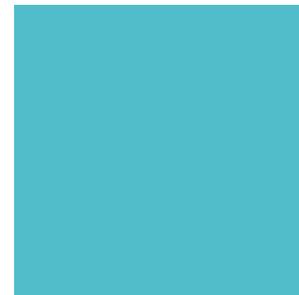
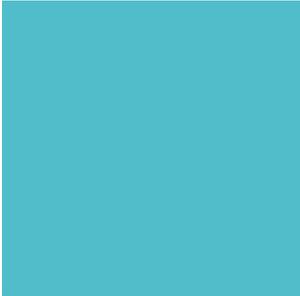




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U.S. Presidential Visits to India

A look back at key milestones in the U.S.-India relationship



February 21, 2020

PRESIDENT DWIGHT EISENHOWER - 1959

First U.S. Presidential Visit Launches Bilateral Ties

December 9 to 14, 1959

President Eisenhower's historic visit to India – the first by a U.S. president – launched the bilateral relationship at an important period just over a decade after India's own independence. Through meetings with Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the two sides affirmed the desire to foster a strong bilateral relationship and cooperate on shared values, including world peace.

Key Accomplishments:

- President Eisenhower addressed both houses of Parliament and delivered an address at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.
- He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Delhi, participated in the inauguration of the World Agricultural Fair, and attended a civic reception hosted by the City of New Delhi.
- The two sides released a [joint statement](#) that affirmed shared values and mutual goodwill.



“On this trip I have been talking a lot about America’s deep desire for peace. [...] As far as the longing and aspirations of peoples are involved, we know we are one. [...] The people to people is what will save the world.”

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON - 1969

Tensions Loom Over President Nixon's Visit

July 31 to August 1, 1969

Tensions over U.S. tacit support for Pakistan and close ties with Pakistani General Yahya Khan loomed over President Nixon's short visit to India. While President Nixon sought to build trust, the lack of personal chemistry with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dampened progress. These tensions would only deepen as India and Pakistan progressed toward conflict, which escalated into the Bangladesh War of Independence in 1971.

Highlights:

- In New Delhi for less than one day, President Nixon met with Prime Minister Gandhi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- President Nixon met with Indian President Mohammad Hidayatullah, which was a defining feature of his short term.
- No official statements or speeches were published from the visit.



“The President and I have ensured that the meetings that I will have with the Prime Minister and members of the government will serve that great goal in which I know that the people of India and the people of the United States are as one.”

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER - 1978

President Carter Seeks to Restore Ties

January 1 to 3, 1978

President Carter visited India soon after Janata Party leader Morarji Desai succeeded Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister – a stunning victory that followed India’s Emergency period. President Carter sought to ease tensions between the United States and India, which had escalated during the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence and India’s 1974 nuclear weapons tests. However, President Carter’s unwelcome attempt to urge India to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty blunted significant progress.

Highlights:

- President Carter met with Prime Minister Desai and addressed both houses of Parliament.
- President Carter visited a village in Haryana, which soon after adopted the name “Carterpuri.”
- The two sides released a [memorandum of conversation](#) between the leaders, as well as President Carter’s [remarks before the Indian Parliament](#).



“The values that Americans and Indians share have deeply affected my own life. I come to you as a national leader, yes, in the hope that my visit will mark a new and a higher stage in the steadily improving relations between our two countries.”

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON - 2000

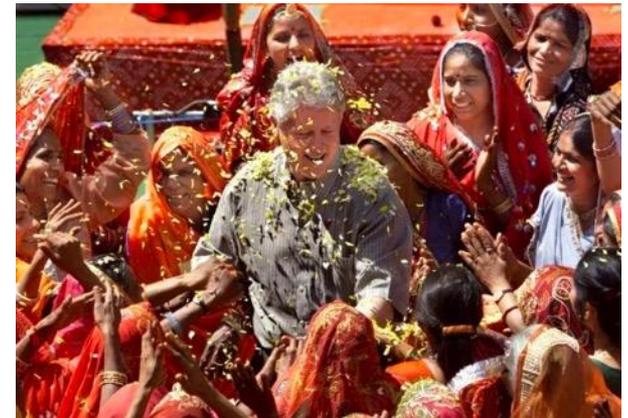
President Clinton's Historic Visit Charts New Ambition

