



India - UAE: Getting ties on track

[Click here](#) for India - UAE article.

\n\n

What are the new contours of partnership?

\n\n

\n

- India's interest in the UAE rests on several pillars:\n\n

\n

- trade ties of about \$50 billion,

\n

- energy and oil supplies from the world's fifth largest exporter,

\n

- the welfare of 2.6 million Indians who remit billions, and

\n

- defence and security.

\n

\n

\n

- While bilateral ties have been robust for decades, **the defence and security partnership is clearly the new driver for ties** between the two governments. The signing of the strategic partnership agreement was the highlight of the UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit.

\n

- **The contours of this partnership are now being set:** joint military exercises, joint manufacturing and purchase of equipment and spare parts from India, as well as cooperation on fighting terror.

\n

- The joint statement also contained strong words on "state-sponsored terror", that the government believes is an indication that the **UAE shares India's frustration on cross-border terrorism from Pakistan**, especially in the wake of the recent bomb blast in Kandahar, in which five UAE officials were among the victims.

\n

\n\n

What both countries need to do?

\n\n

- \n
 - The strategic partnership that India envisions with the UAE must be based on clarity and concrete measures. This should include a **crackdown on the shadowy businesses** owned by Dawood Ibrahim.
 - \n
 - Also more steps to **curb terror financing** of the Taliban and groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan; such money is often routed through expatriate remittances from the UAE.
 - \n
 - India's hopes of investment from the Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund, one of the world's largest at \$500 billion, will not be realised until New Delhi steps up efficiency at its end.
 - \n
 - That it took more than a year for the government to fully set up **the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund mechanism for the UAE funds** is a case in point.
 - \n
 - The delay resulted in the MoU for investment of a possible \$75 billion over 10 years falling through. Personalised leader-to-leader bilateral diplomacy is a great conversation-starter, but not sufficient to energise ties.

\n\n

\n\n

Category: Mains | GS - II | Bilateral Relations

\n\n

Source: The Hindu

\n



IAS PARLIAMENT
Information is Empowering
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative