

# Biden courts India's right-wing PM Modi

## Some Democrats are protesting leader's visit

**Francesca Chambers**

USA TODAY

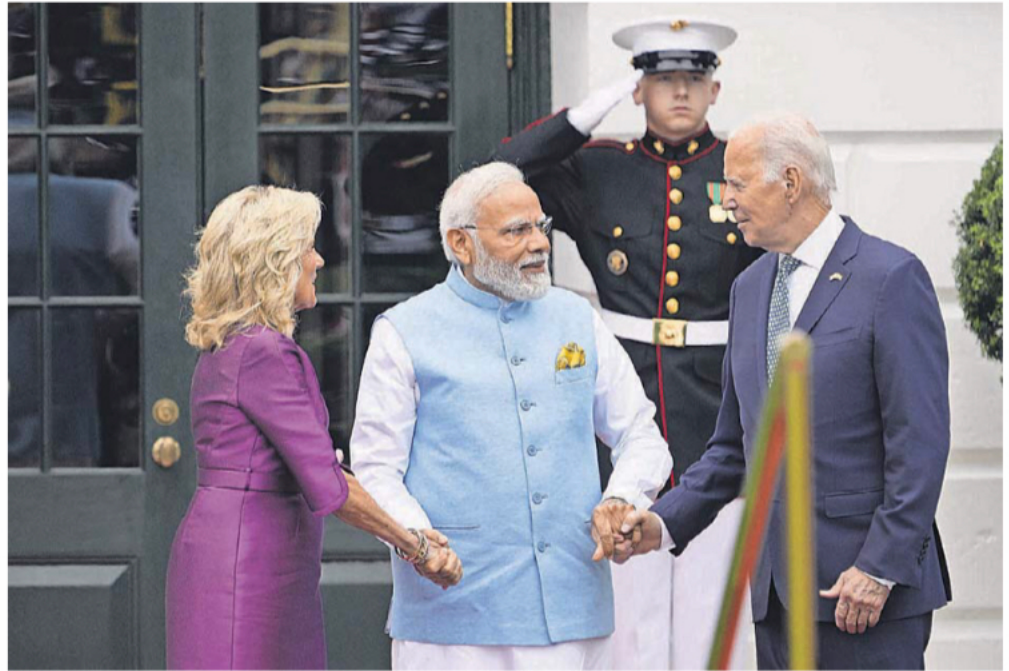
WASHINGTON – India's democracy is at a weak point. The U.S. government has accused India of engaging in significant human rights abuses.

And yet, on Thursday, the U.S. president was throwing India's prime minister a lavish state dinner.

For a politician who has made strengthening democracy a central theme of his administration, President Joe Biden's courtship of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscores the tension between his campaign principles and the realities of being president.

Biden's administration has accused India's government of participating in unlawful and arbitrary killings, restricting freedom of speech and allowing violence against religious, racial and ethnic minorities.

Organizations that track democracy have downgraded India. Freedom



House now rates it only partially free.

"It's very awkward, and embarrassing even, to have the rhetorical emphasis on democracy for the foreign policy, while at the same time this critical part-

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**President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden welcome Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the White House during a state visit Wednesday at a time when groups that track democracies have downgraded India.**

JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY