a more broad-based economic growth.

**Excellencies**,

India's development goals are aligned with the SDGs.

We are promoting growth and investing in skills to create employment for our youth; increasing the pace and quality of infrastructure expansion; and, investing in making far more productive and resilient.

We have the world's largest financial inclusion programme. And, we have definite target dates for meeting all the basic needs of our people.

Through bold economic and governance reforms, we have achieved a growth rate of nearly 7.5% with strong prospects for a higher growth rate in the near future.

Given our size and scale, India can become a pillar of global growth and stability.

**Excellencies**,

We in India don't see development and climate change as competing objectives. This is centred on the belief in the unity of humanity and Nature.

We have ambitious plans for addressing the challenges of climate change.

This includes additional capacity of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022;

cut in subsidies on fossil fuel and tax on coal; and, National Clean Energy Fund of US\$3 billion to promote clean technologies.

With our highly ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), India would remain in step with the world.

We look forward to a concrete outcome in Paris within the framework of the UN Convention on Climate Change. The framework has an appropriate balance of collective action: Equity and Common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.

At G 20, we can play an effective role in supporting the multilateral goals of increasing research and development to develop affordable renewable energy.

We should also ensure that finance and technology is available to meet the universal global aspiration for clean energy.

We must meet the target of US\$100 billion goal per year by 2020.

G20 countries should increase the share of traffic on public transportation in cities by 30% by 2030.

We should shift from “carbon credit” towards “green credit”.

When we speak of targets, we must not only reduce the use of fossil fuel, but also moderate our life style.

Development in harmony with nature is the goal of my proposal to launch, along with the French President Hollande, an alliance of solar-rich countries at the time of COP-21 meeting.

### **Excellencies,**

let me conclude with a few points on development.

We are still short in our efforts to fulfill our last year’s commitment to raise our collective GDP by an additional 2% by 2018.

I propose that we consider how G20 can build support systems that focus on countries with maximum growth potential, help address specific bottlenecks there and facilitate implementation of country strategies.

G20 must continue to focus on infrastructure, as we did In Brisbane in 2014.

Clean energy and environment friendly infrastructure will address both development and climate change.

Bridging the current gap in infrastructure finance in the developing countries should remain our key priority. I am happy with the focus on small holders and food losses in the G20 Action Plan on Agriculture.

Remittances are a key source of income for households and support for the economy in developing countries. We should define a target date before 2030 to reduce the high costs of transferring remittances.

I look forward to fruitful discussions and substantive outcomes.

Thank you !

## **BRICS LEADERS' MEETING**

### **Statement by PM**

*November 15, 2015*

#### **Excellencies,**

We can take pride in the economic initiatives of the BRICS. These will not only strengthen BRICS economies, but will also benefit the developing world. As BRICS, we must place our priorities on the agenda and activities of G20. One, in the area of development, G20 must place priority on

- effective implementation of Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and ensure adequate funding for it.

**Two**, in the area of global finance, G20 should focus on

- Implementation of the decisions to restructure global economic institutions.
- Greater collaboration between multilateral and regional financial institutions.
- Enhanced long term finance for infrastructure in developing countries.
- Developing next generation, climate resilient infrastructure. This would also include converting waste into inputs for infrastructure.
- lower the cost of global remittances well before 2030
- close coordination on preventing corruption and cooperation on freezing of unaccounted money hoarded abroad and its repatriation.

**Three**, in the area of trade, we should focus on

- Strengthening the rule-based global trading system and ensuring that new trading blocs do not lead to division of the global trade regime.
- speeding up the completion of the Doha Development Agenda.
- promoting greater mobility of skilled professionals and creating a global skill force market.

**Four**, in the area of climate change, G20's priorities should include

- a successful outcome at the COP21 based on the principles of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.
- Facilitate climate finance and technology transfer to developing countries.
- enhance research and development on clean and renewable energy to increase access, efficiency and affordability of clean energy.
- support development of next generation and climate resistant infrastructure.



- Support the India-proposed international solar alliance.

**Five,** G20 should promote stronger global action to address security challenges, including through

- comprehensive global strategy to put an end to finance, supplies and communication channels of the terrorists.
- stopping the flow of arms and explosives to terrorist groups.
- Creating special international legal regime to disrupt terrorist activities.
- cooperation in preventing the use of cyber networks by terrorist groups.
- early adoption of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

I am confident that BRICS economies will continue to be strong and stable and will remain a source of strength for the global economy.

### **Excellencies,**

The Strategy for BRICS Economic Cooperation, which we endorsed in Ufa, is an important framework document.

The Contact Group on Trade and Economic Issues and Business Council should prepare a Work Plan for implementation of the Strategy in a time-bound manner.

Each BRICS member country should take the lead in at least two priority areas listed in the Strategy.

It would be appropriate if the first joint meeting is held during the Russian Chairmanship.

The joint sitting may also work on a Roadmap for Trade, Economic and Investment Cooperation till 2020.

### **Excellencies,**

We hope that the New Development Bank will start its operations quickly. As I said in Ufa, its first project should be on clean energy, preferably across all BRICS countries.

We need to create a supporting mechanism, such as a New Development Bank Institute or NDBI, which should function as bank of ideas, a storehouse of experience and a knowledge powerhouse. It can also provide inputs for the Contingency Reserve Arrangements.

### **Excellencies,**

India will continue to work closely with our BRICS partners in the spirit of mutual trust, respect and transparency.

I had shared some ideas at Ufa. These included trade fairs; agriculture research; railway research; digital initiative; energy efficient technologies; cooperation between states, cities and local bodies; promoting films and sports exchange.

We will be building upon them and putting more new ideas on the BRICS agenda.

We will work with you to further strengthen the institutional mechanisms of BRICS.

I look forward to seeing you in India for the 8th Summit next year.

**Thank you.**

## **BRICS Leaders' Meeting: Remarks by PM**

*November 15, 2015*

Your Excellency President Vladimir Putin,

Your Excellency President Xi Jinping,

Your Excellency President Jacob Zuma,

**Your Excellency President Dilma Rousseff,**

I thank our host President Putin for excellent arrangements for today's meeting and for his leadership of BRICS.

