

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA'S SPEECH AT THE MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

New York City, September 27, 2014



Figure 1 original speech http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpYSOypGcJc&feature=player_embedded

Bharat Mata ki ... (crowd yells 'Jai'). *(Crowd cheers, chants nationalist revolutionary slogans 'Vande Matram' and 'Modi' repeatedly. Modi smiles).

To my dear brothers and sisters settled in America. (Applause) To all the distinguished and strong numbers of the American democracy present here, to all the brothers and sisters in India watching today's event via Internet and TV and to the ones who couldn't make it inside the event and are outside ; I welcome and acknowledge them.

And a very very happy Navratri to all of you. (Applause and cheers)

Navratri's festival is a festival to worship power. It is a festival of purging evil. It is a festival to increase your dedication and strength.

On such a pious event, I've had the chance to meet all of you; and for that I'm very privileged... (applause) That my countrymen who having settled here, thousands of miles away from India have increased India's honour and pride (applause). Because there was a time when India was known as the land of snakes and snake charmers.

If it wasn't for you, if it wasn't for India's youth today (cheers) , it wasn't for what you did in the IT sector ; then perhaps even today, India would have been perceived as the land of snakes and snake charmers.

A few years ago I was in Taiwan, back then I wasn't a chief minister and I had an interpreter with me. After a few days, we got acquainted and he asked me one day that 'if you don't mind, can I ask you a question?'. I said 'yes I won't mind, please go ahead'. He asked again 'are you sure you won't mind?' I said 'no I won't. Please go ahead'.(laughter) He was still hesitant. And then he said ' I've heard that India is a land of black magic, snakes and snake charmers , that people play around with snakes ; is this all true?'

I replied 'no, not anymore. Our nation has devalued a lot since then. (Crowd cheers) Our ancestors used to play with the snake, but we today play with the mouse.' (Great cheers and applause for a few seconds) And our youth today move the world with their mouse.

All of you, through your behaviour, through your heritage, through your capability; have earned a lot of respect in America. Through your medium, you've presented a unique, powerful image of India to not just America but also to the people of rest of the world who are settled in America, and other parts of the world.

India recently had elections. Many of you who didn't get the opportunity to participate in the elections. But all of you probably didn't sleep when the results were declared (great applause and cheers). Not a single one of you would have been able to sleep that night. (crowd chants 'Modi') . The celebrations that followed in India were nothing compared to the celebrations by Indians around the world (great applause and cheers).

And many of you did participate in these elections. They gave their time. I couldn't even meet them and say thanks. But today, I thank you all personally (great applause). I thank you that you came and stayed in the villages of India for months! And made a large contributed to a historic election victory in India.

After 30 years, for the first time; A government was formed with full majority (applause). These election results couldn't be believed by any political pundit in India. All opinion makers were unsuccessful in making opinions. The poor, uneducated people in the villages of India made the opinion for the opinion

makers (laughter from the crowd). The poorest of the poor person's belief in the Indian democracy and its democratic system was proven by this election result. (applause)

But to win the election is not the ultimate goal. It's not a program to sit on the top. To win the election is a responsibility.

And since I've taken charge, I haven't taken a vacation for even 15 minutes. (Applause and cheers)

And I assure you, that the responsibility and the mandate you and the Indians have given me, we will never do anything that will make you look down. (applause and cheers)

In our country today, there is an atmosphere of optimism and hope. People of India and India wants change. The way the world is going through various economic crises, every poor person looking at this asks 'how long will we live like this?'. He wants change.

And my dear countrymen, I assure you, to change India's economic situation, to create a competent public system, to increase every person's quality of life; the government you've chosen will leave no stone unturned (applause and cheers). I know this very well, that in the hearts of all of you sitting here, you have a lot of expectations from India. Even in the hearts of Indian citizens, there is a lot of expectations from the existing government. But... I can assure you that this govt will be 100% successful in meeting your hopes and expectations (applause and cheers).

