

around. Because Medicare and Social Security faced the same kind of criticism. Before Medicare came into law, one Republican warned that “one of these days, you and I are going to spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it once was like in America when men were free.” That was Ronald Reagan. And eventually, Ronald Reagan came around to Medicare and thought it was pretty good and actually helped make it better.

So that’s what’s going to happen with the Affordable Care Act. And once it’s working really well, I guarantee you, they will not call it Obamacare. [Laughter]

Here is a prediction for you: A few years from now, when people are using this to get coverage and everybody is feeling pretty good about all the choices and competition that they’ve got, there are going to be a whole bunch of folks who say, yes, I always thought this provision was excellent. [Laughter] I voted for that thing. You watch. [Laughter] It will not be called Obamacare. [Laughter]

But I’m always willing to work with anybody from either party. If you’ve got a serious idea for making the Affordable Care Act better or making our broader health care system better, I’m happy to work with you, because that’s what the majority of the American people want. They don’t want posturing, they want governing. They don’t want politics, they want us to work together to make the lives of ordinary Americans a little bit better, a little bit more secure.

So, Maryland, I’m asking for your help. I need your help. We may have some very well-

funded opponents. We may have some very talkative opponents. But you’re going to be the best, most credible messengers to spread the word about this law and all the benefits that the American people stand to get and have earned.

So tell your friends, tell your family. Get covered. Get on that website. Answer the questions of folks who don’t know what this is all about. Point them to healthcare.gov. Teach them how to use the website. Make sure they sign up. Let’s help our fellow Americans get covered.

Then, let’s keep on working to rebuild the middle class. Let’s go and focus on creating more good-paying jobs. Let’s build more ladders of opportunity for everybody willing to work hard. Let’s make sure the United States of America keeps being a place where you can make it if you try.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Novak Field House. In his remarks, he referred to 2012 Republican Presidential nominee W. Mitt Romney; Gov. John R. Kasich of Ohio; Gov. Richard D. Snyder of Michigan; Gov. Thomas W. Corbett, Jr., of Pennsylvania; Gov. Janice K. Brewer of Arizona; Mark M. Zandi, chief economist, Moody’s Analytics, in his capacity as economic adviser to 2008 Republican Presidential nominee Sen. John S. McCain III; Sen. R. Edward “Ted” Cruz; Rep. John C. Fleming, Jr.; and State Rep. William L. O’Brien of New Hampshire.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India

September 27, 2013

Syria

The President. Well, I’ve asked for Prime Minister Singh’s indulgence to begin my remarks on the issue of Syria. As many of you are now aware, yesterday the United States and Russia were able to hammer out an agreement,

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India

partnering with the other members of the P-5 and the Security Council, around Syria eliminating its chemical weapons and ultimately having them destroyed by the international community.

This is something that we have long sought. And the fact that we now have a framework

that will be voted on, perhaps as soon as today, perhaps over the weekend or Monday, that would be legally binding, that would be verifiable and enforceable, where there would be consequences for Syria's failure to meet what has been set forth in this resolution, I think is a potentially huge victory for the international community.

Realistically, it's doubtful that we would have arrived at this point had it not been for a credible threat of U.S. action in the aftermath of the horrific tragedy that took place on August 21, where chemical weapons killed over a thousand people, including more than 400 children. But I've always expressed a preference for resolving this diplomatically, and I appreciate all our international partners in working very hard over the past several days to make sure that we could arrive at a resolution that not only deters and prevents additional chemical use, but actually goes beyond what could have been accomplished through any military action, and that is the removal of chemical weapons—one of the largest stockpiles in the world—from Syria so that they can actually be destroyed.

I think it's also worth noting that in the Security Council resolution, there is an explicit endorsement of the Geneva I process to try to deal with the underlying conflict in Syria and the need for a political transition there that can bring about peace and allow the millions of people who've been displaced and harmed by this conflict to return to their homes and try to rebuild their lives and to rebuild a country that's been shattered now by civil war.

So we are very hopeful about the prospects for what can be accomplished, but obviously, there is a lot of work to be done. I think rightly, people have been concerned about whether Syria will follow through on the commitments that have been laid forth, and I think there are legitimate concerns as to how, technically, we are going to be getting those chemical weapons out while there's still fighting going on on the ground.

Nevertheless, this represents potentially a significant step forward and, I think, indicates what I had hoped for when I spoke at the United

Nations just this week: that we have an international community that is not just gathering to talk, but also is able to take concerted action on behalf of enforcing international norms and preserving everybody's security, including those in the region and obviously the people of Syria themselves.

India-U.S. Relations

Now, I also want to say how glad I am to have Prime Minister Singh here today. He has been a great friend and partner to the United States and to me personally during his tenure as Prime Minister of India. And I think all of us recognize that as the world's two largest democracies, countries that have for a very long time been invested in the peace and prosperity of their own people, that there is a natural convergence between the United States and India. Part of that has to do with the incredible people-to-people ties that exist. Indian Americans make extraordinary contributions to the United States every single day—businessmen, scientists, academics. Now Miss America is of Indian American descent, and I think it's a signal of how close our countries are.

And what we've been able to do during the time that I've been President and certainly preceding me throughout Prime Minister Singh's tenure, is to try to make sure that our Government-to-Government cooperation matches the great affection and affinity that exists between the Indian and American peoples.

We've made enormous progress on the issue of civilian nuclear power and, in fact, have been able to achieve just in the last few days an agreement on the first commercial agreement between a U.S. company and India on civilian nuclear power.