Congratulations for hosting a very successful 7th BRICS Summit.

**Excellencies,**

We stand united in strongly condemning the dreadful acts of terrorism in Paris. We express our deepest sympathy and support to Russia for the loss of life in Sinai. Ankara and Beirut are also reminders of terror's growing spread and impact.

The entire humanity must stand together as one against terrorism. The need for a united global effort to combat terrorism has never been more urgent. This must also be a priority for BRICS nations.

**Excellencies,**

There was a time when the logic of BRICS and its lasting capacity were being questioned.

We have provided proof of the relevance and value of BRICS through our actions. And, this has come at a time of huge global challenges.

The New Development Bank, the Currency Reserve Arrangement, Strategy for BRICS Economic Cooperation - these are clear evidence of our vision and our resolve. Together, we can also give shape to G20.

India attaches the highest importance to BRICS. We are honoured to assume the Chairmanship of BRICS from 1 February 2016 and build on the great work done by other Members.

The theme of India's BRICS Chairmanship will be "Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions" which, in short, will be 'BRICS'. It aptly describes the ethos of our group.

We are pleased that a BRICS partner, China, takes over the Presidency of G20 in December 2015. We assure China of full support during its Presidency.

**Thank you.**

## **PM'S VISIT TO UK**

### **Speech by PM at the Business Meeting**

*London, November 12, 2015*

Your Excellency, Mr. David Cameron!

Hon. Mr. Alan Yarrow, The Lord Mayor of London!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you this evening.

I must confess that there has been a delay in my coming to this great country.

But, the good news is that myself and His Excellency Cameron have been in constant touch.

We have been meeting frequently at various places and exchanging views.

I remember our last meeting in New York where he rightly said that India and UK should work closely on the economic front.

#### **Friends!**

UK and India have known each other very well since several centuries. Our system of Governance is also based largely on the Westminster model.

- Our institutions know to interact with each other;
- Our people know to work with each other;
- Our businesses know to grow with each other

That is the reason that UK is among India's major trading partners.

UK is also the third largest foreign investor in India.

And I must add- this is not one sided.

India has emerged as the third largest source of FDI for UK.

However, there is significant potential for India and UK to further strengthen their economic ties.

We have to effectively leverage the mutual understanding which is there for each other.

We are particularly keen to develop the sectors where UK is strong.

We are working hard to create conducive conditions for this engagement.

A strong Indian community here keeps pushing us for better and better integration with UK.

Friends! Since my Government took over, we have been working relentlessly to put the economy on track.

Particularly, we have worked very aggressively to make India an easy and simple place to do business.

We believe that this is necessary for improving the lives of ordinary citizens in India.

The results of our hard work are now visible.

IMF Chief has recently said that India is among few bright spots in global economy today.

Our growth rate in the last year was 7.3%.

The World Bank has very recently projected our growth rate at 7.5% for this fiscal and even better in the coming years.

Thus, we are fortunate to be sailing in the right direction.

In the World Bank Report of 2016 on ease of doing business, India has moved up by 12 ranks at one go.

No other country has made such a big improvement.

We are also committed to take these corrections at the State, district and city level. States are moving hand-in-hand with the federal government in this task in the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism.

Recently, we did a ranking of our state governments on ease of doing business with the help of the World Bank Group. This has prompted the state governments into a healthy competition among themselves to ensure a business friendly eco-system. This was for the first time that the World Bank involved itself in a sub-national exercise on ease of doing business.

## **Friends!**

One of the biggest challenges in India today is to productively employ the youth.

For meeting this challenge, we need to provide a huge push to manufacturing which has stagnated at around 16% of the GDP for several decades.

This share must reach around 25% in the short and medium term.

With this in view, we have launched the "Make in India" initiative.

We are working on all fronts to make India a global manufacturing hub.

To achieve this objective, apart from vigorous exercise for ease of doing business, we have fast tracked approvals and clearances for industry and infrastructure.

The hall mark of our strategy now is Policy driven Governance.

Measures like transparent auction and allocation of key natural resources like coal, spectrum, iron ore have created a level playing field for investors.

To enhance the flow of foreign investments, we have liberalized the FDI regime allowing 100% FDI in railways.

We enhanced the FDI limits to 49% in Defence and Insurance.

We are also conscious of the last mile operational issues in such policies.

In that spirit, early this week, we have carried out substantial changes in the FDI regime across 15 sectors.

To give an example: now there are just no restrictions in the FDI Policy for construction sector.

Similarly, very radical liberalization has been done in sectors like plantation, e-commerce and single brand retail. Moreover, we have now brought most of the FDI proposals under the automatic route.

With this round of reforms, I can say that India is among the most open countries for Foreign Investments.

Infrastructure is another big challenge for India.

We are keen to build futuristic physical and social infrastructure.

Through self-imposed discipline in financial management, we have been able to allocate more resources for infrastructure sectors.

In addition, we are setting up an India Investment and Infrastructure Fund.

We have targeted an annual contribution of 3.5 billion US Dollars into this fund from our own resources.

We are putting in place a professional team for asset management.

We have also come up with the mechanism of Tax Free Infrastructure Bonds for projects in rail, road and other sectors.

We will work together with the British Government, Industry and the financial markets to deepen our relationship and harness their interest in India's infrastructure.

Very soon, these bonds will become strong instruments for engagement between our financial markets.

## **Friends!**

There were a number of regulatory and taxation issues which were adversely impacting on the sentiments of foreign investors.

We have taken very decisive steps to remove a number of long pending concerns.

To give you some examples:

- We have expedited regulatory clearances including security and environmental clearance;
- We have increased the validity period of defence industrial licences up to eighteen years from three years;

- We have taken almost 60% of the defence items out of the licensing process and liberalised a number of restrictions like end-use certificate for the exports;
- We have clearly articulated that we will not resort to retrospective taxation and demonstrated this position in a number of ways;
- This includes not going for imposition of Minimum Alternate Tax on FPIs;
- We have introduced the concept of composite sector caps for the FPIs and other foreign investors.
- We have notified the regulations for the Alternative Investment Funds;
- We have rationalized the capital gains tax regime for Real Estate Investment Trusts;
- We have modified the Permanent Establishment norms;
- We have also decided to defer the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules for two years;
- We have introduced the GST Bill in parliament; we are hopeful to roll it out in 2016;
- We are working on a new bankruptcy code; the Company Law Tribunal is soon going to be formed.

