



# UAE-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL



## Monthly Digest of UAE - India Business Council (UIBC)

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## Visit of Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India to the UAE



A high-level delegation led by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India visited UAE from 16 to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to participate in 25<sup>th</sup> edition of Gulfood 2020. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the Indian pavilion at Gulfood on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Dubai in the presence of H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE; Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai; and a number of senior officials.

The Indian Pavilion was spread across 4,500 square meters and over 300 Indian companies showcased a diverse array of food products, including pulses, grains & cereals; beverages; meat & poultry; dairy; health & wellness brands; and fats & oils, amongst others.

The Government of India was represented at Gulfood 2020 by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Tea Board India, Coffee Board India, Coconut Board of India & Cashew Export Promotion Council.

Hon'ble Minister toured the fair and held one-on-one meetings with the UAE companies involved in agri-food business and major investors including Sharaf Group, Lulu Group, Iffco, Al Maya, and Al Ghurair Group. Based on the discussions, it was proposed to explore the possibility of setting up a fund for providing marketing support to launch Indian products in the UAE supermarkets.

During discussions with the UAE India Food security corridor project representative, Hon'ble Minister proposed that existing MOFPI supported infra may be utilised to give a head start to the project. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal emphasized on fast tracking the project and mentioned that all necessary support for grounding the project will be provided by the Ministry through Invest India.





Smt. Badal also highlighted the unique opportunities offered by India along with supportive policy environment and urged investors from across the globe and the UAE to avail benefits of the schemes of Indian Ministry of Processing Industries to set up new enterprises in India.

On the sidelines of the event, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Food Security. During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction at the existing bilateral cooperation in the field of food security, with India being one of the largest food exporters to the UAE. Both dignitaries also deliberated upon ways and means to further increase cooperation and collaboration in the sector between the two nations.

In this context, Smt. Badal and H.E. Almheiri discussed UAE investments in food corridors in India in accordance with the vision given by the senior leadership of the two countries. They both mentioned that the two sides could also exchange information in new areas such as Saline Water Agriculture. Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal highlighted the enormous potential for investments in the food processing sector in India. The UAE side stays positive on opportunities for investing in various areas of food processing in India such as cold chains, food parks, contract farming and logistics.

During the visit, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal had also addressed a business roundtable on **“Opportunities in the Food Processing sector in India”** organized by Consulate General of India, Dubai in association with PIOCCEI, UAE. Over 50 prominent business groups, traders and investors had participated in the roundtable.

In her address, Hon’ble Minister apprised the participants about the steps taken by Indian Government for ease of doing business and the investor friendly policies in food processing sector. She invited business groups to invest in food parks wherein, Government of India gives support of upto Rs 50 crore. Smt. Badal highlighted the Operation Green scheme of Government of India for integrated development of tomato, onion and potato. She also emphasized that India can become a major player in organic food, especially the states in the North East.

The participants at the business roundtable appreciated the various steps taken by Indian Government for promoting trade and investment. The discussions also resulted in some valuable suggestions such as on single window clearances for investments, standardization of certificates for food exports from India, recognition of organic products of India, support for SMEs in identifying new markets and marketing of Indian products.

The business roundtable was also attended and addressed by H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE and Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai.

Meeting of H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah with Mr Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary (Civil Aviation), GoI



**February 2020:** H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah had met Mr Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary (Civil Aviation), Government of India and his delegation.

During the meeting, H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi and Mr Kharola discussed ways of reinforcing the joint cooperation between Ras Al Khaimah and India in the Civil Aviation Sector, under the framework of the ongoing advancement of the bilateral ties between the UAE and India.

The meeting ended on a positive note and both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in Civil Aviation between the two countries by working together and focusing on finding the way forward to address issues of both nations.

## Visit of H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Defence to India



**February 2020:** H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Defence visited India to participate in Defence Expo 2020 held from 5 to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in Lucknow. The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of Defence Expo 2020 was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in the presence of Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Defence, GoI; Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Defence and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of AYUSH, GoI; Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh; and senior officials & business leaders and delegates from participating countries.

The theme of this year's expo was 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and the focus was on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'. India's biennial military exhibition aimed to showcase the potential of the country as a global defence manufacturing hub.

H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi toured the exhibition and gained knowledge about various products and services showcased by defence manufacturing companies from India and abroad.

During the expo, H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi had a meeting with Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Defence, Government of India and discussed defence cooperation between the UAE and India. In the meeting, both sides undertook a review of bilateral defence cooperation and deliberated upon measures to further enhance defence and military relations. They expressed satisfaction at various dimensions of the ongoing Defence cooperation between the two countries.

Both dignitaries exchanged views on a number of issues and latest regional and international developments of mutual concern. The meeting was also attended by senior officials from both the sides.



