

Vision of a Free World: Biden Invites Modi for a State Visit

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May 11, 2023: **Washington:** President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a State Visit from June 21 to 24.

After becoming the Prime Minister in 2014, Modi has made more than half a dozen trips to the United States for bilateral and multilateral meetings with three American presidents, Barack Obama, Donald Trump and now Joe Biden. But this is for the first time, he has been invited for an official state visit, a privilege accorded to America's close friends and allies. The last official state visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the US was undertaken by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in November 2009. Modi's last visit to Washington was in September 2021 for attending the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit. Modi had a bilateral meeting with Biden during that visit.



The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said the State Visit offers a "valuable opportunity" for the two countries to further deepen their comprehensive and forward-looking global strategic partnership.

Note: A **State Visit** is considered a special honour by the President of USA to the Head of Government of another sovereign State. A State Visit includes a glittering state dinner, with guests in formal eveningwear. PM Modi will attend a state dinner at the White House on June 22, 2023.

"The leaders will have the opportunity to review strong bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, including technology, trade, industry, education, research, clean energy, defence, security, healthcare, and deepening people-to-people connections," it said.

The MEA said Modi and Biden will also explore ways to strengthen India-US collaboration in pluri-lateral and multilateral fora, including in the G20.

The White House said Modi's visit will affirm the deep and close partnership between the US and India and the warm bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together.

Modi is likely to meet Biden four times during the next few weeks: At Hiroshima (Japan) for the G-7 summit (May 19-21), at Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea for the Pacific Islands' leaders' summit on May 22, at Sydney, Australia for the Quad Leaders' Summit on May 24, 2023 and at Washington during his state visit to the US in June 2023.



Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister James Marape

Atul Keshap, US-India Business Council President, said, " It is entirely good and proper that the world's two greatest democracies further cement their strategic, economic, and technology convergence in these turbulent geopolitical times. The state visit will remind the world that India and America still have so much more potential to capture in our bilateral relations, reflecting the energy and talent of our demographics and our systems, which serve to empower our free peoples."

By----Dr K N Mistry