Friends!

We want to make sure that our tax regime is transparent and predictable.

We are also keen to see that genuine investors and honest tax payers get quick and fair decisions on tax matters.

As a result of our initiatives,

- the sentiments for private investment and inflow of foreign investment have turned positive.
- FDI inflows have gone up by 40% compared with previous year's corresponding period.
- India has been recently ranked as the most attractive investment destinations by Ernst & Young. In a ranking of the top greenfield investment destinations in the first half of 2015, India is at number one.
- Foreign Policy magazine of USA has ranked India as number one FDI destination.
- In a study of 100 countries on Growth, Innovation and Leadership, India has been ranked No.1 by Frost & Sullivan.
- India has improved its UNCTAD ranking of investment attractiveness from 15th to 9th.
- India has also jumped 16 places on the World Economic Forum's global competitive index.
- MOODY's have upgraded the rating of India as positive.

Thus, just in eighteen months, we have successfully restored the credibility of India in the eyes of global players.

Through PPP, we are encouraging private investments in areas where earlier only government used to invest.

We are also Divesting our stake in the public sector enterprises, to instill market discipline.

We are keen to learn from your experience in structuring and implementing PPP projects.

I am personally convinced and want to assure you that India is committed to protect Intellectual Property Rights of all innovators and entrepreneurs.

We have taken several initiatives for transparency and online processing in IP administration.

A comprehensive National IPR policy is being finalized.

### **Friends!**

We want your active involvement in translating our dreams into reality. Our commitment and aggressiveness to achieve the goal in a faster and effective manner offers immense opportunities to British Companies. These opportunities range from building 50 million houses to setting up 100 smart cities; modernization of railway network and re-development of stations to new railway corridors; generation of 175 GW of renewable energy to transmission and distribution networks, from National Highways and bridges, to Metro rail networks. Such a huge potential for creation of infrastructure and production of goods will not be available in any other country. More importantly, no one place on the earth can offer the potential for usage and consumption on such a massive scale.

We are trying to harness this potential through our policies and people.

The campaigns like Digital India and Skill India are designed to prepare the people to take part in this process. To tap their energy fully, we have also launched the Start up India Campaign. We have witnessed massive growth in the number of start-ups in the recent past.

Some of these have already begun to challenge established global players.

### **Friends!**

India is on the threshold of a big IT revolution.

We are encouraging it to fast-track the services to our 1.25 billion people.

New Technology and renewable energy is our new Mantra.

Whatever we do, we will do in a cleaner and greener way.

Energy efficiency, water recycling, waste to energy, clean India and river cleaning are among those initiatives.

These initiatives provide additional avenues for investment in modern technology and human resources.



Ours is a country of the vibrant youth and a rising middle class.

There is a huge domestic market in India.

I have been saying that the three Ds of Democracy, Demography and Demand is our basic strength.

Moreover, talented young minds in India have now begun taking risks. They are preferring to become Entrepreneurs.

Thus, we have moved forward from D to E which is Entrepreneurship.

### **Friends!**

Necessary conditions for take-off of the Indian economy have been created.

Never before, India was so well prepared to absorb talent, technology and investment from outside. I can assure you that it will get better and better in the coming days. We will be open to welcome your ideas, innovations and enterprises.

We are open to carry out necessary corrections in our policies and procedures. Given the visionary and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Cameron and his interest in India, I am personally eager to work with the British Government and companies.

With these words, I welcome you to India.

I assure you of my personal care in making your dreams a reality.

Many of you belong to India; Many of you are in India already.

But for those who are not there, I must say that:

- At this point of time, it is wiser to be in India;
- Further, we are making it easier to invest in India

And

- Believe me, we are making it even better to 'Make in India'.

### **Thank you!**

## **Speech by PM in the British Parliament**

*November 12, 2015*

Lord Speaker,  
Mr. Speaker,  
**Mr. Prime Minister,**

I am delighted to be in London.

Even in this globalised world,

London is still ,

the standard for our times.

The city has embraced the world's diversity and represents the finest in human achievements.

And, I am truly honoured to speak in the British Parliament.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for opening the doors to us, here in this magnificent setting of the Royal Court.

I know that the Parliament is not in Session.

Prime Minister Cameron looks relaxed and relieved.

But, I want to remind you, Mr. Prime Minister, that you owe me royalty for an election slogan.

I know that you are hosting me at the Chequers this evening.

But, I also know that you will understand if I am fair to both sides of the floor.

Especially since British MPs of Indian Origin are evenly balanced between the Treasury and the Opposition benches.

So, I also extend my good wishes to the Labour.

Indeed, since these are still early days after the election, my warm congratulations to the Members of the House.

And, greetings to the eminent leaders of Britain and great friends of India present here today.

So much of the modern history of India is linked to this building.

So much history looms across our relationship.

There are others who have spoken forcefully on the debts and dues of history.

I will only say that many freedom fighters of India found their calling in the institutions of Britain.

And, many makers of modern India, including several of my distinguished predecessors, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Dr. Manmohan Singh, passed through their doors. There are many things on which it is hard to tell anymore if they are British or Indian:

The Jaguar or the Scotland Yard, for example.

The Brooke Bond tea or my friend late Lord Ghulam Nun's curry.

And, our strongest debates are whether the Lord's pitch swings unfairly or the wicket at Eden Gardens cracks too early.

And, we love the Bhangra rap from London just as you like the English novel from India.

On the way to this event, Prime Minister Cameron and I paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi

outside the Parliament.

I was reminded of a question I was asked on a tour abroad.

How is it that the statue of Gandhiji stands outside the British Parliament?

To that question, my answer is:

The British are wise enough to recognise his greatness;

Indians are generous enough to share him;

We are both fortunate enough to have been touched by his life and mission;

And, we are both smart enough to use the strengths of our connected histories to power the future of our relationship.

So, I stand here today, not as a visiting Head of Government, given the honour to speak in this temple of democracy.

