



COURTESY OF INDIAN EMBASSY / AND CONSULATE GENERAL

The resilient Indian community is the bedrock of India-UAE relations

Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE, urges all community members to take part in celebrations to mark 75 glorious years of modern India

On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India, I extend my warmest greetings to all members of the Indian community in the UAE. The historical people-to-people contacts enhanced by trade connections between India and the UAE laid the strong foundation for special and friendly relations. The hardworking and dedicated Indian community has earned recognition for their significant contribution to the growth and development of the UAE. We are proud of our vibrant community and would like to reassure them that the Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate in Dubai will continue to extend all required services and assistance for their safety, well-being and progress, including in a post-pandemic scenario.

We have witnessed the collective unity, strength and empathy exhibited by the Indian community many times in the past, especially during difficult times. The support extended by individuals, community associations, business groups and religious organisations amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic to the needy and vulnerable members of the society, both within the UAE and back home in India, is particularly commendable. The exemplary resilience of the Indian community was the key to ameliorating the adverse impact of the pandemic. Indian doctors, nurses and other frontline workers rendered selfless service

and played a crucial role in fighting the pandemic worldwide, including in the UAE. The willing support extended in various forms, including donation of food kits and provisions, air tickets, teleconsultations by doctors, was inspiring and helped many people overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic to their lives and livelihoods. The world once again witnessed the true spirit of India's ancient ideology of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* or the world is one family. More recently, the Vaccine Maitri initiative of the Government of India, also supported the supply of Covid-19 vaccines to 95 countries across all continents.

The UAE government, led by its visionary leadership, has shown remarkable perseverance in handling the pandemic, including extending full support to all the residents of the UAE. The provision of free tests, quarantine facilities and other medical facilities, and even Covid-19 vaccines to all those in need is an extraordinary achievement. There is no doubt that the large Indian community is a major beneficiary of all this support.

We are aware of the difficulties being faced by many fellow Indians due to the negative impact of the pandemic. This includes people who lost their jobs in the UAE, as well as those who are unable to return to the UAE due to restricted air connectivity. We are constantly working with the UAE authorities, urging them to have the best possible solutions for

the country and our people. At the same time, we are confident that successful vaccination drive and strict Covid safety protocols enforced by the UAE government will help in gradual easing of the situation. The process of easing travel restrictions on residents that began on August 5 was a very welcome step in this regard. We are hopeful that this will be followed by greater easing of restrictions for return of all other residents too in the near future. We also anticipate that both the Indian community residing in the UAE and also Indians looking forward to travel to the UAE for Expo 2020 would further boost economic activities and business opportunities in the UAE.

The world has changed a lot since the onset of the pandemic. While we are optimistic with ongoing vaccination programmes and resumption of economic activities, it is also a fact that Covid-19 is here to stay and all of us need to adapt in various ways to stay competitive and survive in the new world. Technology, no doubt, would play an increasingly important role in allowing business continuity. Most visible of all has been the use of online platforms for education, corporate and business meetings, training sessions, seminars and even cultural activities, which is quite effective and will continue in the foreseeable future as well. In this regard, Indians must also adapt to the new requirements of business and opt for appropriate reskilling and



Indian ambassador Pavan Kapoor practising yoga with Shaikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, and other guests during the 7th International Day of Yoga celebrations in June in Abu Dhabi

upskilling to remain the most favoured workforce in the UAE. We have already launched a few initiatives for blue-collar workers in the UAE in collaboration with partners from the educational and industrial sectors, and intend to enhance such collaborations in the coming months.

The Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate in Dubai are undertaking various initiatives for the welfare of the Indian community. These include providing free advisory and legal assistance and running awareness campaigns through the Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) for distressed blue-collar workers. PBSK also organises dedicated financial awareness camps for the benefit of Indian workers. A PBSK app has been launched to bring delivery of better services closer to the community. The success of welfare measures is not possible without the support of various Indian community associations, Indian businesses and religious groups in the UAE and we appreciate the crucial support provided by all of them.

