

HRC DEPARTMENT STATEMENT
INDIA

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

DEPARTURE STATEMENT -- INDIA

I leave India today with deepening respect for the Indian experience and what it represents for the rest of the world. Everywhere I traveled in this great country, I met men and women committed to sustaining and strengthening India's tradition of democracy and pluralism. I witnessed the extraordinary work being done on behalf of children and women, who play such a vital role in the future of our human family. And I come away today with my faith unshaken that the Indian people are committed to building a society in which all citizens are able to participate fully in political, economic, and social life.

For many years, the United States and India have served as beacons of hope for nations and peoples starting along the path to democracy. Today, in an era of rapid change and transition, the Indian-American relationship is more important than ever before. By strengthening our friendship in the years ahead, we will advance the interests of both of our nations and help fulfill our dream of a more peaceful and prosperous global community.

Finally, let me convey my enormous gratitude to the people of India for their warm and generous hospitality. It has been a privilege to spend time in one of the most vibrant countries in the world -- and to have been so welcomed by its people. I greatly look forward to making another visit in the future.

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