I am here as a representative of a fellow institution and a shared tradition.

And, tomorrow, Prime Minister and I will be at the Wembley.

Even in India, every young footballer wants to bend it like Beckham.

Wembley will be a celebration of one-half-million threads of life that bind us; one and half million people -

proud of their heritage in India; proud of their home in Britain.

It will be an expression of joy for all that we share: values, institutions, political system, sports, culture and art.

And, it will be a recognition of our vibrant partnerships and a shared future.

The United Kingdom is the third largest investor in India behind Singapore and Mauritius.

India is the third largest source of Foreign Direct Investment projects in the United Kingdom.

Indians invest more in Britain than in the rest of European Union combined.

It is not because they want to save on interpretation costs, but because they find an environment that is welcoming and familiar.

It takes an Indian icon, Tata, to run a British icon and become your nation's largest private sector employer.

The UK remains a preferred destination for Indian students. And, I am pleased that an Indian company is taking a thousand British students to India to skill them in Information Technology.

We are working together in the most advanced areas of science and technology. We are finding solutions to the enduring human problems of food and health security, and seeking answers to emerging challenges like climate change.

Our security agencies work together so that our children return home safe and our increasingly networked lives are not prey to the threats on cyber space.

Our Armed Forces exercise with each other, so that they can stand more strongly for the values we represent .

This year alone, we have had three exercises together.

And, in the international arena , your support has made it more possible for India to take her rightful place in global institutions and regimes. And, it has helped us both advance our common interests.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Strong as our partnership is, for a relationship such as ours, we must set higher ambitions.

We are two democracies; two strong economies; and, two innovative societies.

We have the comfort of familiarity and the experience of a long partnership.

Britain's resurgence is impressive. Its influence on the future of the global economy remains strong.

And, Mr. Speaker, India is new bright spot of hope and opportunity for the world.

It is not just the universal judgment of international institutions.

It is not just the logic of numbers: a nation of 1.25 billion people with 800 million under the age of 35 years.

This optimism comes from the energy and enterprise of our youth; eager for change and confident of achieving it.

It is the result of bold and sustained measures to reform our laws, policies, institutions and processes.

We are igniting the engines of our manufacturing sector; making our farms more productive and more resilient; making our services more innovative and efficient; moving with urgency on building global skills for our youth; creating a revolution in Startup enterprises; and, building the next generation infrastructure that will have a light footprint on the Earth.

Our momentum comes not just from the growth we pursue, but from the transformation that we seek in the quality of life for every citizen.

Much of India that we dream of still lies ahead of us:

housing, power, water and sanitation for all;

bank accounts and insurance for every citizen;

connected and prosperous villages; and, smart and sustainable cities.

These are goals with a definite date, not just a mirage of hope.

And, inspired by Gandhiji, the change has begun with us – the way the government works.

There is transparency and accountability in governance.

There is boldness and speed in decisions.

Federalism is no longer the fault line of Centre-State relations, but the definition of a new partnership of Team India.

Citizens now have the ease of trust, not the burden of proof and process. Businesses find an environment that is open and easy to work in.

In a nation connected by cell phones, Digital India is transforming the interface between Government and people.

So, Mr. Speaker, with apologies to poet T.S. Eliot, we won't let the shadow fall between the idea and reality.

If you visit India, you will experience the wind of change.

It is reflected in the surge of investments from around the world; in enhanced stability of our economy; in 190 million new bank accounts of hope and inclusion; in the increase in our growth to nearly 7.5% per year; and, in the sharp rise; in our ranking on Ease of Doing Business.

And, the motto of *Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikas*, is our vision of a nation, in which every citizen belongs, participates and prospers.

It is not just a call for economic inclusion.

It is also a celebration of our diversity; the creed for social harmony; and, a commitment to individual liberties and rights.

This is the timeless ethos of our culture; this is the basis of our constitution; and, this will be the foundation of our future.

Mr. Speaker,

### **Members and Friends,**

The progress of India is the destiny of one-sixth of humanity.

And, it will also mean a world more confident of its prosperity; and, more secure about its future.

It is also natural and inevitable that our economic relations will grow by leaps and bounds.

We will form unbeatable partnerships, if we combine our unique strengths and the size and scale of opportunities in India.

We will see more investment and trade. We will open new doors in the Services sector.

We will collaborate more – here and in India - in defence equipment and technology. We will work together on renewable and nuclear energy.

We will explore the mysteries of science and harness the power of technology and innovation.

We will realise the opportunities of the digital world.

Our youth will learn more from - and with - each other.

But, a relationship as rich as this, with so much promise as ours, cannot be measured only in terms of our mutual prosperity.

**Mr. Speaker,**

Ours is an age of multiple transitions in the world. We are yet to fully comprehend the future unfolding before us.

As in the previous ages, it will be different from the world we know.

So, in the uncharted waters of our uncertain times, we must together help steer a steady course for this world in the direction that mirrors the ideals we share.

For, in that lies not just the success of our two nations, but also the promise of the world that we desire.

We have the strength of our partnership and the membership of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the G-20.

We live in a world where instability in a distant region quickly reaches our doorsteps. We see this in the challenges of radicalization and refugees.

The fault lines are shifting from the boundaries of nations into the web of our societies and the streets of our cities.

And, terrorism and extremism are a global force that are larger than their changing names, groups, territories and targets.

The world must speak in one voice and act in unison to combat this challenge of our times.

We must adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism In the UN without delay.

There should be no distinction between terrorist groups or discrimination between nations.

There should be a resolve to isolate those who harbour terrorists and willingness to stand with nations that will fight them honestly.

And, we need a social movement against extremism in countries where it is most prevalent and, every effort to delink religion and terrorism.

Oceans remain vital for our prosperity.

Now, we have to also secure our cyber and outer space.

Our interests are aligned across many regions.

We have a shared interest in stable, prosperous and integrated South Asia, drawn together in a shared march to prosperity.

We want an Afghanistan that is shaped by the dreams of the great Afghan people, not by irrational fears and overreaching ambitions of others.

A peaceful, stable Indian Ocean Region is vital for global commerce and prosperity. And, the future of Asia Pacific region will have profound impact on all of us.