As you all know, this year, we are celebrating our 75th Independence Day. To mark 75 glorious years of modern India, the Government of India has launched a campaign called India@75 or *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*. Modern India that emerged after a long freedom struggle has achieved many milestones in its eventful journey. Let us collectively celebrate these achievements while remembering the struggle and sacrifices of our forefathers. The India@75 celebrations will be a 'Jan Utsav' or people's festival. I urge all members of the Indian community to take the lead and volunteer for various forthcoming initiatives in celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* in the UAE and make it a true celebration of the people.

Jai Hind! ■

"UAE and India are committed to raise bilateral trade to pre-Covid levels"

Both the countries are looking to facilitate investments of \$75 billion in the next few years, says **Dr Aman Puri**, Consul General of India in Dubai

How does the consulate plan to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day?

The Government of India has launched the unique India@75 – *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* – initiative. A series of cultural events and digital initiatives will be organised to celebrate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

The consulate hosts the largest Indian community of 2.6 million in Dubai and the northern emirates and we aspire to celebrate this occasion with participation from the Emirati as well as the Indian community members over the next two years. The consulate has started organising several events to mark this special occasion such as essay and quiz competitions, screening of documentaries, and art and craft exhibitions. These celebrations will extend through the India pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai that will be showcasing the rich culture and heritage of India. The pavilion will see participation from state governments, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as well as renowned personalities in the field of art, cinema, literature and fashion. A joint celebration will also be organised to mark the 50th anniversary of the UAE's National Day and 75 years of India's independence, showcasing the deep historic bond and friendship between India and the UAE.

What kind of activities have you organised in the past seven months of this year to promote UAE-India bilateral trade and relations as well as to better connect with the community amid Covid-19?

The UAE is an important partner in India's growth, and a gateway to the Middle East and North Africa region for Indian goods and services. India and the UAE are committed to raise the level of pre-Covid bilateral trade of \$60 billion (Dh220.3 billion), and facilitate investments of \$75 billion in the next few years. During the last seven months, amid the Covid-19-related restrictions, we organised an interactive session comprising leading members of the Indian business community from various sectors in Dubai. This was organised



during the visit of V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs of India, to Dubai in January. India participated at Gulfood 2021 earlier this year with the Indian Chamber of Commerce, and with support from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). Around 40 Indian MSME companies from the agro food processing sector set up their stalls and exhibited their products and services at Gulfood.

Recently, we hosted a business meet in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Dubai, and Korea International Trade Association MENA at the Indian Consulate that was attended by leading Indian and Korean entrepreneurs and business professionals in Dubai. We intend to organise more such interactive sessions with other countries in the run-up to Expo 2020 Dubai. ■

India gears up for a grand spectacle at Expo 2020

The India pavilion is conceptualised to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's independence

The façade of the pavilion is made up of 600 colourful blocks

India's preparation for Expo 2020 has moved into top gear with less than 45 days remaining for the grand inauguration on October 1, 2021. The four-storeyed India pavilion's handover is expected to be done by the first week of September 2021.

The Government of India has recently launched the official logo and the website for India pavilion.

The logo design showcases the chakra (wheel), reflecting the progressive pace at which India is growing. The logo colours have been taken from the Indian flag, where saffron symbolises strength and courage; white indicates peace and truth; and green represents fertility, growth, and auspiciousness.

The pavilion's website (Indiaexpo2020.com) provides an easy-to-access interface and features states, themes, sectors, events and the corporates participating in the India pavilion.

"India is one of the oldest civilisations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. We have carefully crafted information with interest and experience with entertainment and emotions for our visitors at India pavilion," says Pavan Kapoor, Ambassador of India to the UAE.

The India pavilion is conceptualised to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of



India's independence. The façade, which is made up of 600 colourful blocks capable of kinetic movements, symbolises the theme of "India on the move".

The four-storeyed structure is divided into two parts. The zones are identified based on 11 primary themes — Climate and Biodiversity, Space, Urban and Rural Development, Tolerance and Inclusivity, Golden Jubilee, Knowledge and Learning, Travel and Connectivity, Global Goals, Health and Wellness, Food Agriculture and Livelihoods and Water.

