

Obama becomes first US President to be chief guest at Republic Day parade

Obama and his wife Michelle sat in a special glass enclosure along with Modi, Vice-President Hamid Ansari and other dignitaries and watched the colourful display of military contingents in their various uniforms walking past the VVIP enclosure.



IndiaToday.in

New Delhi January 26, 2015

UPDATED: January 26, 2015 11:09 IST



Barack Obama





Barack Obama with PM Modi, President Pranab Mukherjee and Defense Minister Parrikar.

Barack Obama became the first US President to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade as he reached Rajpath with First Lady Michelle Obama on a rainy Monday morning in New Delhi. His presence at the parade at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal invitation marks the latest upturn in a roller-coaster bilateral relationship between the two nations.

Obama and his wife Michelle sat in a special glass enclosure along with Modi, Vice-President Hamid Ansari and other dignitaries and watched the colourful display of military contingents in their various uniforms walking past the VVIP enclosure.

The 66th Republic Day celebrations in the national capital were dampened with light rain since Sunday night. Despite the light showers, enthusiastic people reached Rajpath to witness the parade which showcases India's military might and cultural diversity. Due to the security threat, people were not even allowed to carry umbrellas to the venue.

Earlier on Monday, Modi greeted the nation people on the Republic Day. "Greetings to everyone on Republic Day," he said. He also paid his tributes to the unknown soldier at the India Gate war memorial. After Modi laid a wreath at the eternal flame to the unknown soldier, the buglers sounded the Last Post and two minutes of silence was observed.

Modi then signed the Visitor's Book and headed back to the saluting base on Rajpath to welcome President Pranab Mukherjee and Obama. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, Minister of State for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh, and the three services chief were also present at India Gate.

On Sunday morning, Obama, who is the first US President to visit India twice, began his three-day trip to India with wife Michelle as they landed in New Delhi. Signaling warmth and determination to take ties to a higher level, Modi broke with protocol to meet and bear-hug Obama as he landed in New Delhi, then referred to him as Barack during the joint statement at Hyderabad House. It was a remarkable spectacle, given that a year ago Modi was persona non grata in Washington and was denied a visa to the United States.

Obama later praised Modi for his "legendary work ethic" and described him as tough and stylish. He praised the Indian prime minister's sartorial elegance and said he was also thinking of wearing a "Modi kurta". Speaking at the dinner banquet hosted by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Obama marvelled at how Modi, the son of a tea vendor, became prime minister of the world's largest democracy.

"Here this evening, we think back to all these years ago... your (Modi's) father selling tea at the train stations, your mother working at other's families homes to support and earn. Tonight, their son welcomes us as the prime minister of the world's largest democracy," Obama said.

The two leaders also unveiled plans to unlock billions of dollars in nuclear trade and to deepen defence ties, steps they hope will establish an enduring strategic partnership. India and the US reached an understanding on two issues that, despite a groundbreaking 2006 agreement, had stopped US companies from setting up reactors in India and had become one of the major irritants in bilateral relations.

POST YOUR COMMENT (0)

Do You Like This Story?  

f

G+

🐦

💬

🏷️ Tags :

republic day

Zynga

What is your reaction?

Power

😊 0%

😐 0%

😏 0%

😂 0%

😡 0%

🤔

happy

unmoved

amused

excited

angry

0 comments

♥️ Reco


Write a comment

Name

Email


☐ I agree with Vuukle's [Privacy Policy](#)

TALK OF THE TOWN 🔥




Tharoor: Good Hindus don't want Ram temple built by destroying another's shrine - India Today

60 comments 😡 79%




Yogi Adityanath takes A to Prayagraj after 443 y recap of History - India Today

38 comments 😄 84%




Another Dassault document gives fresh twist to Mediapart's Rafale story - India Today

24 comments 😐 44%




Ready to fight: Priya Rai MJ Akbar after minister over #MeToo - India Today

19 comments 😡 50%



Gujarati scientist says was



JNU student Najeeb Ah



denied entry to US garba event because he did not look Hindu - India Today

14 comments



50%



disappearance to remain mystery, CBI ends search Today

5 comments

[Show more articles](#)

Vuukle

0

0

0

SHARES



0%

READ THIS

Why you must change your debit and credit cards by December 31



Travel visa-free to these 7 beautiful countries on your Indian passport



iPhone XS and iPhone XS Max review: Crazy good phones at crazy high prices



2 pilots once forgot about cabin pressure like Jet Airways crew. 121 people died



RECOMMENDED

WATCH RIGHT NOW

From Bollywood to politics, Me Too firestorm is outing harassers and sparing none



Gujarat Congress leader caught on camera threatening people from UP, Bihar to leave



Actor Alok Nath accused of rape by filmmaker Vinta Nanda



All of India wants me to win an Olympic medal and that makes me nervous: Swapna Barman



Maharashtra minister questions Tanushree's sexual harassment claim, backs Nana Patekar



TOP TAKES

Kalli Purie's welcome address at Robb Report Limited Edition 2018



Major Somnath Sharma: The saviour of Kashmir



Will BJP be fourth time lucky in Madhya Pradesh?



INDIATODAY.IN



PUBLICATIONS:

Business Today

Cosmopolitan

India Today - Hindi

India Today

Mail Today

Money Today

Reader's Digest

Time

TELEVISION:

Aaj Tak

Delhi Aaj Tak

India Today TV

Tez

RADIO:

Ishq FM

EDUCATION:

India Today Education

Vasant Valley

Best Colleges India 2018

Best Universities India 2018

SYNDICATIONS:

IndiaContent

EVENTS:

Agenda Aajtak

India Today Concla

Robb Report India :

DISTRIBUTION:

Rate Card

Contact persons

Download App



Copyright © 2018 Living Media India Limited. For reprint rights: Syndications Today