



President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush are greeted by President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his wife, Gursharan Kaur, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 2.

Working Together, Making History

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George W. Bush characterized the agreements and initiatives they finalized during the President's March 1-3, 2006, state visit to India as "historic." Important steps forward in cooperation on fighting terrorism, supporting other democracies, developing clean energy and encouraging robust new farming methods are significant evidence of a new era in the relationship, one that President Bush said "is going to be good for laying the foundations of peace in this world of ours."

"Many of the areas that our cooperation now covers are essential to India's national development," said Prime Minister Singh. The ambitious agenda outlined in the five-part Joint Statement issued by the two leaders on March 2 commits their governments to work together on initiatives in agriculture, science and technology, trade, investment, health, the environment and clean energy. "When implemented, they will make a real difference to the lives of our people," the Prime Minister said during a joint press conference with President Bush at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

President Bush's program in New Delhi on March 2 also included a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan; a briefing from a group of powerful CEOs of American and Indian companies on ways to strategically improve trade and develop new types of business and industry; meetings with political leaders; a dialogue with religious repre-

sentatives; laying of a wreath at Raj Ghat; a lunch hosted by the Prime Minister, and a state dinner hosted by President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

On March 3, President Bush traveled to Hyderabad, where, he promised, the U.S. government will open its fifth consulate in India to make it easier for Indian students, entrepreneurs, experts and tourists to get visas and to facilitate interaction with American officials pursuing the broad range of new cooperative projects. One of the most important, the Agricultural Knowledge Initiative, involves American and Indian scientists, technicians, inventors, farmers and officials working together as they did in the 1960s to promote a second Green Revolution in India. During his relaxed visit to Andhra Pradesh, the President held lively exchanges with members of local women's self-help groups associated with farming and small businesses. Then he met with 400 students, teachers and young entrepreneurs, the CEOs of the future.

Back in New Delhi that evening, the President gave his farewell address at the Purana Qila (Old Fort). He dwelt on the natural partnership between India and America that began when the United States supported India's freedom struggle, and affirmed the shared foundation of both nations' commitment to fundamental rights, justice and democracy. Calling for even deeper partnerships to secure safety, economic opportunity, technological advances, health and education, the President said he had "come as a friend." —L.K.L.



"We have made history today," said Prime Minister Singh after he and President Bush announced their landmark agreement on civilian nuclear power at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on March 2. "It's not easy...to achieve this agreement. But it's a necessary agreement," said President Bush.

