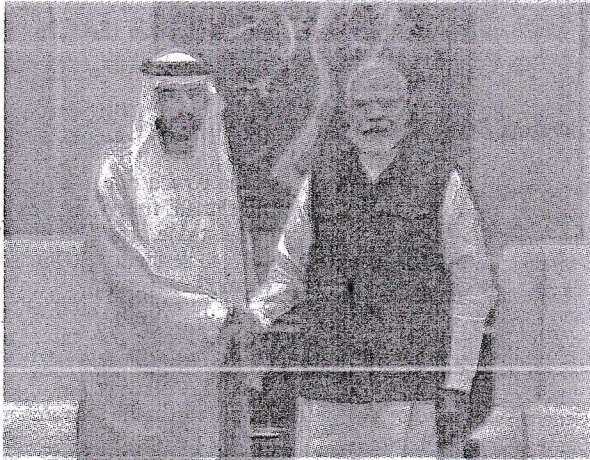


Dubai Crown Prince's visit paves the way for stronger collaboration: PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in New Delhi. PTI

Our Bureau
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Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's visit to India reaffirms the deep friendship between the two countries and signals greater cooperation going ahead, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

Al Maktoum, on a two-day official visit to India, also met Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday. He will visit Mumbai before departing on Wednesday afternoon, per the Ministry of External Affairs. The Crown Prince is the Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and also holds the defence portfolio.

"Glad to meet HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai. Dubai has played a key role in advancing the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This special visit reaffirms our deep-rooted friendship and paves the way for even stronger collaboration in the future," Modi posted on social media platform 'X' after the meet-

ing on Monday.

India and the UAE signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement in 2022, boosting trade and investment relations. The countries elevated their ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership following Modi's visit to the UAE in August 2015.

BOLSTERING TIES

The External Affairs Minister posted on 'X' that he was delighted to meet the Dubai Crown Prince at the start of his first official visit to India. "Value his positive sentiments for our wide-ranging cooperation and vibrant ties," Jaishankar added.

Singh said he had a productive meeting with Al Maktoum and the comprehensive strategic partnership with the UAE was of immense priority. "In the coming years, we are eager to work closely in areas such as defence cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, innovation and technology," the Defence Minister said.

He also said that both India and the UAE are committed to working towards peace and prosperity in the region.