

activity. They urged the DPRK to take concrete steps toward denuclearization, as well as to comply fully with its international obligations, including relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, and to fulfill its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party talks.

53. The Leaders welcomed recent progress and noted the criticality of Iran taking steps to verifiably assure the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear programme, and agreed that this is an historic opportunity for Iran to resolve outstanding concerns related to its nuclear programme.

54. Highlighting the United States' and India's shared democratic values and recognizing the important role of women in their societies, the Leaders looked forward to reconvening the Women Empowerment Dialogue as early as possible and reasserted their zero tolerance for violence against women. The Leaders also looked forward to the reconvening of the Global Issues Forum.

55. The President and the Prime Minister also reaffirmed their commitment to consult closely on global crises, including in Iraq and Syria. The Leaders agreed to exchange information on individuals returning from these conflict zones and to continue to cooperate in protecting and responding to the needs of civilians caught up in these conflicts.

56. President Obama reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, and both leaders committed to ensuring that the Security Council continues to play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security as envisioned in the United Nations Charter. They

also committed to accelerate their peacekeeping capacity-building efforts in third countries.

57. Both sides also acknowledged that the Internet was a central element of the information society and a powerful enabler of global economic and social progress. Both sides also noted that the growth of the Internet in the coming decade would be from developing countries, of which India would be a significant contributor, especially in the context of its "Digital India" programme.

58. The Leaders recognized that a digital divide persists between and within countries in terms of the availability, affordability and use of information and communications technologies, and they stressed the need to continue to bridge that divide, to ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development, are available to all people, including the poorest of the poor.

59. President Obama thanked Prime Minister Modi and the people of India for the extraordinary hospitality extended to him on his second presidential visit to India, and he congratulated the nation on the celebration of its 66th Republic Day. The Leaders reflected proudly on recent achievements and looked forward to continuing to work together to build a U.S.-India partnership that is transformative for their two peoples and for the world.

NOTE: This joint statement referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Pranab Mukherjee of India in New Delhi, India *January 25, 2015*

Good evening, President Mukherjee, Prime Minister Modi, distinguished guests: On behalf of Michelle and myself, I want to extend our deepest thanks for the extraordinary hospitality that you've shown us here today. We feel your

friendship, your *dosti*. And I am deeply honored to be the first American President to join you in celebrating India's Republic Day.

I also want to thank you for not making me dance again. [*Laughter*] The last time we were

here, we joined some children in Mumbai for Diwali, and we danced. It was pretty clear what the Indian press thought. One headline said, “President Obama Visits India.” The other said, “Michelle Obama Rocks India.” [Laughter] It is true, Michelle is a better dancer than me.

Let me also thank my partner and friend, Prime Minister Modi. I’ve often said that my life story could only happen in America. But of course, Mr. Prime Minister, your story could only happen in India. Here this evening, we think back to all those years ago, to your father selling tea in the train station and your mother working at other families’ homes to support her own. And tonight their son welcomes us as the Prime Minister of the world’s largest democracy.

Now, we all know about the Prime Minister’s legendary work ethic. He was explaining to me today how he only needed 3 hours’ sleep, which made me feel bad. I thought, I was doing okay with 5. [Laughter] What I didn’t know until now is that he once survived an attack by a crocodile. So he’s tough. And he also has style. One of our newspapers back home wrote: “Move aside, Michelle Obama. The world has a new fashion icon.” [Laughter] Tonight I was thinking about wearing a Modi kurta myself. And while I do not want to use a dinner like this to make United States policy, let me just say that given the Prime Minister’s advocacy at the United Nations, Michelle and I are looking forward to the first International Yoga Day.

Our visit reflects the deepest connections and long friendship between our peoples. One of America’s greatest poets was Walt Whitman, and more than a century ago he wrote a poem, “Passage to India,” in which he celebrated the technological ingenuity and human spirit that joins our nations. He wrote: “Seest thou not God’s purpose from the first? The earth to be

spann’d, connected by network, the people to become brothers and sisters.” Here, in our time, these words have come to pass.

India and America have spanned the Earth, connected and networked by technology and by family, including millions of Indian Americans, among them our Nation’s first Indian American Ambassador to India, Rich Verma. And in the shared work of our world, our purpose—lifting up our fellow citizens, advancing human dignity—we, as the poet predicted, have become brothers and sisters.

Tomorrow we will celebrate Republic Day. We will honor the generations of Indians who built this nation through toil and tears and iron will. And at the end of the day, I’m told the band will play that hymn that was dear to the heart of Mahatma Gandhi:

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

And so I propose a toast, if I can get a glass—ah, here we go. To the great partnership between our nations and the friendship—the *dosti*—between our peoples. Here in the eventide, Indians and Americans, let us know, in the darkness or day, in good times or bad, whenever one of us looks to the other, we will surely say, abide with me.

Cheers!

[At this point, President Obama offered a toast.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:37 p.m. at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. In his remarks, he referred to Heeraben Modi, mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

Remarks at the United States-India Business Council Summit in New Delhi, India

January 26, 2015

Good evening. Thank you so much, Madam Minister, for not only the introduction, but for the work that you’re doing every day to bring

our two countries closer together. Thank you all for the very warm welcome. I was proud to speak to the U.S.-India Business Council in