

Press Release

Day 1 of the Visit of the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan to the United Arab Emirates

Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan is visiting the United Arab Emirates yesterday on a 3-day official visit.

Today, the Hon'ble Education Minister met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the UAE His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi. During the meeting, both Ministers exchanged views on the emerging landscape of the education sector and the opportunities for closer cooperation between India and the UAE. Both Ministers also reviewed the progress on the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi project as the IIT Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi is gearing up to start the academic operation by January next year with the first program being Master's in Energy Transition and Sustainability. They acknowledged that Master's in Energy Transition and Sustainability would be the right choice to start the academic programme of the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi as UAE is hosting COP28 later this year for which the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has extended his full support to the UAE in making COP28 a 'COP of Action'. Hon'ble Minister also thanked the UAE leadership for its generosity and policies of harmony and tolerance which had helped over 3.5 million Indians make the UAE their second home.

The Hon'ble Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also met with his UAE counterpart His Excellency Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi. Both Ministers discussed in detail the ongoing collaboration in the education sector and explored newer areas of cooperation including exchange programmes between schools in two countries and the opening of campuses of elite Indian colleges and universities in the UAE. They also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of Education which will help in streamlining the India-UAE cooperation in education sector besides facilitating collaboration in the newer areas. Education and Skills cooperation was a prominent part of the Vision Document unveiled by Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi and H.H. President Mohamed bin Zayed in February last year.

The Hon'ble Minister had a tour of the interim campus of the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi in Zayed University where he reviewed the progress made on the project with the Chairperson of Abu Dhabi Department of Education & Knowledge (ADEK) Her Excellency Sara Musallam. The Hon'ble Minister applauded the commitment and devotion of ADEK and IIT team in making this landmark project a reality. The Hon'ble Minister also visited 42 Abu Dhabi where he was briefed about the disruptive learning system of the institute.

In the evening, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with the Odiya community in Abu Dhabi. During the event attended by Indian nationals from across the UAE, the Hon'ble Minister understood from them the work they are doing in the UAE. The Minister also spoke about the growing India-UAE relationship and the importance of the role played by the Indian community in promoting this relationship.

Abu Dhabi
[01 November 2023]