Dr Aman Puri, Deputy Commissioner General for India at Expo 2020 Dubai, says, "The World Expo is a global opportunity to collaborate for the post-pandemic economic revival. India is ready to showcase its business, technological, cultural, art, and

leadership strength to the world at this mega event and promote the Make in India, Digital India and the Start-Up India campaigns."

The corporate partners for India pavilion at Dubai Expo 202 include Adani Group, ITC Limited, Hinduja Group, HUL, LuLu Group International, Apollo Hospitals, HSBC, Sun Group, Aster, Conares, Daawat, Baidyanath, Kef Holdings, Allana, Malabar Gold, and Diamonds, Petrochem and Sri Sri Tattva.

India pavilion will also be hosting and co-creating leadership discussions, international trade conferences, and seminars to explore opportunities to partner with other participating nations.

At the India pavilion, the visitors will also get the chance to witness star-studded nights, multiple cultural shows, celebrations of Indian festivals and relish Indian delicacies. ■

"India is proof of the fact that unity in diversity is possible"

Kamal Vachani, Chairman of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) for Dubai and the Northern Emirates, has extended best wishes to all Indians in the UAE on the occasion of India's Independence Day.

Today, India is celebrating its 75th Independence Day. It is estimated that Indians in the UAE constitute the largest part of the population of the country. Both

countries enjoy long established political and economic relations.

Vachani says, "As India celebrates its 75th Independence Day, I wish



to congratulate all Indians and well-wishers from around the world. Like every year, this is a special day for all of us. It is a day of celebrations and reflections. India is a shining example of cultural diversity, democratic rights and economic prosperity."

"On this historic day, I sincerely hope the renewed cooperation between India and the UAE further strengthens the centuries-old ties between both countries."

Vachani says, "Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is on a fast track to claim its rightful place in the global spectrum, in terms of becoming the hottest investment destination, skill development centre, a production hub, etc."

He adds, "We proudly celebrate the achievements of the time gone by and simultaneously look ahead at the many years of growth and prosperity yet to achieve as a country. This auspicious day also provides an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by our forefathers so that we may continue to enjoy the fruits of our hard fought freedom."

"A country which is a mosaic of varied languages, religions and cultures, it has survived the test of time proving that unity in diversity is possible. I wish my great motherland and fellow citizens a very happy Independence Day."

