

TEXAN OUTREACH**Though both leaders gained from the Houston rally, it was not diplomacy at its best**

The Houston gathering of the Indian diaspora in the U.S. on Sunday addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump was a resounding success in meeting its stated and implied objectives. Mr. Modi has drafted Indian diaspora communities in several countries for advancing his strategic objectives. The diaspora in the U.S. is of pre-eminent significance given its increasing political heft and the centrality of the U.S. in India's strategic architecture. Mr. Trump's appearance at the rally and his effusive support for India were a reflection of the community's influence in U.S. politics. He named fighting "radical Islamic terrorism" as a key common interest of the two countries, spurring a standing ovation by the audience, including Mr. Modi. Mr. Trump also emphasised border security, a controversial topic in both democracies. Mr. Modi presented the ending of autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir to the cheering crowd as a significant achievement of this government. The rally galvanised the diaspora in support for Mr. Modi's politics in India, and enticed Mr. Trump.

The rally's unintended outcomes could be more complex. The massive movement of people across national borders has created diasporas that, in turn, have created new political forces. This is a particularly sensitive component of global politics. Its enthusiasm for India notwithstanding, aspirations of the diaspora and the priorities of India don't necessarily converge. Drawing its members too deep into India's domestic politics, and India's involvement in their politics, are both fraught with risks. Mr. Modi nearly endorsed Mr. Trump's re-election bid, and the jamboree was unprecedented for the divisions it created among the diaspora. Civil rights groups and groups of Kashmiris, Dalits and Muslims, who have been critical of Mr. Trump, also called out the Modi government for its policies. Democrats by and large took a dim view of the event, and the audience and Mr. Modi greeted Majority Leader in the House of Representatives Steny Hoyer's reminder that India drew on its strength of Nehruvian secularism with stony silence. Mr. Trump's implied endorsement of Mr. Modi's Kashmir policy was music to the ears of those in the audience, but the underlying principle of his America First nationalism that it has no role to play globally other than protecting its own interests could lead to outcomes not to India's liking. The absence of four of the five Indian-American members of the U.S. Congress — all Democrats — at the gathering was also noteworthy. The transposition of India-Pakistan rivalry into a contest between the two diasporas is also unpleasant. Despite what Houston achieved for the two leaders, a line may have been crossed in the mixing of partisan national politics with international diplomacy.

Words

Diaspora

Kind

Noun

Meaning

Exodus, dispersal, dissolution, mass exodus

Resound	Verb	Echo, re-echo, reverberate, boom, rumble
Implied	Adj.	Implicit, indirect, hinted, suggested, inferred
Objective	Noun	Aim, intention, purpose, target, goal, plan
Pre-eminent	Noun	Greatest, leading, foremost, finest, outstanding
Heft	Verb	Lift, lift up, raise, heave, hoist, yank
Boost	Verb	Enhance, elevate, escalate, augment, ameliorate
Strategic	Adj.	Planned, calculated, deliberate, politic
Architecture	Noun	Planning, construction, building, design
Appearance	Noun	Looks, air, aspect, mien
Effusive	Adj.	Gushing, gushy, unrest rained, unreserved, extravagant enthusiastic
Butlers	Verb	Support, anchor, advocate, endorse, back
Spur	Verb	Stimulate, propel, induce, impel, galvanic
Ovation	Noun	Applause, clapping, cheering, bravos, acclaim
Emphasize	Verb	Stress, accent, accentuate, weight
Controversial	Adj.	Conflicting, contentious, disputed, cantankerous
Cheer	Verb	Encourage, spur on, urge on, drive on, fire up
Achievement	Noun	Accomplishment, attainment, reaching
Galvanise	Verb	Prod, encourage, revitalize, enkindle, engender
Entice	Verb	Tempt, allure, lure, attract, lucrate, woo
Un-intended	Adj.	Accidental, casual, chance, fluky
Outcome	Noun	Result, repercussions, upshots, consequences
Complex		Compound, composite, complicated, tangled
Sensitive	Noun	Desire, hope, longing, yearning, hankering
Converge	Verb	Meet, intersect, cross, come together, coincide
Endorse	Verb	Support, buttress, anchor, advocate, prop up
Fraught	Adj.	Anxious, overwhelming, eager, keen, agog
Fraught with		Full of, infested with, pregnant with
Complicated	Adj.	Tangled, entangled, entwined, intertwined, involuted convoluted
Jamboree	Noun	Rally, gathering, convention, conference, gala
Unprecedented	Adj.	Unparallel, unequalled, unmatched,
By and large		Largely, mostly, mainly, to a great extend
Dim	Adj.	Faint, unclear, vague, indistinct, muddy

