

'Visit to Singapore, Brunei to boost ASEAN partnership'

STRENGTHENING TIES. PM Modi will meet top leaders in both countries this week

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that he will focus on deepening India's strategic partnership with Singapore in new and emerging areas of advanced manufacturing, digitalisation and sustainable development in his meetings with the top leadership in country during his visit this week.

Modi is on a three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam and Singapore to strengthen partnership with the two countries and the larger ASEAN region, per his departure statement on Tuesday.

Modi got a ceremonial reception at the airport on reaching Brunei Darussalam on Tuesday. "Looking forward to strong ties between our nations, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages. I thank Crown Prince His Royal



BUILDING BONDS. PM Narendra Modi being welcomed by members of the Indian community in Brunei on Tuesday PTI

Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah for welcoming me at the airport," Modi wrote on social media platform 'X' after his arrival.

The PM had said in his departure statement that he looked forward to his meetings with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and other esteemed members of the Royal family to advance

historical relationship that existing between the two countries to new heights.

Later in the day, Modi inaugurated the new Chancery of the High Commission of India which he said was indicative of India's stronger ties with Brunei Darussalam and will also serve the Indian diaspora.

From Brunei, the PM will

travel to Singapore on September 4 where he will hold meetings with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Modi is also scheduled to meet representatives from Singapore's business community.

"I look forward to my discussions to deepen our Strategic Partnership with Singapore, particularly in new and emerging areas of advanced manufacturing, digitalisation, and sustainable development," he said in his departure statement.

Modi pointed out that both countries were important partners in India's 'Act East Policy' and Indo-Pacific Vision. "I am confident that my visits would further strengthen our partnership with Brunei, Singapore and the larger ASEAN region," the statement underlined.