We both have huge stakes in West Asia and the Gulf.

And, in Africa, where, amidst many challenges, we see so many promising signs of courage, wisdom, leadership and enterprise. India has just held an Africa Summit, in which all 54 countries, and 42 leaders participated.

We must also cooperate to launch a low carbon age for a sustainable future for our planet.

This is a global responsibility that we must assume in Paris later this month.

The world has crafted a beautiful balance of collective action – common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities.

Those who have the means and the know how must help meet the universal aspiration of humanity for clean energy and a healthy environment.

And, when we speak of restraint, we must not only think of curbing fossil fuels, but also moderating our lifestyles.

We must all do our part. For India, a target of 175 GW of additional capacity in renewable energy by 2022 and reduction in emission intensity of 33-35 % by 2030 are just two of the steps of a comprehensive strategy.

I have also proposed to launch during the COP 21 meeting an international solar alliance to make solar energy an integral part of our lives, even in the most unconnected villages.

In Britain, you are more likely to use an umbrella against rain than the sun. But, my team defined the membership of the Solar Alliance in more precise terms: you have to be located within the Tropics.

And, we are pleased that the United Kingdom qualifies!

So, we look forward to an innovative Britain as a valuable partner in this endeavour.

Prime Minister Cameron and I are, indeed, very pleased that cooperation on affordable and accessible clean energy is an important pillar of our relations.

**Mr. Speaker,**

This is a huge moment for our two great nations.

So, we must seize our opportunities, remove the obstacles to cooperation, instill full confidence in our relations and remain sensitive to each other's interests.



In doing so, we will transform our strategic partnership, and we will make this relationship count as one of the leading global partnerships.

Ever so often, in the call of Britain's most famous Bard that we must seize the tide in the affairs of men, the world has sought the inspiration to act.

And, so must we.

But, in defining the purpose of our partnership, we must turn to a great son of India, whose house in London I shall dedicate to the cause of social justice on Saturday.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, whose 125th birth anniversary we are celebrating now, was not just an architect of India's Constitution and our parliamentary democracy. He also stood for the upliftment of the weak, the oppressed and the excluded.

And, he lifted us all to a higher cause in the service of humanity; to build a future of justice, equality, opportunity; and dignity for all humans; and, peace among people.

That is the cause to which India and the United Kingdom have dedicated themselves today.

**Thank you.**

## **SPEECHES**

### **Keynote address by Secretary (East) at EAS Conference**

*November 09, 2015*

Distinguished delegates from EAS Participating Countries,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It gives me great pleasure to be with you at the inaugural session of this Conference. I look forward to discussions on how to shape a secure and conducive maritime environment in the interest of all nations participating in the East Asia Summit.
2. Maritime Cooperation has emerged as a significant priority area of cooperation in the East Asia Summit. The Leaders would be adopting a statement on Enhancing Regional Maritime Cooperation in the Asia Pacific at the 10th East Asia Summit on 22 November 2015.
3. It is important that we discuss, analyse and put together the various components that would help us to strengthen cooperation among EAS participating countries in the maritime domain. It is apt therefore that this Conference would witness discussions on maritime issues as diverse as perspectives on maritime domain, maritime security concerns in the Asia Pacific region, blue economy, ways to promote conducive environment for maritime investments et al.
4. I also want to emphasise the word "Cooperation" in the title of the Conference; our emphasis is thus on a cooperative approach to security, seen from a wide lens.
5. The oceans hold the key to the fortunes of a fast evolving global order. Oceans are the cradles

of civilisations and a civilisation can only prosper when the seas are safe, secure and free for all. We have seen the tragedy of tsunamis and cyclones. Terror has visited us from sea. We all feel the rising impact of climate change on our coasts and islands. East Asia Summit participating countries need to strengthen their cooperation efforts to preserve the integrity, inviolability and security of maritime domain, which is a global common.

6. For cooperation to be effective, we need to resolve outstanding maritime disputes in the Asia Pacific region expeditiously through dialogue and on the basis of accepted principles of international law.
7. India opposes any use of force or threat to use force, to resolve maritime disputes and we remain committed to maintaining freedom of navigation in international waters, the right of passage and overflight, unimpeded commerce and access to resources in accordance with recognized principles of international law including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
8. We have recently resolved, peacefully, a dispute over delimitation of our maritime boundary with Bangladesh, in accordance with the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of Sea. In fact, many of our maritime boundaries were settled even before the UNCLOS came into being on the basis of internationally accepted principles of maritime law. We hope that our example would encourage parties involved in ongoing maritime disputes to resolve their differences through peaceful negotiations in accordance with international laws.
9. India has also joined other EAS participants in urging that all parties to the disputes in the South China Sea region abide by the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, ensure its effective implementation, and work together to ensure a peaceful resolution of disputes. We also hope that the Code of Conduct on the South China Sea would be concluded at an early date by consensus.
10. Ladies and gentlemen, ensuring a safe, secure and stable Asia Pacific maritime region would deliver us all to the shores of prosperity. It would help us realise our Prime Minister's vision of SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region.
11. We are seeking a more cooperative and integrated future for the region through overall development of the ocean-based blue economy.
12. As we are aware, Oceans cover 72 per cent of the surface of earth and constitute more than 95 per cent of the biosphere. Oceans provide a substantial portion of the global population with food and livelihoods. Oceans are also the means of transport for 80 per cent of global goods trade. Marine and coastal environment attract tourist and helps a developing tourism industry. The seabed currently provides 32 per cent of the global supply of hydrocarbons with explorations expanding. Emerging technologies are opening up new frontiers of marine resource development leading to mining of seabed mineral resources. Oceans also have massive potential for production of renewable energy.
13. The importance of Oceans for sustainable development has been recognised by the UN in Rio+ 20 held in 2012. However, the ongoing trends of exploitation and degradation of the marine ecosystem demand intensified efforts to ensure sustainability of oceanic resources.
14. The blue economy framework needs to address equity in access, development and sharing of

marine resources. Efficiency and optimisation of resources along with de-coupling of economic development from environmental degradation are of paramount importance.