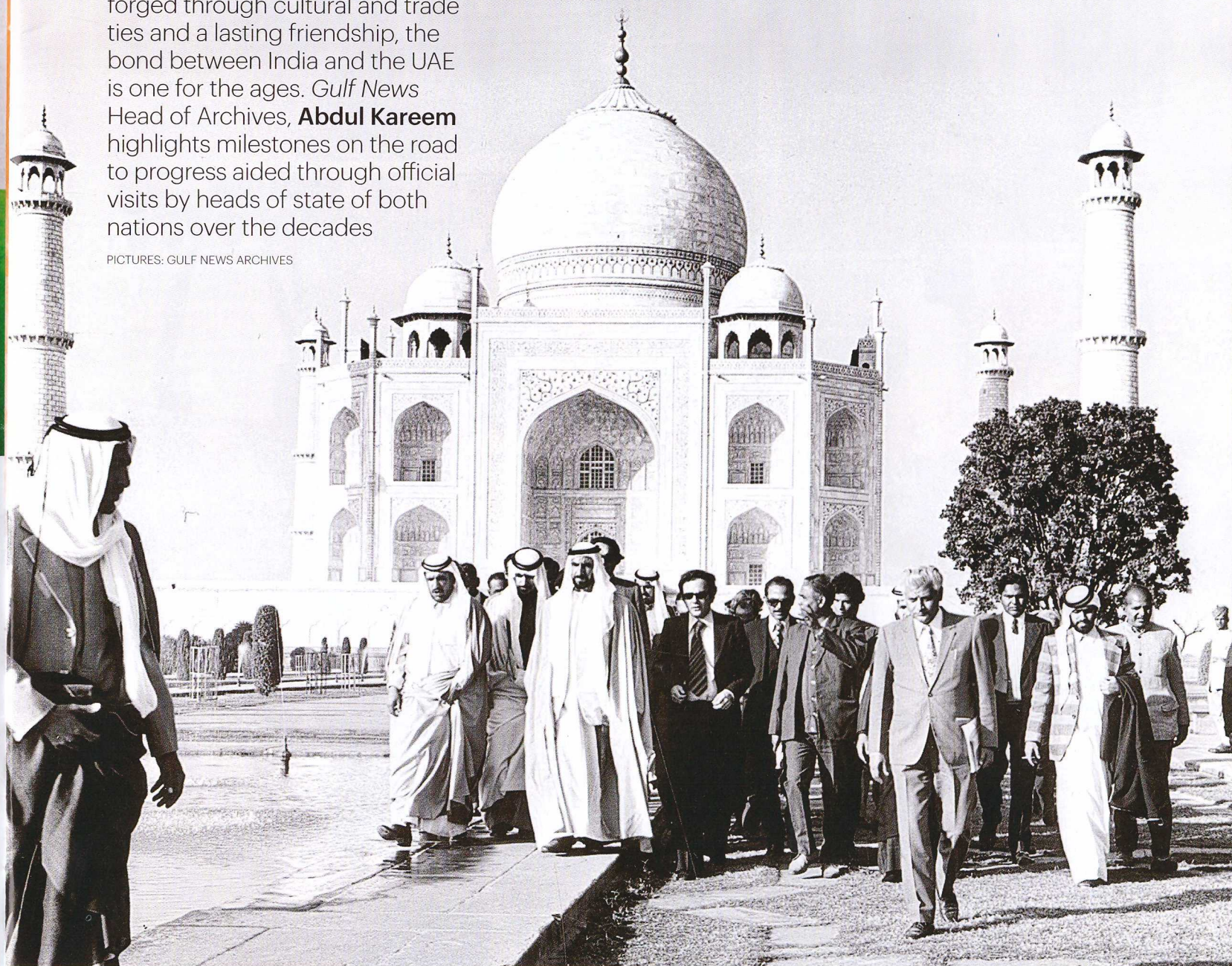
Kamal Vachani also thanks the leadership of the UAE for hosting the largest Indian diaspora.

Building on friendships

1975: UAE President His Highness Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan visits the Taj Mahal in Agra, as part of his state visit in India

Fostering a unique partnership forged through cultural and trade ties and a lasting friendship, the bond between India and the UAE is one for the ages. *Gulf News* Head of Archives, **Abdul Kareem** highlights milestones on the road to progress aided through official visits by heads of state of both nations over the decades

PICTURES: GULF NEWS ARCHIVES



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◀ **1975:** Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in New Delhi during his visit to India

▼ **1979:** Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Foreign Minister of India, seen with Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum during the former's visit to the UAE

▶ **1981:** Shaikh Rashid Bin Saeed Al Maktoum with Indira Gandhi at a banquet held in her honour at the Guest Palace in Dubai



◀ **1981:** Indira Gandhi being welcomed by Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum during her visit to Dubai. Also seen is Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Mohammad Mahdi Al Tajir



▶ **1991:** Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum during the former's visit to Dubai



▶ **2007:** His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai welcomed by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the presidential palace in New Delhi