Underlying	Adj.	Fundamental, basic, primary, prime
Protect	Verb	Keep safe, secure, guard, safeguard
Transposition	Noun	Deformation, disfiguring, distortion
Rivalry	Noun	Competition, enmity, animosity, hostility
Partisan	Noun	Supporter, follower, advocate, backer

CREDIBILITY DEFICIT

The Justice Kureshi episode raises fresh questions about the Collegium's role

In modifying its recommendation concerning Justice A.A. Kureshi, the Supreme Court Collegium appears to have succumbed to pressure from the Union government. Modifying its resolution of May 10 that the senior judge be appointed Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, the Collegium has now decided to send him to the Tripura High Court. It was quite apparent that the Centre was averse to the elevation of Justice Kureshi, who is from the Gujarat High Court, but serving in the Bombay High Court on transfer. The government did not act on the recommendation for months, raising the suspicion that it was blocking his appointment. The Collegium modified its decision after considering letters from the Department of Justice on August 23 and 27, and "accompanying material". It is not known if the controversy has ended. It is possible that the Collegium and the Centre have arrived at a compromise under which the government drops its opposition to his appointment as Chief Justice on the condition that he is sent to a smaller high court. However, until his appointment as head of the Tripura High Court is notified, there will be a lurking doubt on whether the latest resolution is in line with the Centre's approval. Under the current procedure, the Collegium may reconsider a recommendation, but the government is bound to implement a decision that is reiterated.

It is quite acceptable if the Collegium and the government resolve their differences through consultation and correspondence, but the final decision should not be opaque, mysterious and indicative of executive pressure. It is common to charge the Collegium with lack of transparency, but in this case, the government is equally guilty. If the Law Ministry had a bona-fide objection to Justice Kureshi, it could have disclosed its opinion on his suitability. The failure to do so has the inevitable consequence of the public imagination concluding that the ruling party is blocking his elevation because of judicial orders he had passed while serving in Gujarat. As for the Collegium, it is unclear why it could not have disclosed what the government had wanted in its communications. This episode makes a dent in the prevailing narrative that the Collegium system is a shield against executive interference in judicial appointments. The time may have come for the two sides to come up with fresh clauses in the existing procedure of appointments under which the Collegium's decisions are implemented within a time-frame, and the government's objections and reservations, if any, are made

public. Only then can the credibility deficit be bridged. But, even so, what is indisputable is that the Collegium system is deeply flawed, and is in need of urgent remedy.

<u>Words</u>	<u>Kind</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
Collegium	Noun	Meeting
Modify	Verb	Change, modify, mutate, transmogrify, metamorphose
Recommendation	Noun	Commendation, endorsement, testimonial
Succumb	Verb	Surrender, capitulate, give up, give off
Resolution	Noun	Intention, resolve, decision, determination
Apparent	Adj.	Clear, explicit, lucid, pellucid, limpid
Averse	Adj.	Opposed to, against, hostile, combative, antagonistic antipathetic
Elevate	Verb	Boost, escalate, ameliorate, snowball, proliferate
Suspicious	Noun	Intuition, feeling, impression, misgiving, qualm
Controversy	Noun	Quarrelling, squabbling, vendetta, run in
Opposition	Noun	Conflict, clash, difference, antipathy
Lurk	Verb	Skulk, loiter, lie low, hide, prowl
Resolve	Verb	Settle. Sort out, solve, work out, rectify
Correspondence	Noun	Corelation, similarity, compatibility
Opaque	Adj.	Unclear, arcane, muddy, murky, incoherent
Enigmatic	Adj.	Cryptic, esoteric, myopic, abstruse
Transparent	Adj.	Clear, lucid, pellucid, limpid, explicit
Bonafide	Adj.	Authentic, genuine, real, lawful, true
Inevitable	Adj.	Indispensable, unavoidable, inescapable, official
Consequences	Noun	Results, repercussions, consequences, upshots
Dent	Noun	Reduction, depletion, deduction, cut, hole
Interference	Noun	Intervention, intrusion, intercession
Shield	Verb	Protect, keep safe, guard, safeguard
Come up with	Verb	Produce a new ideal
Credibility	Noun	Trustworthiness, reliability, plausibility
Indisputable	Adj.	Incontrovertible, incontestable, undeniable, refutable Unassailable
Consultation	Noun	Discussion, discourse, dialogue, meet, talks
Flaw	Noun	Defect, blemish, fault, deficiency, weakness
Remedy	Noun	Put right, rectification, correction, redression