We have a wide-ranging security cooperation in battling terrorism and something that Prime Minister Singh obviously is deeply concerned about, given the impact of terrorism on India. All of us remember the horrible events that took place in Mumbai, but as recently as the last few days, India continues to suffer from terrorist attacks. And our hearts go out to the families that have been impacted.

We have enormous commercial ties between our two countries. And in fact, bilateral trade between our two countries has gone up by 50 percent just over the last several years, indicating the degree of progress that has been made. And India, as a significant not just regional power, but world power, has worked closely with us on a whole range of issues, from climate change to how we can help feed the world, alleviate poverty, and deal with disease.

We also had an opportunity to discuss the tensions that continue to exist in the subcontinent. We both have a shared interest in making sure that Afghanistan continues on its path to a peaceful, democratic country, and both share an interest in making sure that we help Afghans stand up for the rights of all groups inside of Afghanistan, that the rights of women and minority groups are protected, and that the upcoming election happens in a way that maintains and continues to strengthen stability in that troubled country.

And we had a chance to discuss Pakistan and our shared interest in seeing a peaceful reduction of tensions on the subcontinent, and we want to very much thank Prime Minister Singh for what has been a consistent interest in improving cooperation between India and Pakistan.

So, across the board, Prime Minister Singh has been an outstanding partner. India continues to grow at a amazing rate, but as Prime Minister Singh indicates, obviously, there are a lot of people in India that are still trapped in poverty. His primary priority has been to alleviate that poverty and give all the people of India opportunity. And we want to make sure that we're strong partners in helping him to realize that vision, because we believe that if there's a strong India, that that's good for the world and it's ultimately good for the United States of America.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. And thank you so much for all your efforts to continue to strengthen ties between our two countries.

Prime Minister Singh. Mr. President, there is very little that I can add to your eloquent statement. I've always believed that India and

America are indispensable partners. And during the time that I have been Prime Minister and particularly during the time that President Obama and I have worked together, I think President Obama has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening, widening, and deepening of our cooperation in diverse fields.

When I came to America in 2005, in addressing the United States Congress, I said there are partnerships based on principles and partnerships based on pragmatism. And I then said that in the case of Indo-American cooperation, both principles of our commitment to democracy, shared values, rule of law, and pragmatism both combine to make us strong, durable partners. And I'm very happy to say that in the last 5 years that I have worked together with President Obama, that process has strengthened in every possible way.

India and America are working together to give our cooperation a new sense of purpose, widening and deepening in diverse directions. We are cooperating in expanding the frontiers of trade, investment, and technology. Our bilateral trade today is \$100 billion. American investments in India are \$80 billion. And they are growing despite the slowdown in the global economy.

And outside the area of trade, technology, and investment, we are exploring avenues of cooperation in new areas—new areas like energy cooperation, clean coal technologies, energy-efficient technologies, cooperation in the field of environment, cooperation in the field of defense and security related, cooperation with regard to intelligence gathering and counterterrorism. In all these areas, India needs the United States to be standing by our side. And I am very pleased to note that President Obama has imparted a powerful impetus to that process of our two countries being on the same page.

The President briefed me about his initiatives both with regard to Syria and with regard to Iran, and I complimented him for his vision, for his courage in giving diplomacy yet another chance. India fully supports these initiatives because 6 million Indians live in West Asia and the Middle East. They earn their livelihood

there, which is an important part of sustaining our values of freedom. Therefore, anything that contributes to peace and stability in the Middle East, in Iran, in Syria, is something which is in the interests of the global economy; it is certainly in the interest of people in the region in which I and India is placed.

We also discussed our relations and our approach to dealing with Afghanistan and Pakistan. I explained to President Obama the difficulties that we face given the fact that the epicenter of terror still remains focused in Pakistan. And I look forward to meeting with President Nawaz Sharif, even though the expectations have to be toned down given the terror arm which is still active in our subcontinent.

Overall, I have come here to thank President Obama for all that he has done to strengthen, to widen and deepen cooperation

between our two countries. I explained to the President that India is a poor country. Our basic task is to improve the standard of living of our people, to get rid of mass poverty, ignorance, and disease, which still afflict millions and millions of our people. And in that struggle, we want America to stand by our side. And in the President, the United States has a leader who realizes and recognizes the contribution that a resurgent India can make not only to fighting poverty, but also to global peace and prosperity.

President Obama. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nina Davuluri, winner of the 2014 Miss America pageant. Prime Minister Singh referred to Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan.

Joint Statement by President Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India

September 27, 2013

The Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and the President of the United States of America Barack Obama met this morning followed by a working luncheon at the White House. Marking their third bilateral summit, the two Leaders reflected proudly on the transformation of United States-India relations during the last decade, affirming that the partnership between the two democratic nations is stronger today than at any point in its 67-year history.

Rooted in common democratic values and strong people-to-people ties, the United States and India have developed a comprehensive global strategic partnership, both in name and in substance, that has made their citizens safer and more prosperous.

President Obama and Prime Minister Singh pledged to make the next decade equally as transformative, challenging their governments to reach the full potential of this partnership, particularly in the areas of security cooperation, bilateral trade and investment, energy

and environment, higher education, and global architecture.

The Leaders called for expanding security cooperation between the United States and India to address 21st century challenges in the areas of counter-terrorism, cyber, space, and global health security.

Applauding bilateral defense cooperation, including trade and military exercises, President Obama and Prime Minister Singh expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved to date in defense relations. They emphasized the need for more intensive defense cooperation on both sides. The Leaders reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen defense trade cooperation, endorsing a Joint Declaration on Defense Cooperation as a means of enhancing their partnership in defense technology transfer, joint research, co-development, and co-production. President Obama encouraged the further participation of U.S. firms in partnering India's efforts to enhance its defense capacities. President Obama also wel-