15. 20 per cent of the world's coral reefs have been estimated to be lost and another 20 per cent to have been degraded. Mangroves have been reduced to 30-50 per cent of their historical cover and that 29 per cent of sea-grass have disappeared since the late 1800s. Protection, restoration and ensuring sustainability of such resources are of paramount importance and must be based on appropriate standards and distribution of the resources among various countries for protection as well as for sustainable use.
16. Over exploitation of marine fish stocks have increased from 10 per cent in 1974 to 32 per cent in 2008 according to Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. Aquaculture is a fast growing food sector which provides 47 per cent of the fish for human consumption globally. If not managed properly, this may potentially impact biodiversity due to excessive nutrient release and chemical pollution. Even though the catch of fish at the global level increased from 16.7 million tonnes in 1950 to 86.7 million tonnes in 2000, human activity has directly reduced ocean productivity and exposed the oceanic resources to adverse impact of climate change.
17. Moreover, implemented in a responsible and sustained manner, the Blue Economy presents vast opportunities for growth and development.
18. As mentioned earlier, 80 per cent of global trade and over 70 per cent by value is carried by sea and handled by ports worldwide. Global container traffic is expected to triple by the year 2030. In this context, India would be launching the Sagarmala Project whose prime objective is to promote port-led direct and indirect development and to provide infrastructure to transport goods to and from ports quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively. The Sagarmala Project shall aim to develop access to new development regions with intermodal solutions, enhanced connectivity with main economic centers and beyond through expansion of rail, inland water, coastal and road services.
19. Globally 350 million jobs are estimated to be linked to marine fisheries and 90 per cent of these jobs are in developing countries. Value of fish traded by developing countries is estimated at US\$ 25 billion, making it one of their largest trade items.
20. I welcome views on ensuring exploitation of fishing resources in a sustainable as well as just and equitable manner, from the participants.
21. In conclusion, our goal is to deepen our mutual understanding on maritime challenges and strengthen our collective ability to address them. We also support efforts to strengthen our regional mechanisms for maritime cooperation – from dealing with piracy, terrorism and other crimes; to marine safety and natural disasters. We must promote greater collaboration in trade, tourism and investment; infrastructure development; marine science and technology; sustainable fisheries; protection of marine environment; and, overall development of the Ocean or Blue Economy.
22. I am sure this Conference will advance this goal and I look forward to seeing the blue print on EAS maritime security and cooperation.

**Thank You.**

## Address by Vice President at University of Udayana in Bali

*November 04, 2015*

Om Swastiastu, Namaste

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be here with distinguished leaders and scholars of the beautiful Province of Bali as well as with the gurus (teachers) and mahasiswa (students) of the University of Udayana in Bali.

Bali leaves an indelible impression on the mind. Its natural beauty and serenity is evident; so is the warmth and friendship for India and Indians displayed by its people. The amity is perhaps natural given our centuries-old ties of religion and culture.

Indonesian islands were known to Indians since ancient times as 'Suvarnadvipa' or 'Suvarnabhumi', as the Land of Gold, as referred to in the Jatakas and in the Ramayana epic. Even today, our citizens in the State of Odisha – one of whom is a distinguished member of my delegation - celebrate a festival called 'Bali Yatra' commemorating the day when ancient Oriya mariners and traders sailed to Bali, Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

The ancient Nalanda University hosted several Indonesian scholars studying Buddhist philosophy. A Nalanda inscription records that King Devapala of Pala Empire build a monastery for Indonesian students and granted villages on behalf of Maharaja Balaputradeva of Suvarnadvipa.

It was traders from India that brought the cultural traits and religious practices as also the Sanskrit language.

Sheldon Pollock, in his book *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men*, has opined that the cultural streams from India mingled in South East Asia for over a millennium without any conquest or colonization. Calling the region 'Sanskrit Cosmopolis', he has argued that the language was the unifying element in the region

The same point has been made by the noted Indonesian archaeologist, and a faculty of this prestigious University, I. Wayan Ardika. According to him, the hindu texts- including the Ramayana and Mahabharata- "became part of the historical-cultural DNA of the people across South East Asia."

Professor Ardika has also found new evidence in excavations in the ancient ports of Sembrian and Pacung in Northern Bali, that pushes back the date for our bilateral contacts to 2nd century BC. Ardika argues that the cultural impetus from India came to Bali in two waves- the first around 2nd Century BC and then again around 8th Century AD, which also brought with it Buddhism to the island. This common heritage of Hinduism and Buddhism is abundantly evident in the Balinese philosophy of Siva-Buddha.

In our own times, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore said after visiting Bali and Java in 1927 that "I see India everywhere", I too have the same feeling after my short visit to this island of Gods.

Our shared legacy is reflected in our living religious and cultural traditions, the beautiful temples and historical sites of Borobudur and Prambanan, the philosophy of sharing and caring for our environment and fellow human beings from all communities, respect for elderly, hospitality of

guests, and the steadfast belief in peace and universal brotherhood.

Yet the cultural stream here in Bali, Indonesia, is truly distinct and unique. The cultural spark may have come from the Indic cultural hearth, but it was shaped and moulded here and its expression is the work of local Indonesian genius.

Our appreciation of the past determines how we shape our future. A shared heritage, not only reminds us of our past cultural links, but also nurtures our present interactions and promotes economic linkage between our two countries.

The ancient links were forged primarily through people to people contacts. And as India and Indonesia open a new chapter in friendship and cooperation, we have another opportunity to foster closer relations between our people with bonds of commerce, education, travel and cultural exchanges.

Our relationship was re-invigorated in 2005 when our two countries signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement, which provides us with a strong base upon which a towering edifice of friendship can be built. There have been regular political exchanges between India and Indonesia. My visit to Indonesia is another link in the chain to foster deeper and closer political, economic and people to people relations.

As two vibrant and growing democracies, we share similar challenges and have similar opportunities of growth. Our shared socio-economic agenda calls for intensive cooperation and consultation for economic development and social empowerment of our people. Our cooperation is for mutual benefits and is guided by the requirements and priorities of the people and Government of Indonesia.

