

Speech to the Conclave:

Thank you Mr. Arun Purie, Kalli Purie, Kaveree, Nishant and Raj, for making it possible for me to address this distinguished gathering.

Namaste, Satsriakal, good afternoon and Salamalekam to all present here and those watching on TV.

It's a privilege to be here at the India Today Conclave. As a lower middle class boy, growing up in Punjab, the son of a government inspector and a mother who was a passionate freedom fighter, I never would have imagined that one day, I would be on a dais with world leaders and titans of business. Whereas, America gave this young Electronics engineer incredible opportunity to invent, to innovate, to create thousands of jobs in America and build a significant business, the roots came from the land of my birth, **Bharat, whom my mother always described as having the Golden age under Samudragupta, the land that gave zero and decimal point to the world.**

On the other hand, I had the fortune to migrate to a land that had the ultimate blessings from God, to bring seven Founding Fathers of America, on the same land, at the same time, who created an unparalleled system of government of FREE people, that became the sole Super Power on this Earth.

Now on to Making America and India, Great again:

Here is what Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican and the third highest ranking member of US Government, said on Nov. 9th, the morning after Donald Trump's victory as President of the United States:

"Donald Trump turned politics on its head. He heard a voice out in this country that no one else heard."

In order to have a meaningful dialog on today's subject, one must analyze this speech word by word. He said: **"No one else heard"**, that included many in the Republican party leadership itself.

See, over the past two decades – and especially during the eight-year tenure of President Barack Obama – America became a lot like the license-raj-ed India, I left 48 years ago. We were headed in the wrong direction. Real incomes were declining, real unemployment was way up, college graduates could not find meaningful jobs, and industrial towns like Elkgrove village, Illinois, in my own neighborhood, had turned into ghost towns. China was taking over our manufacturing and our finances, and Radical Islamic Terrorism was on a steep rise, and American prestige in the world was declining day by day.

Washington DC had turned deaf to the ears of most of America and those are the voices Speaker Ryan was talking about.

Meanwhile, India under PM Modi was steadily marching towards becoming the America of Ronald Reagan.

It did not escape our attention that on the very same day PM Modi took a bold step to demonetize, America elected a new President, my friend Donald Trump. We were fortunate to play a key role in bringing millions of Hindu voters to Trump. **His election represents the moment that the American people stood up to take their country back. The moment, the American people said “enough with the career bureaucrats and lifelong politicians; let’s elect someone who actually knows how to get things done.”**

Here, I stand before you as a proud Hindu and a proud Indian American. An American who has not forgotten the land of my birth, but one who found the freedom and opportunity to go to work. To build a business. To raise a family. To achieve. And to help create and energize the most important mass political movement of the past several decades. Donald Trump won in a landslide electoral victory, the most shocking win in American political history. **A victory that proved the media and establishment to be wrong, and I am proud to have played a part in it.**

I became involved in helping Donald Trump’s campaign early on because I saw in him a leader of unwavering conviction, boundless energy, and a compassion for everyday people. Despite being a billionaire, he was close to the working class people, electricians, plumbers, carpenters as he worked with them while growing up as a kid. He was also proud to defend the core values of Republican Hindu Coalition that I co-chair with Speaker Newt Gingrich, the RHC “four F’s” - , free enterprise, fiscal discipline, family values and Firm foreign policy.

Moving forward, unlike a politician, Trump is a businessman and his sole mission and modus operandi shall be to grow our economy, create millions of American jobs and get rid of the nemesis of Radical Islamic Terrorists, without the **influence of thousands of lobbyists parading around in DC.**

We stand here today at the crossroads of history. Here in India, we have a reformer, PM Modi who has taken some dramatic steps to eliminate corruption and seek prosperity irrespective of cast, religion or social status.

Now we have two reformers at the top **who want to cut red tape, and roll out the red carpet for business; to create jobs and let our economies flourish.**

In February, the Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced 12-consecutive sessions of all-time highs, matching the longest record streak since 1987.

