

Indian PM at White House: Joint Press Conference

June 23, 2023

*The following first two pages give the Opening Remarks by **President Joe Biden** and **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. Please see Questions by correspondents on page 3 -4 plus the responses, and, the Editorial Remarks by www.DiGiNews360.com on page 4-5.*

June 22, 2023: Washington DC: Joint Press Conference: In his opening remarks, **President Joe Biden** said that the partnership between India and the United States is among the most consequential in the world, that is stronger, closer, and more dynamic than any time in history. With this visit, we're demonstrating once more how India and the United States are collaborating on nearly every human endeavor and delivering progress across the board.

With this visit, Indian firms are announcing more than \$2 billion in new investments in manufacturing — in **solar in Colorado, steel in Ohio** and **optic fiber in South Carolina**, and much more. Further proof that America's manufacturing is back.



22 June 2023: Joint Press Conference by President Biden and PM Modi

Reference: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/06/22/remarks-by-president-biden-and-prime-minister-modi-of-the-republic-of-india-in-joint-press-conference/>

Note: Please refer to the Report on the **Joint Statement** issued on June 22, 2023 by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in page 4 of “Indian PM: Discussions in White House, Address at US Congress” at <https://diginews360.com/indian-pm-in-white-house-address-at-us-congress/>.

President Biden continued his Opening Remarks: We discussed our work through **the Quad** and how India and the United States, together with Australia and Japan, can ensure **the vital Indo-Pacific region remains free, open, prosperous, and secure.**

Through our new **I2U2 grouping** with Israel and the UAE, we’re building regional connections to the Middle East and **spurring science-based solutions to the global challenges, like food security and clean energy.**

We’re delivering meaningful **action on low- and middle-income nations**, including **multilateral development bank reform, debt relief, and building resilient and equitable health systems.** The bottom line is simple: We want people everywhere to have the opportunity to live in dignity.

And let me close with this: **Indians and Americans are both peoples** who innovate and create, turn obstacles into opportunities, who find strength in community and family, and **who cherish freedom and celebrate the democratic values of universal human rights, press freedom, religious freedom, tolerance, diversity.**

THE OPENING REMARKS of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi:** Some Extracts:

- We both agree that to make a strategic technology partnership meaningful, it is **very important that governments, businesses, and academic institutions come together.**
- We have also decided that in the midst of global uncertainties, India and America will, as trusted partners, **create reliable, secure, and resilient global supply chains and value chains,** as well.
- The most important pillar of our relations is our people-to-people ties. More than **4 million people of Indian origin today make significant contribution to the progress of America.**
- The COVID pandemic and the Ukraine conflict have afflicted the countries of the Global South in particular. From the very beginning of the events in

Ukraine, India has laid emphasis on **resolution of dispute through dialogue and diplomacy**. We are completely ready to contribute in any way we can to restore peace.

- Under India's G20 presidency, we are laying emphasis on the spirit of "**One Earth, One Family, One Future**." We are lending a voice to the priorities of the Global South. President Biden has expressed support to India's proposal of **giving the African Union full membership of the G20**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his speech by saying that **the core philosophy of all of our collective efforts is to strengthen democracy and democratic values and democratic order**.

QUESTIONS BY CORRESPONDENTS: For asking questions from the two Leaders, two correspondents were chosen: **Sabrina Siddiqui**, a Pakistani-American, a White House reporter for Wall Street Journal and **Rakesh Kumar** of Press trust of India.

Sabrina: FIRST PART of QUESTION for **President Biden**: relating to President Biden calling **President Xi of China a dictator**: She asked whether these comments would undermine the progress your administration has made in maintaining a relationship with China?

President Biden said that he was not going to change his statement.

He added that the hysteria about the relationship with China is collapsing. But Secretary Blinken had a to China. I expect to be meeting with President Xi sometime in the near term. And I don't think it's had any real consequence.

Sabrina: SECOND PART of QUESTION for **President Biden**: As you raise these broader issues of human rights and democracy, what is your message to those — including some members of your own party — who believe that your administration is overlooking the targeting of religious minorities and a crackdown on dissent in India?

