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Thank you for the warm welcome. I appreciate the hospitality we have experienced throughout our visit. I will begin with a few remarks, and then I would like to answer your questions.

Historically, nations were measured by the size of their militaries or the strength of their economies. In this interconnected and interdependent world, greatness is better defined by the influence of a nation's examples, the persuasive appeal of its values, and ability to stimulate others to work toward mutual goals.

It is important we have open dialogue with our friends and allies across the Pacific to further increase stability, security, and our ability to respond to natural and manmade disasters.

The US remains deeply committed to building a stronger partnership with India; a partnership based on common interests, shared values, and mutual respect. Our goal is not just to maintain our good relationship, but to broaden and deepen it. However imperfect our nations may be, core ideals guide us as we seek to broaden our partnership and set examples to bring others along. India and the United States regard each other as global

partners. Our two democracies can play a leading and constructive role addressing the urgent challenges of our times.

Military exercises between India and the US are increasing in scope and sophistication and are aimed at improving cooperation between our two militaries. Our Armies recently participated in Yudh Abhyas 09. This exercise was an excellent opportunity for professional and cultural exchanges, teamwork, and increasing friendship. It is indicative of on-going programs to share tactics, techniques and procedures related to peace operations, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief at various levels.

The challenges we face in an interconnected world yield unprecedented opportunities for cooperation. Our nations continue to demonstrate the willingness to develop unified responses and bring together diverse governmental agencies and military capabilities to work closely on a range of shared interests.

Multiple transnational challenges call for greater cooperation between all nations. US strategy places greater emphasis on increasing the capacity of our partners. The US Army Pacific's goal is to further fortify security in the Pacific Rim through strengthened partnerships. Together, India and the US have made substantial progress in helping secure peace.