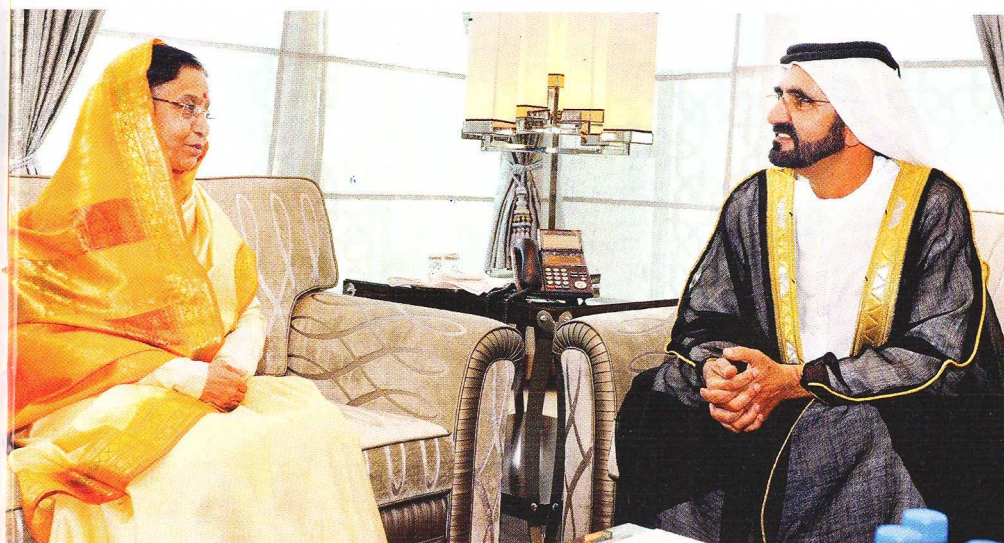


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India-UAE Ties



◀ **2010:** Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, with Indian President Pratibha Patil at the Ruler's Court in Dubai

▼ **2010:** Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, with Pratibha Patil



► **2013:** His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces greets P. Chidambaram, Minister of Finance for India, prior to a meeting at Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi



◀ **2015:** Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum hosts Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his delegation in Dubai

► **2015:** Narendra Modi along with his delegation and officials tour the Masdar City buildings in Abu Dhabi



► **2016:** Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan participates in the bell ringing ceremony marking the closing of the stock market, during his visit to the Bombay Stock Exchange, during an official visit to India. Also seen are Ashishkumar Chauhan, CEO of BSE, and Harshavardhan Neotia, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry



▲ **2016:** Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, greets Narendra Modi upon arriving at Palam Air Force Station in New Delhi, commencing an official visit to India

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▲ **2017:** Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan greets Pranab Mukherjee, then President of India during a reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan as Narendra Modi looks on

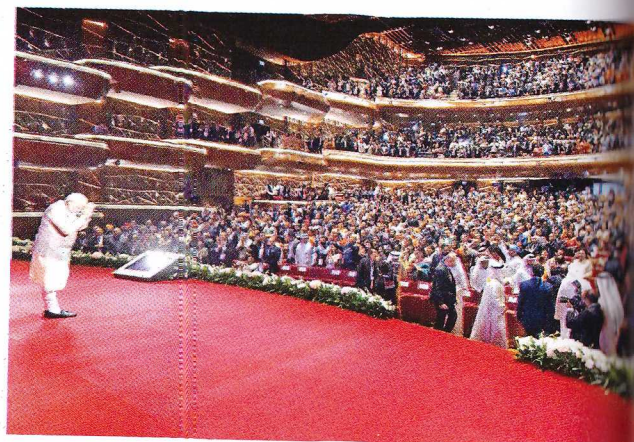


◀ **2018:** Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Indian External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi



▲ Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan with Chandrashekhar Rao, Chief Minister of the Indian state of Telangana

◀ **2018:** Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Narendra Modi at the Shaikh Zayed exhibition in Dubai



► **2018:** Narendra Modi greets the Indian community at the Dubai Opera

► **2018:** Narendra Modi addressing the World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai



◀ **2019:** Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan with Indian Foreign Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in New Delhi



▲ **2019:** Narendra Modi is conferred the Order of Zayed by Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, in recognition of his role in promoting friendship and cooperation between the two nations

► **2019:** Shaikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, with Rahul Gandhi



▲ **2019:** The first cargo of crude oil from ADNOC, for the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL), flagged off by Dr Sultan Bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of State and ADNOC Group CEO, and Dharmendra Pradhan, Indian Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, at a ceremony in Abu Dhabi



▲ **2019:** A special postal cover with images of Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Mahatma Gandhi being launched by the UAE Ambassador to India, Dr Ahmed Al Banna and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muralidharan



▲ **2019:** Shaikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance, with Pinarayi Vijayan, Kerala Chief Minister, in Abu Dhabi

◀ **2003:** His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Indian President, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, in Abu Dhabi

► **2020:** Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan meets with Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at Al Shati Palace in Abu Dhabi



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