When I was the CM of Gujarat, I said once publicly that who've ever wants to come to India, come to India soon. Don't be late. Back then I didn't know how I was to be responsible for making this actually happen. But look today, every Indian settled in America for however long time feels that one foot should be kept in India always. (applause and cheers)

My dear countrymen, all of the world is convinced that the 21st century is the Asian century. Many world leaders have said so. Some say it's the Asian century. Some say it's the Indian century. And it's not just lightly said. India has the potential. It has the credibility. And now... (crowd says 'now it has Modi') Now, it has a unique combination. Imagine, today India is the world's youngest nation (applause). And also the nation with the world's most ancient civilization. It's a unique combination! 65% population today in India is less than 35 years of age (applause). Any nation with that capability, with that kind of resource, whose fingers has the capability to connect to the world through computers ; A nation's youth which through its capabilities is able to determine his future ,that nation doesn't need to look back (Great applause).

There is no reason to be disappointed friends! I can say with full confidence say that this nation will move ahead at a very high speed (applause)... with the strength of its youth!

India has 3 things today which are not possessed by any other nation. Our responsibility is to recognize these 3 strengths and to present it to the world...to unite these strengths and mobilize them and move ahead. When 1.25 billion people give their blessings, that is God's blessings himself (loud applause).The face of public is the face of God.

Those 3 strengths which India can feel proud of and on the basis of which India can move forward are : 1. Democracy : This is our biggest strength. I was watching when during these elections , in the peak heat of May, a poor person with almost no clothes on would come to listen to the election speeches; with the

hope that this is the democratic system through which he will be able to fulfill his dreams and hopes. In India, democracy isn't just a convenience or system; it is a strong belief!

The second strength is the Democratic Dividend. A country which has greater than 65% of its population as youth, what more does a nation need or require?

The third strength is that we have is Demand. The whole world's eyes are on India. Because they know that India is a nation of 1.25 billion people and has a big demand therefore.

No other nation has these 3 strengths (applause and cheers). And on the basis of these strengths, India will conquer new heights; this is my firm belief. America is the oldest democracy of the world (applause). India is the world's largest democracy. People from all over the world are settled in USA. And Indians are settled in the whole world! (loud cheering)

There is no corner of the world where you won't find an Indian. And there is no city in USA where people of other parts of the world aren't settled. These are so similar things! And that's why my brothers and sisters, India in the coming days...It has been my firm belief - that governments aren't able to drive progress. Governments are capable of issuing laws and schemes like building roads, hospitals, schools. It has budget limitations. There is progress only when there is public participation (applause). By sad fate till now, governments had taken sole charge of development (laughter). This government will work with the 1.25 billion people of the nation for its progress (applause). We have another problem in the nation and if the nation wishes to progress, then it's the responsibility of the government to push for good governance. And even you... You all have complaints. Like 'Sir, so and so happened when I got off the airport' (laughter). 'We went to get the visa, I don't know...' (laughter). I may live thousands of mile away from you , but I still know your pain. I know your pain (crowd cheers). And that's why my brothers and sisters, it's our job that we have make Development a Mass Revolution. And when I talk about the Mass Revolution ... We know the history of our nation. The British used to rule India. Before that, India used to be ruled by others. For around 1200 years, India was a slave. But if you look at our history, at every point , there was some or the other great soul that came and sacrificed his life for the nation (loud cheering and applause). Take the names of all the Sikh gurus; all of them gave such sacrifices for the nation (crowd cheers and chants Sikh slogans). Such sacrifices! Look at Bhagat Singh's sacrifice! Even today, the Sikh soldiers at our border are ready to lay down their lives for this nation (applause and cheers). In every generation, great men have given sacrifices for this nation. But they would sacrifice themselves, be led to the gallows or become a target to the bullets of foreign invaders and perish. But then another would come and do something and perish again. And then a third would come. The numbers of those who died would never decrease. But he would come alone, fight with all he had for his nation and die in the process. He would get his few friends and start the revolution. But what did Mahatma Gandhi do? He made freedom a mass revolution! If someone wears khadi, he wears it for freedom. If someone teaches a young kid, it's also for freedom. If someone feeds somebody hungry, it's for freedom. If someone sweeps or cleans, it's for freedom. He gave every person a direction and a mission based on his capabilities. And every Indian started feeling that they too are fighting for freedom (applause). This was the biggest contribution of Mahatma Gandhi. In the fight for freedom , to give to all of India and in every Indians heart, the pride of contributing to the nation ; he gave a new strength to India's revolution by doing this. Brothers and sisters, like how freedom was a mass revolution... Just like that, development has to be a mass development (applause). India's 1.25 billion people should feel that if they are teaching children, they are actually serving the nation and doing a job better than the PM of India. A public worker while cleaning does a good job. Why? Because he is working for the pride of his nation and feels that there shouldn't be garbage

and pollution around; and that is a service to the nation. A doctor who serves a poor sick family does so with full dedication. Because even that poor family's life is valuable to the nation. So that doctor too is serving the nation.

