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Philippines President Marcos to Visit India August 4–8

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Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. will visit India from August 4 to 8, marking his first trip to the country since assuming office in June 2022. The visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines, established in November 1949.

During his stay, Marcos will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu to discuss strengthening cooperation in defense, trade, investment, maritime security, and cultural exchange. Talks will also focus on opportunities in technology, infrastructure, and education.

In recent years, the two countries have expanded engagement, particularly in maritime security and defense. The Philippines' acquisition of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system from India has highlighted growing strategic trust. Bilateral trade reached about \$3 billion in 2024, with scope for further growth in pharmaceuticals, information technology, and renewable energy.

The visit comes amid shifting Indo–Pacific geopolitics. Both nations share concerns about maritime security and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where the Philippines faces territorial disputes. Enhanced cooperation could help maintain a rules–based regional order. Under India's "Act East" policy, the Philippines is regarded as a key partner, with both nations working together in forums such as the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum.

Cultural diplomacy will also be part of the visit, with planned art exhibitions, film festivals, and tourism promotions. Commemorative events in New Delhi will mark 75 years of ties, including cultural performances and business forums aimed at deepening strategic, economic, and people–to–people connections.