UAE HONOURS MODI WITH ITS HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the 'Order of Zayed', the UAE's highest civilian award, on Saturday in recognition of his pivotal role in building bilateral ties between the two nations.

The award was conferred on Mr. Modi by the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.

"Humbled to be conferred the 'Order of Zayed' a short while ago. More than an individual, this award is for India's cultural ethos and is dedicated to 130 crore Indians. I thank the UAE Government for this honour," Mr. Modi tweeted later.

The award has earlier been bestowed upon several world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Ahead of the Prime Minister's visit , the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement said the award, named after Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, "acquires special significance as it was awarded to Prime Minister in the year of the birth centenary of Sheikh Zayed".

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