



Indian American Community Foundation

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN DEMOCRACIES

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS INDIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (IACF)

For Elected Officials (please feel free to personalize)

- I am pleased and honored to be at this event hosted by the Indian American Community Foundation.
- The relationship between the U.S. and India are important for the community, and in fact all Americans, given that we are the world's two largest democracies.
- It is one of the largest events put on by a diaspora for an elected leader of another country.
- I am here to listen to the Prime Minister, who won by an overwhelming majority in India. I want to better understand his vision for India and its progress.
- I also want to hear Mr. Modi's vision for a role for a better US-India relationship and the role of the diaspora.
- The U.S. and India are both democracies that believe in fundamental basic individual freedoms, human rights and religious pluralism. Those issues are important to and I am pleased to hear The Prime Minister speak about these and other issues.
- Recently, Prime Minister Modi gave a promising speech during Indian Independence Day because he articulated a vision for India which many Indian Americans have been supporting, advocating for many years including honoring daughters, advocating strongly for women's safety, clean rivers and communities.
- President Obama, Vice President Biden, Secretary of State Kerry and Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, have all articulated how important the U.S-India relationship is in an otherwise uncertain world. A strategic dialogue based on mutual respect and understanding is moving forward, and I support that.

If asked about Modi visa denial or concerns about Gujarat in 2002:

- As Americans we understand the power of peaceful and democratic transitions of power.
- I respect the choice Indian voters made in electing Prime Minister Modi and am proud that Indian democracy continues to be strong.
- We look forward to seeing Mr. Modi implement the promises he made to work with ALL Indians of all backgrounds – regardless of class, education, geography OR religion.
- Both Gujarat and India have made great strides since then. It's time to look forward.[ST2]
- Mr. Modi will be judged on his words, actions and accomplishments going forward.

If asked about the protesters at Sunday/planned for Sunday

- Well this is the greatest thing about democracy, it's why I'm proud to be an American - we have the right to peaceful free expression, even against the highest powers and leaders!
- Both India and the U.S., as the world's largest democracies, embrace and encourage everyone to take advantage of their rights to peaceful free expression.

If asked about access to the event, or concerns about limited access

- The overwhelming demand to be at this event live is a testament to the excitement of Indian Americans. It's great that the organizers were able to get this broadcast in Times Square and online so that people who were not able to come to Madison Square Garden still have a chance to be part of this historic day!

Background about IACF:

The Indian American Community Foundation (IACF) is a not-for-profit organization promoting cooperation between the United States and India, advancing the shared values of democracy, inclusive economic development, and mutual respect.

IACF is a partnership of 400 diverse organizations from across the United States. These include community, religious, business and student organizations, and foundations. All believe in a stronger U.S - India relationship and are active participants in their communities.

Created in August of 2014, IACF reflects the diversity and strength of the Indian American community in the United States. IACF will host a community reception for India's newly elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Madison Square Garden on September 28, 2014. With 20,000 members of the Indian American community and over 200 VIPs, including CEOs, celebrities, scientists, economists, renowned artists, and dozens of elected and political officials attending, the event will likely be the largest community led reception for an overseas leader in American history.

The event will be attended by representatives of all the Diasporas from India and faiths including Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Muslims, Sikhs, Jews and Zoroastrians. A laser light show along with a showcase of Indian and American music, dance and history will precede the Prime Minister's speech.