Given that majority of our people, in both our countries, are young- like most of you present here today- and that both India and Indonesia are pluralistic societies which follow democratic system of governance, I am convinced that our younger people should connect with each other and define a prosperous future not only for India and Indonesia but for Asia and the world as a whole.

Education will be the key to the success of our people in the 21st century. In India and Indonesia we have several world class institutions and universities. There is a need to have regular exchanges of teachers, scholars and students between our academic and research institutions. We would be happy to share our expertise in different sectors with the faculty and officials of your University under the spirit of South-South cooperation. We would also be keen to host your Faculty for post-doctoral research in India on subjects of mutual interest and benefit.

We have a partnership with Indonesia for several training and educational programmes as well as for capacity building. I am happy to learn that a large number of Indonesians, including from the Province of Bali, have benefitted from these. We look forward to hosting more Balinese officials and students under these programmes in India.

Given our past links, there is a strong potential for development of two-way tourism between our two countries. I am told that the number of Indian arrivals to Indonesia has been consistently growing. There is a strong case for establishment of direct flights between Indian and Indonesian destinations. With cooperation between the tourism stakeholders in both countries, the bilateral tourism flow is poised to grow substantially.

We also look forward to welcoming more 'Tirtha Yatris' from Bali, Java and other islands in Indonesia. Like your country, India too has several magnificent destinations for the pilgrims and tourists seeking spiritual solace or a communion with nature.

As two fastest growing economies in the world, the potential of our joint efforts to enhance our bilateral trade and investment, our collaboration in science and technology, our cooperation in human resource development and, of course, our cultural exchanges, is boundless.

As India embarks on the new phase of its Act East Policy, and as Indonesia prepares for successfully integrating economically in to the ASEAN Community, we hope to work with our Indonesian partners to realize this potential.

Being ancient civilizations, we also share the philosophy of peace, universal brotherhood, compassion, tolerance and non-violence. These values also guided our great leader Mahatma Gandhi. The Gandhian approach has in it a reflection of the core Balinese principles of respect and non-violence.

I am delighted that the University of Udayana decided to install the bust of Gandhiji in this campus, which I had the privilege to unveil just before this event. Gandhiji is not unknown to this island. Ibu Ni Wayan Gedong Oka, a Balinese and one of your faculty members, was a committed Gandhian, who practiced and promoted Gandhian philosophy and had also set up Gandhi Ashrams in Bali and Java.

Your University hosts an 'India Corner' in its Library in this campus and has books that help students and scholars discover the Indian authors on a variety of subjects.

Nor are modern art forms neglected. I am informed that Indian cinema is becoming increasingly popular in Indonesia and is helping connect the young people of Indonesia to modern India. The 'Festival of India in Indonesia' conducted earlier this year with the theme 'Sahabat India' or Friendship with India celebrated our historic cultural ties highlighting the commonalities in literature, dance-dramas, folk art, music, cuisine, yoga and fashion.

The Festival showcased the unity of diversity – 'Bhineka Tunggal Ika' - of both our nations. I thank the Government of Indonesia and the Balinese Administration for their strong support to making the festival a success.

I am certain that this is the start of new era in exchanges between our people which will deepen with time and promote friendship, amity and understanding between our nations and usher in peace and prosperity in our region.

I thank you for inviting me today.

Long live our friendship for the benefit of our two people!

### **Address by Vice President on "Indonesia and India: Companion Souls, Strategic Partners" Jakarta**

*November 02, 2015*

I am delighted to be in Jakarta, the capital of an old and steadfast friend of India.

By a happy coincidence, my visit is at a time when Indonesia celebrates the 70th Anniversary of its freedom. I bring good wishes of the Government and the people of India on this auspicious occasion.

For centuries our countries have been linked by the winds that blow across the Indian Ocean. These facilitated exchanges of ideas through trade, religion and culture. We are important maritime neighbours, whose relations are rooted in civilizational links that share similar perceptions of the evolving maritime environment in the region and the world at large.

No one has interpreted better the true nature of India-Indonesia relations than Rabindranath Tagore, who visited the archipelago in 1927. He movingly opened his famous poem 'To Java':

"In a dim, distant, unrecorded age

We had met, thou and I, –

When my speech became entangled in thine

And my life in thy life"

He spoke about journeys by 'our ancestors' that resulted in the two lands becoming 'companion souls.' Citing the tragic divide created by colonialism, he urged a renewal of age-old ties:

"That old that has been lost, to be regained and made new"

Both India and Indonesia were in the forefront of the struggle for freedom and anti-colonial movement. An earlier generation recalls with fondness the friendship between the leaders of our freedom struggle. Since the dark clouds of the colonial era, our relationship has developed rapidly. Their combined efforts led to the independence of many countries in Asia and Africa and created an impetus for an equitable world order in the middle of the 20th century.

Our glorious past and shared cultural ties create a strong platform for cooperation in the future. This makes it incumbent on us to delineate more precisely the contours of our relationship in the coming years.

Nations respond to challenges and imperatives. In 2005 we agreed to become Strategic Partners. Two years back we jointly assessed its potential through the Five Initiatives for Strengthening the India–Indonesia Strategic Partnership based on shared commitment to values of democracy, pluralism and diversity and having economies with strong complementarities and challenges. We agreed to give shape to them through Strategic engagement, Defence and Security Cooperation, Comprehensive Economic Partnership, Cultural and People-to-People Links and Cooperation in Responding to Common Challenges. The Joint Statement of October 13, 2013 spells out in some detail the areas of cooperation agreed upon.

Our shared world view is reflected in our close cooperation on regional and international issues.

Since 1991, India has assiduously followed a Look East policy. This policy emanates from a realization that our economic progress and well being is intimately linked to the growth and prosperity of the entire Asian continent, especially of our friends across the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea.

In recent months we have enhanced our engagement in South-East Asia. This was reflected in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarks last year in the India—ASEAN summit at Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar:

“India’s ‘Look East Policy’ has become ‘Act East Policy’. A rapidly developing India and ASEAN can be great partners for each other. We are both keen to enhance our cooperation in advancing balance, peace and stability in the region”.

The current economic relationship between India and ASEAN countries presents a multitude of industrial, commercial, and investment opportunities. We welcome ASEAN’s plans to establish economic and political relationships with neighboring nations, and we have worked on increasing bilateral trade, promoted foreign investment, and strengthened diplomatic relations with all ASEAN members.

