

Saudi Arabia to invest in India's downstream oil and gas projects

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the plans while at an investor summit in Riyadh.

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Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left, with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman) is in Riyadh, where he will sign energy deals with the kingdom including a plan for Saudi Arabia to participate in India's strategic petroleum reserve [File: Adnan Abidi/Reuters]

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Indian Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) on Tuesday said [Saudi Arabia](#) will invest in downstream oil and gas projects in [India](#) as part of a strategic partnership between the two countries, a move that would also help the world's top oil exporter find a stable outlet for its crude.

Modi, who is on a two-day visit to Riyadh to participate in an investor summit, will meet King [Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud](#) and Crown Prince [Mohammed bin Salman](#) later on Tuesday.

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"From a purely buyer-seller relationship, we are now moving towards a closer strategic partnership that will include Saudi investments in downstream oil and gas projects," Modi said in an interview with the newspaper Arab News, according to a statement released by his office.

Saudi Aramco - along with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, of the [United Arab Emirates](#) - has signed a preliminary deal with Indian state-run companies for a 50 percent stake in a planned 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) mega refinery on India's west coast.

The Indian government also plans to sell its entire 53.29 percent stake in state-run refinery Bharat Petroleum Corp, at an estimated price of \$10bn.

Saudi Aramco is also eyeing a 20 percent stake in the petrochemical and refining business of Reliance Industries Limited in a multibillion-dollar deal.

During Modi's visit, India will sign energy deals with Saudi Arabia including its plan to participate in India's strategic petroleum reserve.