

Obama says India may 'pull apart' over minority rights

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India may "pull apart" if rights of the religious and ethnic minorities are not upheld, former U.S. President Barack Obama said on Thursday.

In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, Mr. Obama expressed concern about rights of vulnerable sections in Indian society, and emphasised that the Biden administration should discuss these issues "honestly" with Prime Minister Modi.

"If the President meets with Prime Minister Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a Hindu majority India is worth mentioning. If I had a conversation with Prime Minister Modi, who I know well, part of my argument would be that if you don't protect the rights of ethnic minorities in India, there is a strong possibility that India would at some point start pulling apart," said



Barack Obama

Mr. Obama who is among the biggest supporters of Mr. Biden in the Democratic Party. Mr. Obama added, "We have seen what happens when you start getting those kinds of large internal conflicts. So that would be contrary to the interests of not only Muslim India but also Hindu India. It is important to be able to talk about these things honestly."

The remarks were in response to Ms. Amanpour's question on President Biden's policy on defence of democracy across the world.