Participation of Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UIBC and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group at MahaBiz 2020



Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group had participated at MahaBiz 2020 held on 21 - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 in Dubai.

MahaBiz is an international business conference organised by Gulf Maharashtra Business Forum Global (GMBF Global) in association with Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA).

Shri Ramdas Athawale, Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India was the Guest of Honour at the event.

The conference was also attended by Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai.



Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, Joint Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



**February 2020:** H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, Joint Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India at the latter's office in New Delhi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations between the UAE and India and ways to strengthen co-operation. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna and Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad deliberated on the importance of working together to enhance the level of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views in regard to an array of bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

The talks were held in friendly and cooperative manner, with both sides expressing the common desire to bolster the bilateral relations.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Ms Manisha Panwar, Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Uttarakhand



**February 2020:** H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Ms Manisha Panwar, Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Uttarakhand to explore areas of cooperation in the fields of tourism & industry and in Uttarakhand Wellness Summit to be held this year.

## UAE Participation at 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Progressive Schools Conference (NPSC)



The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Progressive Schools Conference (NPSC) was held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Indian International Centre in New Delhi. The theme of the conference was ‘Winds of Change: Reshaping the Landscape of Education’.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India had participated as the Guest of Honour at the inaugural session of National Progressive Schools Conference (NPSC).

H.E. Tariq Al Gurg, Chief Executive Officer, Dubai Cares (part of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives) was the Chief Guest at the conference and shared his views on the theme ‘Towards an Equitable Society: Education for All.’ H.E. Al Gurg addressed in detail about providing quality education to children around the globe and fight the inequality in terms of caste, religion, economic status, physical ability, gender, etc. He shared that a collaborative alliance needs to be formed between the government sector as well as the private sectors to fight against the discrimination.

In her welcome address at the conference, Ms Malini Narayanan, Chairperson, NPSC and Principal, Army Public School Shankar Vihar, Delhi reiterated the motto of NPSC: Quality, Commitment and Excellence. She also informed the audience about the contribution of Dubai Care for child education around the Globe.

The occasion also marked the launch of special calendar of UN in collaboration with the NPSC and two books (which are collection of SA written by the teachers for the betterment of education).

The conference was also attended by Mr Rajiv Chandran, Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan and Mr Vineet Joshi, Director General, National Test Agency.



## Etihad Airways celebrates 15 years of flying to India



**February 2020** - Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE and member company of UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) hosted an event for frequent flyers, key trade, Government and media officials on the occasion of celebrating 15 years of flying to India.

The airline began its operations in India in September 2004 and it has grown to become its second largest market after the UAE, carrying over 18 million passengers to and from the country.

Mumbai was the first route in the country to be served by Etihad and today the city ranks highest in terms of total passengers the airline has carried over the years, with the number exceeding 3.5 million. Owing to passenger demand on this route, the airline introduced a fourth daily service to Mumbai last year.

The cities of Delhi and Cochin rank second and third, with the airline carrying over 3.2 million and 2.3 million passengers on these routes respectively over the years. Etihad has also added a fourth daily frequency on its Delhi - Abu Dhabi route, to meet high demand.

As a result of its optimised schedule of non-stop flights between the United Arab Emirates and India, appealing to greater numbers of point-to-point business and leisure passengers, Abu Dhabi is now the most popular destination for Indian travellers on the Etihad network. Today, Etihad operates 161 return flights per week between Abu Dhabi and 10 key Indian gateways of Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram, connecting each of these gateways to international destinations throughout the Middle East, Europe, North America, and Africa.

At the event, Mr Danny Barranger, Senior Vice President Global Sales, Etihad Airways shared, "Etihad Airways remains committed to its largest and busiest market, India. The UAE and India have shared strong commercial, cultural and historic relations and we will continue to honour these excellent trade and tourism ties through closer partnership with our friends in the Indian travel trade. We are proud that today Etihad Airways serves more destinations in India than any other country across its network, truly supporting the growth of air travel to and from the country."

Marking Etihad's 15 years of flying to India, Ms Neerja Bhatia, Vice President - Indian Subcontinent, Etihad Airways apprised that India plays a crucial role in Etihad Airways' growth strategy, contributing significantly to the airline's global operations and we are honoured to support demand in one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world.

The event was also attended by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India.

Meeting of H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah with H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE



**February 2020:** His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah had received His Excellency Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE.







H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi welcomed the Indian Ambassador and wished him success in strengthening the strategic relationship between the UAE and India. His Highness also praised the warm ties between the people of both countries and wished for further prosperity for all.

For his part, H.E. Pavan Kapoor thanked H.H. Sheikh Saud for the warm welcome and shared his commitment to develop a strong partnership between the UAE and India.