March 19 to 25, 2000

Following a period of intense diplomatic engagement with India and Pakistan to deescalate the 1999 Kargil War, President Clinton was the first U.S. president to visit India in over two decades. His watershed visit saw the two sides advance a higher level of ambition and outline new areas of bilateral cooperation across economic and strategic pillars. The diplomatic breakthrough also coincided with the rise of the Indian-American diaspora in the United States, which strengthened the growing people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Highlights:

- Traveling with his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, the Clintons visited New Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.
- President Clinton and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee issued an expansive [joint statement](#), in which both sides pledged to enhance cooperation.
- President Clinton [addressed](#) both houses of Parliament and committed to strengthening ties as strategic partners.



“India and America are natural allies, two nations conceived in liberty, each finding strength in its diversity, each seeing in the other a reflection of its own aspiration for a more humane and just world.”

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH - 2006

President Bush Signs Historic Nuclear Agreement

March 1 to 3, 2006

President Bush's visit charted new opportunities for substantive bilateral cooperation. Notably, the two countries finalized the framework the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement, which affirmed U.S. acceptance of India as a nuclear power. Progress during the visit also reflected growing bipartisan support for the relationship and view that supporting India's rise was in the U.S. interest – particularly amid China's growing regional influence.

Highlights:

- President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh finalized the framework for a nuclear deal and [discussed](#) the growing strategic partnership.
- President Bush gave [remarks](#) on the U.S.-India relationship at Purana Qila in New Delhi.
- The two sides put forward a [joint statement](#), a [joint statement on trade](#), and a [fact sheet](#) on the strategic partnership.



“For many years, the United States and India were kept apart by the rivalries that divided the world. That’s changed. Our two great democracies are now united by opportunities that can lift our people, and by threats that can bring down all our progress.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA - 2010

President Obama Expands Areas of Cooperation

November 6 to 9, 2010

Building on the growing momentum in the bilateral relationship, President Obama's first visit to India elevated the country as a strategic partner and critical focus in the foreign policy pivot to Asia. The two sides made progress across the strategic and trade pillars of the relationship. Notably, President Obama backed India's bid to join the United Nations Security Council. The two sides also agreed to USD 14.9 billion worth of trade deals and relaxed select trade restrictions.

Highlights:

- The two sides released a [joint statement](#) and outlined new areas to expand bilateral cooperation.
- President Obama [addressed both houses of Parliament](#).
- President Obama and Prime Minister Singh conducted a [joint press conference](#).



We are two great republics [...] and we are two free market economies where people have the freedom to pursue ideas and innovation that can change the world. [...] India and America are indispensable partners in meeting the challenges of our time.”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA - 2015

President Obama First to Return for Second Visit

January 24 to 27, 2015

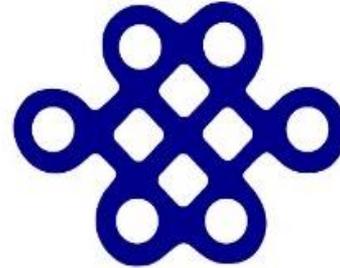
President Obama returned to India – the first by a sitting U.S. president – soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s historic election. The visit solidified the strong relationship between the two leaders and enabled them to chart historic progress on defense, clean energy, and climate change.

Highlights:

- President Obama was the chief guest at the annual Republic Day parade in new Delhi.
- President Obama addressed the [U.S.-India Business Council Summit](#) and the [people of India](#) in the Siri Fort auditorium.
- The two leaders issued a [joint strategic vision](#) for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, a [joint statement](#) to expand economic and defense cooperation, a [fact sheet](#) on clean energy cooperation, and a [joint declaration of friendship](#).



I believe America can be India’s best partner. [...] I’m here because I’m absolutely convinced that both our peoples will have more jobs and opportunity, and our nations will be more secure, and the world will be a safer and a more just place when our two democracies – the world’s largest democracy and the world’s oldest democracy – stand together.”



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