**Modi interacts with leaders of U.K., France, Germany, Japan and Italy at the G-7 Outreach Summit , briefly meets U.S. President Biden, embraces the Pope and shakes hands with Canada PM Trudeau**

India’s election results were a “victory for the democratic world”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told G-7 countries and leaders of other nations invited to the Outreach Summit in Italy. He praised the electronic voting machines for their “impartiality and transparency”.

Speaking at a session that focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other issues, including African development and the Mediterranean, with Pope Francis, who addressed the G-7 session for the first time, Mr. Modi said technology must be used to reduce inequalities.

Mr. Modi embraced the Pope at the beginning of the event, being held in Italy’s Apulia region, and also met with the leaders of U.K., France, Germany, Japan and Italy during a brief 24-hour visit.

He posted pictures on social media of a brief exchange with the U.S. President Joseph Biden, saying they had committed to keep working for the “global good”, but there was no formal India-US bilateral meeting. Mr. Modi also posted a photograph of shaking hands with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau but gave no details of their conversation.

Referring to the European Parliament polls earlier this week, as well as upcoming elections in France, the U.K. and the U.S., Mr. Modi said he was glad to be amongst G-7 leaders as many of them faced the “excitement of elections” as well.

“The blessings that the people of India have given in the form of this historic victory is the victory of democracy. It is a victory for the entire democratic world,” said Mr. Modi, who flew to Italy just four days after being sworn in as the Prime Minister and even before his party, the BJP, which fell short of a majority, proved its strength along with allies of the NDA in Parliament.