My work is to make Development a mass revolution and to make 1.25 billion citizens a part of this mass revolution. And whoever does whatever for work, does so for the nation and with the nation's pride and never does anything that will hurt the nation; this feeling awakens me! (Applause)

And I'm confident that once more that day comes where every Indian in every corner will feel that we have to take the country forward. And the strength of the 1.25 billion people is my strength and confidence on which we will make 21st century the century for India. By 2020, there will be a global demand for a large number of the workforce. Because in other nations by then they won't have any youth, just old people (laughter from the crowd). They won't have anyone available for work! We will by then be able to supply workforce to the whole world. Today there is a high demand in the nursing sector globally; so if we send trained nurses to work in those nations, it's a big help for them.

Today there is a high demand of teachers globally. It's hard to find maths and science teachers. Can't India export a teacher? (crowd laughs) A country with such quantity of youth, by increasing their quality and employing them worldwide, India has the capability of influencing and leading the world.

The world will have to acknowledge India's youth talent my brothers and sisters! All of you have done the same since you came to America, you've made such progress! And don't we eat the same grain and drink the same water as you all? So if you can do it, why can't we do it? Of course we can.

Look at the nation's talent! In Ahmedabad, if you wish to travel one kilometre in a auto-rickshaw, it costs around 10 Rupees. Look at India's talent: we travelled 650 million kilometres to Mars (loud cheering and applause). And it was all with indigenous technology made in small workshops which was assimilated to make this happen. In Ahmedabad, if you wish to travel one kilometre in a auto-rickshaw, it costs around 10 rupees. In our journey to Mars, we only spent 7 rupees per km! (loud cheering and applause). If this doesn't show the talent and strength of our youth, then what does? Not only this, India is the world's first nation who succeeded in reaching Mars in its first attempt (loud cheering and applause). So America and India are not only taking with each other on earth but also on Mars now (crowd laughs). On 22nd September, America reached Mars. On 24th September, India was there too. Not only this, India reached Mars at a budget less than a Hollywood's budget (applause and cheering). A nation with such strength and talent can achieve new heights and for that purpose, we have taken up a task which is Steel Development. If our youth has the talent and has the opportunity to work; then it has the power to create a Modern India.

So that's why we have given Steel Development a priority. We have even created a separate ministry for it since we formed the new government. And we are going to involve other nations and their experiences in this project too. We are going to invite them to join us in Steel Development. We are going to invite the world's leading universities involved in steel development to join us. We want a specific kind of Steel Development which produces 2 kinds of results: 1. Steel Development which creates people who can become Job Creators. 2. To create a highly skilled youth which matches all expectations for such a job.

A few years back in India, we had nationalized our banking system. This was done with the purpose that every poor and backward person should benefit from India's large financial and economic system. But despite that there are today more than 50% people in India who don't have a bank account. And because

of that, they are forced to take a loan from a money lender. And we all know how these loan sharks rob such poor people. My friends from the 'Bohra samaj' sitting here know it well. The poor not being able to pay back the loan comes to a point where under the heavy debt burden, he commits suicide.

Shouldn't the nation's money benefit these poor? Is the national currency only for the rich? (applause) So that's why we launched the 'PM Jan Dhan' (Public Banking) plan as soon as we came into office. And I can say with great pride today that ... what's the proof of a Government working? In just 2 weeks, the bank employees went house to house to open a bank account for around 40 million people. Have you ever thought a bank employee coming to your home? A postal worker comes but a bank employee never does.

Things can change, people can be motivated! And results can be obtained. And we had said that you can open a bank account with just zero balance. But look at our citizens confidence and honesty, they deposited 15 Million Rupees in the bank despite what Modi said (great applause). This is a living proof of how even a poor person can participate and wants to participate in his country's progress.

