GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1523
ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

INDIA-UAE RELATIONS

1523. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly opened branches of First Abu Dhabi Bank and DP World in GIFT City facilitate Indian MSME expansion into Middle Eastern and African market;
(b) whether the proposed Digital Embassies protect India's sovereign data under mutually recognised sovereignty arrangements;
(c) the detailed terms of the 10-year LNG Supply Agreement signed between HPCL and ADNOC Gas starting in 2028; and
(d) whether any progress has been made on integrating India's DigiLocker with UAE platforms to facilitate the seamless authentication of academic degrees for Indian national's, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) In the Joint Statement issued after the recent meeting between Prime Minister and His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, on 19 January 2026, the two leaders welcomed the establishment of DP World and First Abu Dhabi Bank branches in GIFT City, reinforcing its emergence as a leading international financial center. FAB's GIFT City branch will act as a bridge, connecting Indian corporates and investors to its expertise and global network.

(b) During the visit, both sides agreed to explore the possibility of establishing 'Digital Embassies' between India and UAE. Discussions between the two countries on the proposed Digital Embassies are still at a nascent stage.

(c) During the aforementioned visit, a Sales & Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Gas (ADNOC Gas), which provides a long-term Agreement towards purchase of 0.5 MMPTA LNG by HPCL from ADNOC Gas over a period of 10 years starting from 2028.

(d) Discussions are ongoing between both sides regarding integration of India's DigiLocker with UAE platforms. The proposal for integrating India's DigiLocker with UAE platforms to facilitate the seamless authentication of academic degrees for Indian national is still at discussion stage.

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