The UAE, and Ras Al Khaimah in particular, has developed a strong relationship with India across many sectors such as tourism and trade. The emirate welcomed 68,869 visitors from India in 2019, which represented a 10.5% rise on the previous year. In terms of trade, Ras Al Khaimah is home to more than 3,400 Indian companies operating in many fields such as manufacturing, media and information technology. Some of the major Indian companies operating in the emirate include bus and truck manufacturer Ashok Leyland; healthcare company Dabur International; and armoured vehicle maker Mahindra etc..

The meeting culminated on a positive note and both sides expressed common desire to bolster cooperation and exchanges between the two countries.

## Monthly News Wrap (February 2020)

<p><b>Visit of Indian Coast Guard Ship "Samudra Paheredar" to the UAE</b></p>	<p><b>India's Expo 2020 Dubai team to be led by former Ambassador Mr Navdeep Singh Suri</b></p>
 <p>Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Samudra Paheredar entered Mina Rashid, UAE on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 to begin its three day visit aimed to enhance interactions and cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and UAE maritime agencies. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Mr Navdeep Singh Suri, recipient of the UAE's Order of Zayed II honour and former India's Ambassador to the UAE, has assumed the responsibility of his country's Co-Chair of the Expo 2020 Dubai Committee. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<p><b>India's L&amp;T wins freight handling project from UAE's Etihad Rail</b></p>	<p><b>India's KEC to make new Dubai production facility a hub for global supply</b></p>
 <p>Etihad Rail, which manages UAE's national freight and passenger railway network, has selected Indian construction and engineering technology conglomerate Larsen &amp; Toubro (L&amp;T) to build freight handling facilities at seven locations across the UAE. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>India based power infrastructure major KEC International, through its wholly owned subsidiary KEC Towers LLC, has acquired an automated transmission tower manufacturing facility with a capacity of 50,000 tonne per annum in Dubai. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<p><b>UAE, India agree to tax exemptions for sovereign investments</b></p>	<p><b>Indian diplomatic delegation visits FNC General Secretariat</b></p>
 <p>In line with its ongoing efforts to create an ideal investment environment internationally, the UAE, in coordination with the concerned authorities in India, has announced tax exemptions for the UAE's sovereign investments in India applicable to the infrastructure sector for all sovereign investment institutions in the UAE, both federally and locally. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai along with a group of young diplomats from the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), visited the General Secretariat of the Federal National Council (FNC), and was briefed on FNC work mechanism and its legislative, supervisory and diplomatic powers. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<p><b>India's plan to build 100 new airports set to spur Gulf passenger, cargo growth</b></p>	<p><b>Air India Express to launch flights to Abu Dhabi from Trichy</b></p>
 <p>India has unveiled plans to construct 100 greenfield airports by 2024 to expand its air connectivity network within the country, aimed at boosting air passenger and cargo traffic on the international and domestic routes in the coming years. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Air India Express, the sister airline of India's national carrier Air India, is set to launch direct flights to Abu Dhabi from the south Indian city of Trichy (Tiruchirappalli) in Tamil Nadu. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<p><b>India's IndiGo launches direct flight service from Dubai to Kolkata</b></p>	<p><b>UAE tops as most popular destination for Indians</b></p>
 <p>IndiGo, India's low-cost carrier, has launched a daily direct flight between Dubai and Kolkata, India's cultural capital in the state of West Bengal. IndiGo launched the new service on Airbus 320 arriving at DXB's Terminal 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>The UAE topped the list of countries hosting Indians at 3.42 million. This is an increase from 3.1 million Indian residents at the end of 2018, showing the UAE as the most popular destination for those here seeking opportunities abroad. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>



## ABOUT US

UAE - India Business Council (UIBC) is the only Official Joint Business Chamber set up by both the Governments for promoting economic synergy between the UAE and India. UIBC was formally launched by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India during 11th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on 3rd September 2015 in New Delhi.

UIBC aims to create an inclusive bilateral trade environment between UAE and India by linking businesses from both the countries, and supporting long-term commercial partnerships for developing strategic relationships between businesses and government officials from both the countries.

UIBC acts towards promoting investment promotion and business collaborations/ JVs between UAE and Indian businesses by organizing B2B networking meetings, policy forums and investment focused events, delegations, and other facilities required to succeed. It serves to provide a voice and visibility to the various stakeholders in UAE - India economic space and work towards promoting trade and investment, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship between the UAE and India.



## OUR MISSION

- To act as a catalyst engaged in exchange of ideas intended to promote the economic synergy between the UAE and India.
- To serve as the direct link between business and government leaders of both the countries
- To work towards providing the critical first 'home-away-from-home' with a network of Government, Policy Makers, Business Leaders and Industry contacts supported by highly skilled secretariat
- Providing a voice and visibility to the various stakeholders in UAE - India economic space
- To work towards promoting trade and investment, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship between the UAE and India



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