

Howdy, Modi!

SHARED DREAMS, BRIGHT FUTURES.

A record crowd gets ready to welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate Indian-American success at “Howdy, Modi!”

Over 50,000 registered; Free parking onsite at the stadium

August 27, 2019 – Houston: A history-making audience of over 50,000 Indian-Americans has registered to turn up at NRG Stadium for the “Howdy Modi” community summit on Sep 22 to see the visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Filling the giant stadium to capacity, they will come to celebrate the tremendous success of Indian-Americans in the US and the deepening US-India economic and political ties.

The crowd turnout is expected to be the largest for any Indian Prime Minister to address in North America and the largest for a democratically elected foreign leader in America. In expectation for this, the Texas India Forum will be providing free parking onsite at the stadium for all attendees. New registrants are now on a waiting list for the event, although registration for university students will be open till August 29th.

The event, titled “Shared Dreams, Bright Future”, will showcase the strength and clout of the Indian-American community, dubbed as “model” immigrants in the US as they are considered by policy experts to be the most highly educated and successful community in America.

"The Indian-Americans are not simply just an educated and wealthy community today but have fast become an organized, powerful voting bloc with a unified voice, with national political and policy aspirations. The impact of the community today is palpable in American politics and business," said Gitesh Desai, spokesperson for the event.

According to Pew Research, median annual household income for Indian Americans in 2010 was \$88,000, much higher than for all Asian Americans (\$66,000) and all U.S. households (\$49,800). 68% of India-born immigrants have college degrees. Indian-Americans also form the second largest group of physicians after non-Hispanic whites (3.9%) according to the 1990 survey of Pew Research.

"The Indian-American community has arrived," according to Devesh Kapur, the director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania.

“There’s a part of it which is about Modi, the rock-star politician. But it’s also a signal by the community to the politicians here in the U.S. to take them seriously,” according to his interview to Time magazine.

"The economic impact of Indian-Americans has grown considerably in the last few decades as they have become a major force in technology and innovation, financial services, banking, oil & gas, energy, chemicals, and pipelines. In addition to being leading business leaders and job creators, Indian-

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Americans are also playing vital roles in medicine, philanthropy, arts, media, education, and space. The rise of Indian-Americans today is intricately woven into the rise of America," said Desai.

And this is what will be celebrated at the "Howdy Modi" event which reflects an extraordinary strong community involvement with more than 1000 volunteers and 650 Welcome Partner organizations from across the United States. The "Howdy, Modi!" event has been broadly supported by organizations representing various communities in India as well as leading social service organizations, charities, university alumni groups, professional societies, and religious organizations.

"It is a testament for their passion for India, their success in the United States, the power of the community to come together, and their contribution and hopes for the US-India bond to continue to prosper in future," said Rishi Bhutada, spokesperson for the event.

LOGISTICS

Free parking will be provided on-site at NRG Stadium's Blue Lot. In addition to free parking, buses will be provided to transport attendees from various locations around the greater Houston area.

Doors for the event will open at 7:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

For more information, please visit www.howdymodi.org.

ABOUT THE TEXAS INDIA FORUM

The Texas India Forum, Inc. (TIF) is a not-for-profit organization that encourages cooperation between the United States and India, advancing the shared values of democracy, inclusive economic development, and mutual respect. TIF brings together Indian-American organizations and institutions to encourage collaboration within the region and expand opportunities for engagement with India.

MEDIA NOTE:

Credentials for the event can be applied for at www.howdymodi.org/press

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