India has great potential. I have just launched another program and invite the world and all of you sitting here to join me. And my program is 'Make in India' (crowd cheers). If today you need human resources, effective governance and low cost production, then there is no better place than India. People would earlier come to make in India but used to say 'there is so much red tape and bureaucracy'. So today I tell you : those days are over (crowd cheers). Everything will be accessible online along with a online 'Make in India' campaign which will allow you to stay in touch with your government. You can now share your application, opinions, suggestions and thoughts with the Indian government online. And the youth here who want to do something for their country... the older people who were the first Indian generation to settle in America ; I request them to go to my website 'mygov.in' and share their suggestions and thoughts with me there. Come join me!

We all wish to change India's destiny. Using technology, we can display and preach our strength to everyone. And we can also use technology to make contributions to our progress.

The governments before us used to boast about the many, many laws they made (crowd laughs). You know that's all you heard in the elections. I've started a different line of work. I've taken up the mandate of eliminating all the useless laws that were made in the past (crowd cheers). If any common man would enter this web of old, archaic laws; he would never be able to get out. I've established a special committee of people that are tasked with removing such laws. And if even one law can be eliminated, I'll be the happiest (crowd laughs). Good governance should be easy, effective and should be for the benefit and progress of the people of the country.

You must have read in the newspapers that these days in Delhi, government officials reach work on time (laughter from crowd). Now tell me, is this news? (laughter from crowd) But this was the news in our country as if it was a big deal! These news items would get me very upset. Isn't going to work on time a responsibility? Is this news? But such was the situation.

These days , I've started a program : a program of cleanliness. I know all of you must love it (crowd cheers). People usually think a PM should do big things and not be involved in such petty things like cleanliness. But I've decided to do this. I've decided to build toilets (crowd cheers for a few seconds). Sometimes people ask me 'Modiji, tell us about a big vision' (crowd laughs). I tell them 'look brother, I've come here by selling tea' (crowd cheers and chants 'Modi' for several seconds). I am a very small man... a very common man. My childhood was an average one. And since I'm a common man, that's why

I enjoy doing common things for the common people (crowd cheers). But! Since I'm common , I also wish to do great things for the common man.

Now look at the state of the Ganges. Don't all of you here desire to take their parents one day to the Ganges for the holy bath. It's everyone's desire. But then when you read how polluted the Ganges are, then you think otherwise. Tell me brothers, shouldn't our Ganges be pure and clean? (The crowd cheers 'yes!') Shouldn't every Indian participate in cleaning up the Ganges? (The crowd cheers 'yes!') . Won't you people here help me clean the Ganges? (The crowd cheers 'yes!') You promise? (The crowd cheers 'yes!') . Brothers and sisters, we have spent 10s of millions of Rupees so far on this issue. When I had taken up this task, people used to chide me and say 'Modiji, why are you bothering with such unsolvable issues?' If my job was to only solve easy problems, people would never have elected me the PM of India (crowd cheers). They have elected me to solve difficult problems. And I share the devotion my 1.25 billion people have towards the Ganges. And cleaning the Ganges isn't just a matter of devotion and faith. Its fully related to the global climate and environmental crisis. More than that, if you look along the banks of the Ganges in states like Uttarakhand or Uttar Pradesh or Bihar or West Bengal ; around 40% of the population there depends on the Mother Ganga for their livelihood. If the Ganges becomes clean and pure again; then those 40% people which include farmers, small manufacturers will benefit from it. So from that standpoint, it's a big economic agenda (crowd cheers).

