

India's Prime Minister Gifts Lab-Grown Diamond to US First Lady



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed a 7.5-carat lab-grown diamond to US First Lady Jill Biden during a state visit.

The “beautiful eco-friendly lab-grown diamond” was a gift to the wife of President Joe Biden, Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal [tweeted](#) on Thursday.

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The stone came in a papier-mâché box from the Kashmir region. It was one of several items Modi gave the Bidens at a private dinner, [The Indian Express](#) reported.

“The diamond reflects earth-mined diamonds’ chemical and optical properties,” the newspaper cited a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs as saying. “It is also eco-friendly, as eco-diversified resources like solar and wind power were used in its making.”

US presidents must hand in gifts from foreign officials to national ownership if their [value exceeds \\$480](#).

The gesture won praise from India’s Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), which has been promoting the country’s [lab-grown sector](#).

“GJEPC expresses its deep gratitude to [Modi] for presenting a 7.5-carat lab-grown diamond, grown in India with wind and solar power, as a gift to President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden,” the organization [tweeted](#).

It described the piece as a “symbol of sustainable craftsmanship and the enduring bond between our nations.”

“Today, India is the largest player in growing of CVD [chemical vapor deposition] lab-grown diamonds,” the council continued. “7.5 carats in the 75th year of India’s independence highlights India’s leadership in the LGD [lab-grown diamond] sunrise sector.”

Last year, the GJEPC [described](#) the synthetic-diamond industry as a potential sector for economic growth. That came only a few years after the [Bharat Diamond Bourse \(BDB\)](#) in Mumbai [lifted its ban](#) on man-made diamonds. The US is by far the world’s largest retail market for the product.

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CORRECTION, JUNE 27, 2023: THE LAB-GROWN DIAMOND WAS F-COLOR AND

NOT GREEN; THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S MENTION OF A
&LDQUO;GREEN&RDQUO; STONE REFERRED TO ITS PURPORTED
ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS.

MAIN IMAGE: THE LAB-GROWN DIAMOND. (PIYUSH GOYAL/TWITTER)