This creates strong complementary interests between India and the countries in the region on the basis of the trident of Commerce, Culture and Connectivity. These are sustained by more frequent political exchanges. The India – ASEAN relations are thus poised to scale new heights.

My visit underscores the importance India attaches to Indonesia as part of our increasing engagement with the region. As the largest ASEAN state accounting for over 37 percent of population and over 33 percent of combined GDP, and as a fellow member of G-20, Indonesia is of particular interest to India. Our bilateral relationship is a key element of our engagement with the entire ASEAN region. We look forward to strong cooperation with Indonesia in building bridges and deepening of our relationship with the entire region.

The time is also ripe for our common engagement for bringing greater equity into the international order. India and Indonesia have similar aspirations to have an open trading system through global organizations like the WTO. We have also shown a strong commitment, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, as we take up our own role to address issues related to climate change.

We are also together in the search for reforming the United Nations, particularly its Security Council. India believes that the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations is an appropriate occasion for it. The role of the United Nations particularly its Security Council needs to reflect the requirement of developing countries to have a greater say in decision making. Peace Keeping under UN offers another yet area of our joint endeavours.

Despite the large size and rapid growth of our economies, the trade and investment between India and Indonesia remains modest. There is a need to synergize our efforts in the areas of economy and business to correct the sectoral and directional imbalance of our trade and to further diversify it.

The vast consumer market, youthful and skilled human resources and expertise in the field of information technology of India coupled with Indonesia’s natural resources, youthful population and strategic location would provide a platform for enhanced economic engagement.

There is a considerable potential for expanding trade in the areas of automotive components, automobiles, engineering products, IT, pharmaceuticals, bio-technology and healthcare sectors. Given their strategic significance, Infrastructure development and energy, both traditional and renewable, are key areas for enhancing our cooperation.

We need to encourage our private sectors to make investments in infrastructure and

manufacturing sectors in the each others' country and for this the two governments are willing to provide a predictable and comprehensive legal and taxation frame-work.

There is tremendous potential for enhancing our defence ties. Indonesia has played host to ships of the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard on several occasions in recent years. We are also happy that Indonesian ships are making more frequent visits to the Indian ports. Our coordinated patrols between Belawan and the Andaman Islands which are going on for 13 years, have been enhanced to the level of joint exercises.

The Indian navy and Coast Guard has a high regard for the Indonesian Navy and the new emerging Coast Guard and we hope to continue this cooperation through technical, human resource development, capacity building and contributing to the development of Indonesian capacities both physical and human.

India's experience and abilities are available to friendly Indonesia in this. We are ready to support technology transfer and joint ventures for building medium size vessels to contribute to the Maritime Policy of Indonesia. We are ready to support through hydrographic surveys and institutionalized cooperation.

In the ancient period, we shared robust trade links. This trade was mutually profitable and brought prosperity and peace to the region. Today, as India and Indonesia stand together- two vibrant, youthful democracies with large emerging economies, time has come perhaps to reclaim our past maritime heritage and synergise the rising aspirations of our populations to strengthen and deepen our strategic relations for a new era of peace and prosperity across the Indian and Pacific oceans.

The economic and geo-political centre of gravity of the world has shifted towards the Asia-Pacific in the 21st century, with the region showing unparalleled dynamism in economic, political, security and demographic terms. The Indian Ocean littoral states have also witnessed sustained growth over the past few years.

Given the growing volume of our maritime trade and given that we share a common maritime boundary along the Andaman Sea; we are natural partners in ensuring the development and security of the Indian Ocean and the pacific littoral region.

India has a shared vision for a peaceful region and the seas around us. We believe that all trade routes and the sea lanes must be protected from traditional and non-traditional threats and all countries using these international waters must act with responsibility and restraint. India and Indonesia both have a great need for open trade and the sea lanes that carry it. Indonesia's idea of a Maritime Axis and India's commitment to the Mausam Project which links the countries of the Indian Ocean can bring benefit to us all.

India and Indonesia are one of the founder members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association, the apex pan-Indian Ocean multilateral forum and Indonesia is its current chair. We have identified six priority areas namely, Maritime Security, Trade and Investment facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk reduction, academic and scientific cooperation and tourism promotion and cultural exchanges. This provided a vision and a clear focus to the activities of the association.

We look forward to cooperating with Indonesia in furthering these goals in IOR. Indonesia, given its strategic location, can be a bridge between the Indian and the Pacific Oceans. As one of

the most important countries of the Asia-Pacific rim- Indonesia is in an advantageous position to connect a vibrant South Asia to the Pacific region.

As the countries in the East Asian region strive for greater economic integration, the safety of sea lanes - critical for maritime trade and commerce, maritime security, and access to marine resources in accordance with accepted international norms, continues to assume greater significance. The evolving situation in the South China Sea demands restraint from all parties. We support collective efforts by ASEAN Member States and China to conclude the Code of Conduct to keep peace and stability in the region.

Non-traditional threats such as piracy, smuggling, transnational crimes and drug-trafficking are on the rise and pose a challenge for our countries and require strong and determined, coordinated action to control. The spreading tide of extremism and terrorism is a threat we both face. Successfully dealing with such threats requires strong cooperation among like-minded partners. I am glad that we have taken some steps to institutionalize cooperation in this area. We will continue to pursue more regular exchanges between our security personnel.

The rationale for a strong India-Indonesia Strategic Partnership is clearer than ever. We both are vibrant democracies, and are influential powers globally and in Asia in particular. We share interests on various issues including economic development, food security, counter-terrorism, and maritime security. We both also face similar economic development issues and governance challenges. There is much we can learn from each other and the possibilities for cooperation across a range of sectors are almost infinite.

The Asia Pacific region and the world as whole would benefit from having greater cooperation between India and Indonesia to positively shape a fluid regional security environment, including through partnerships with other like-minded countries and by strengthening regional institutions like ASEAN. Standing on a strong foundation of trust and friendship we can work together towards realization of our common vision of a harmonious world.

Long live Indonesia-India friendship.

Thank You.