President Biden: One of the fundamental reasons that I believe the U.S.-China relationship is not in the space it is with the U.S.- Indian relationship is that there's **an overwhelming respect for each other because we're both democracies**. And I believe that we believe in the dignity of every citizen. And democracy is in America's DNA and, I believe, in India's DNA that the whole world. It makes us **appealing partners** and **enables us to expand democratic institutions** across the world.

Sabrina: QUESTION for PRIME MINISTER **Modi**: Mr. Prime Minister, India has long prided itself as the world's largest democracy, but there are many human rights groups who say that your government has discriminated against religious minorities and sought to silence its critics. As you stand here in the East Room of the White House, what steps are you and your government willing to take to improve the rights of Muslims and other minorities in your country and to uphold free speech?

Prime Minister Modi: Indeed, India is a democracy. And as President Biden also mentioned, **democracy is in the DNA of India and America** — both countries. **Democracy is our spirit. Democracy runs in our veins. We live democracy.**

And our ancestors have actually put words to this concept, and that is in the form of our constitution. Our government and the entire country run on our constitution.

We have proved that democracy can deliver. And when I say deliver, this is **regardless of caste, creed, religion, gender.** There's absolutely no space for discrimination.

And when you talk of democracy, **if there are no human values and there is no humanity, there are no human rights, then it's not a democracy.**

And that is why, when you accept democracy and when we live democracy, then there is absolutely **no space for discrimination.**

And that is why India believes in **moving ahead with trust in everybody and with everybody's efforts.** These are our foundation principles, which are the basis of how we operate, how we live our lives. In India, the **benefits that are provided by the government are accessible to all** those, who deserve those benefits.

VIEW of www.DiGiNews360.com :

*Everyone knows that Pakistan has set up itself as the enemy of India. Her question showed that she followed the standard **propaganda line of Pakistan government.** Who in the White House chose Sabrina Siddiqui to represent the entire group of journalists accredited to White House?*

www.DiGiNews360.com wants to draw the attention of our Readers to a large survey conducted by Pew Research among Indian Muslims. The Muslims in India

find no restrictions on their freedom to practice their religion. (Please see the information about the Pew Report at “Democracy in India: Strong because Indians Value it” at <https://diginews360.com/democracy-in-india-strong-because-indians-value-it/>.)

The government facilities are given on a non-discriminatory basis, since relief against any discrimination can be obtained from any court in India. In fact, Muslims get more than double of their fair share due to the following reasons:

A large number of Muslim children choose to study in Madrasas and not at the Government Schools. When they grow up, they work in small businesses of their own. Since these small businesses are undocumented, they are counted among the poor. Hence, the Muslims get as much as 30-35% of grants from the Modi government for the poor, whereas their population is about 14%.

The Islamic Pakistan’s claim on Kashmir is based on the fact that about 60% of population in Kashmir is Muslim, whereas India is a secular country. (India has a larger number of Muslims than the population of Pakistan.) India’s claim is based on the legal accession to India by the then King of Jammu and Kashmir on October 26, 1947.

Propaganda Line of Pakistan Government: Pakistan Government has been sending uneducated young men, trained as terrorists, to Kashmir to create mayhem and to strengthen its claim to Kashmir. The terrorists face Indian Security Agencies and every case of the resulting violence is falsely shown, by the Government and the media of Pakistan, as an example of India’s cruelty on Muslims in Kashmir.

In her question to the Prime Minister of India, at White House on June 22, 2023, during the PM’s State Visit to USA, Sabrina Siddiqui echoed this false propaganda of Pakistan Government.

In response to **Rakesh** Kumar’s question on the work of the two governments to mitigate climate change, **President Biden** gave a detailed response including the work done by G-7. **PM Modi** said that India was the **ONLY** country, among the G-20 countries, that has completed all the targets set for it at the Paris (**COP21** of 12 December 2021) and the Glasgow Conference (**COP26** of 13 December 2021).

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