Despite the Dow, many leftists and media are loudly warning that a turn from internationalism toward economic nationalism will return the global economy to the dark ages. They claim “America First” and “Make in India” are mutually exclusive. These individuals couldn’t be more wrong. People in India, who listen to the biased media, are running scared about what the Trump era will mean to the U.S.-India relationship. But I am here to share good news: the 21st century will be the Indo-American century, and President Trump will be the best President to move this relationship forward.

The U.S. is India’s second-biggest trading partner. India, however, is America’s ninth-largest trading partner. Both countries can do better. India needs at least \$10 billion of liquefied natural gas per year, \$10 billion of advanced defense equipment per year, and billions of dollars of high-tech machinery and products. The U.S. is a leading producer of these and many other highly-demanded items in India. Rather than Russia or China, democratic America must be the go-to market. At the same time, US would want to develop India as a second source to China, encouraging Make-in-India initiative in a big way, particularly in the area of electronic goods.

From my discussions with President Trump, I’ve concluded that trade between the U.S. and India can more than *triple* by the end of his first term in 2020, growing from \$100 billion a year to at least \$300 billion. This will create at least a million new jobs in the U.S. and at least 7 million new jobs in India. And Trump unlike previous Presidents would have innovative leaders with new ideas and proven business skills, particularly in engineering and manufacturing like Rex Tillerson, our new Secretary of State.

This makes America First and Make-in-India **dance together** like you have never seen before.

Let’s also take a moment to look at what really happened under the previous Administration.

President Obama wanted to gift to Pakistan 8 nuclear-capable F-16 fighter jets at American taxpayers’ expense. Fortunately, the U.S. Congress – with the assistance of the Republican Hindu Coalition, successfully blocked the way. President Obama also pushed for an immigration bill that would have put burdensome restrictions on Indian IT professionals on temporary work visas in the U.S. It too, fortunately, was defeated. If it had passed, it would have hurt Americans companies and India’s economy to a tune of \$20 billion in foreign exchange, annually.

And it was President Obama and the Democrats who kept the visa ban on Prime Minister Modi for so many years, only lifting it when he became the leader of the country and only as a Head of State. I know how hard they fought, because I was on the other side.

Trump declared at our Bollywood concert and Charity Event “Humanity United Against Terror” just 3 weeks before the election: “I love Hindus! I love India!. And in a Trump administration, the US and India will be best friends.”

After the election, President Trump spoke to Prime Minister Modi *before* contacting the head of any major European nation. The White House subsequently issued a statement, stressing, “the United States considers India a true friend and partner in addressing challenges around the world.”

And Mr. Trump’s admiration for Prime Minister Modi was exemplified by his grassroots outreach effort to the Hindu-American community. Mr. Trump’s family visited Hindu temples with me. His famous “Ab Ki Bar Trump Sarkar” advertisement -- the first time in history an American presidential candidate spoke Hindi -- went absolutely viral. It was seen by more than 1.2 billion people worldwide. And in the end, we turned more than 1 million Hindu-American votes in key swing states from Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump.

Now Hindu and Indian Americans, and those here in India, have a “best friend” in the White House.

This cannot be underestimated. Admittedly, in unimaginable fashion, the U.S.-India relationship has arrived at an unprecedented juncture. **This moment won’t last. It must be seized. Indeed, it will be like an eclipse, a rare alignment of the planets. If we blink, we’ll miss it.**

The call of human freedom propelled his run for office, motivates his every action, and touches the hearts of millions of Americans who have stood with, stand with him, and stand with you, as we seek to expand the frontiers of liberty across the world.

I thank you for the honor to speak to you today. My life story is the story of so many of you. Back in America we call it “the American dream”. But it is really a story of yearning for freedom, and together let’s make that vision happen for billions of people of all nations, races, and religions, around the world.

God Bless America and God Bless India.