In 2019, it will be 150 years to Mahatma Gandhi's birth. Mahatma Gandhi gave us freedom. What did we give Mahatma Gandhi? Tell me, shouldn't every Indian ask that question to himself or not? (The crowd yells 'yes!'). The Gandhi that gave us freedom, what did we give back that Gandhi? If you happen to meet Gandhi one day, will you be able to answer him? (Laughter). And that's why by 2019, let all Indians imagine that by then ... All the things that were dear to Gandhi which were first; India's Freedom and second ; cleanliness. Gandhiji never compromised on cleanliness. He was very stubborn about it. Again, Gandhiji gave us freedom. He freed Mother India from the chains of slavery. Can't we free Mother India from pollution? In 2019, when we celebrate 150 years since Gandhiji's birth, can't we gift a clean India in the feet of Gandhi? The great soul that gave is freedom, can't we give that great soul this in return? (The crowd cheers 'yes!'). Yes or no? (The crowd cheers 'yes!') . If 1.25 billion people of India decide to not cause pollution, then no external force in the world can make India dirty and filthy. (Applause)

In 2022, we will celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence. In Indian culture, a 75th Birthday is a big deal and a occasion to celebrate. So how should we celebrate India's 75th Birthday? Why don't we start preparing for it now! I have a dream. And with your blessings, that dream will be fulfilled. I have a dream... (crowd cheers) ... I dream that by 2022, when India celebrates 75 years of Independence, by then there shouldn't be a single family in India that doesn't have its own home to live in (large applause and cheers). These are small things and issues I'm sharing with you but its these small issues that are going to change India's destiny.... and let's work together in changing its destiny.

Next year 2015 is an important year. All of you here are non resident Indians. Just like you, there was a M.K.Gandhi who was a non resident Indian (applause). Mahatma Gandhi came back to India in January 1915. January 2015 will be 100 years since Gandhi returned to India. 8th and 9th January in India is celebrated to commemorate Non Resident Indians. Many of you come to participate in that. This time in 2015, it will be celebrated in Ahmedabad (loud Applause) because it's going to be a century since Mahatma Gandhi returned to India. Mahatma Gandhi went abroad, became a barrister, became financially affluent but chose instead to live and work for India. So my prayer to all of you is to come and pay back the debt you owe to your motherland and country by helping it progress.

There are some things I want to share with you. Since I've become a PM, there are a few things that I've come to hear and keeping those in mind, I want to say a few things. First, PIO(Person of Indian Origin) Card Holders have lots of visa issues . I've decided that all PIO Card Holders will be given lifetime visas. (The crowd cheers and applauds loudly) Happy? (The crowd cheers 'yes!') . Second, those Non resident Indians who stay in India for long have to go to the Police Station often. We have decided that they will no longer have to go to the Police Station (the crowd cheers and applauds). I've also come to hear that because of the difference in PIO and OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) schemes, there are many difficulties that Indians abroad have to face. Especially, when the spouse isn't of Indian origin, there are added difficulties. If anyone gets married here, he's in deep trouble (Laughter) . My friends, I have some good news for you. Within a few months, we will merge PIO and OCI schemes into a single scheme(applause). We will introduce a new, simplified scheme within a few months. The third thing is ... (someone from the crowd says something).. Wait a few minutes, I'm still speaking! (Laughter). US Nationals who want to come work in India will get long term visa. Fourth, we will provide Electronic Travel Authorization and Visa on Arrival for American tourists coming to India to make it easier for them (applause). To facilitate these things quickly, because there is a large number of Indians in USA who travel very frequently to India causing a load on the small outsourcing visa services, we have decided to increase the number of outsourcing services to make it easier and faster for you to obtain a visa. So these are the things I've decided on after long term contemplation on your problems before coming here.

For you to come here in such large numbers on the pious festival of Navrati... and I (looking at his watch) am talking and talking... (loud applause). I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.. You've given me a lot of love. Perhaps... I've noticed at least since the past 15 years... perhaps no other Indian leader has received such affection (loud applause). I'm very grateful to you all. And I promise to repay this debt. I will repay this debt by creating the India of your dreams (crowd cheers for a long time and stands up in great excitement) . Let's work together to serve Mother India ... let's do what we can for our fellow Indians, for our country. The country where we were born and raised, the country that taught us to be what we are today.... with this desire, I want to once again thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Bharat Mata Ki... (crowd yells 'Jai!')*

Bharat Mata Ki... (crowd yells 'Jai!')

Clench both your fists and repeat again! I'm the one on fasts... not you!

Bharat Mata Ki... (crowd yells 'Jai!')

Bharat Mata Ki... (crowd yells 'Jai!')

Bharat Mata Ki... (crowd yells 'Jai!')

Thank you!

*'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' means 'Long Live India'

-Translated by Avneet Thapar

Jai Hind.