



# UAE-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL



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

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## Visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to India



H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation visited India from 7 to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

During the visit, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah and his accompanying delegation held delegation-level talks with Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, GoI on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in New Delhi. During the meeting, the two Ministers discussed bilateral ties and ways to enhance co-operation and strengthening of diplomatic relations. They also touched upon regional and international developments and other issues of mutual interest. Both sides emphasised the importance of combating extremism and terrorism in all forms.

His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed affirmed the UAE's keenness to strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations with India, based on the strong bilateral and strategic relations between the two countries.

For his part, Dr. Jaishankar welcomed the visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah, stressing India's keenness to strengthen the relations with the UAE in light of the support and patronage of the two countries' leaders. He also lauded the UAE's leading position at the regional and international domains. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India was also present during the meeting.







H.H. Sheikh Abdullah and his accompanying delegation called on Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in New Delhi. In the meeting, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah conveyed the greetings of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President; H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai; and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, to PM Modi, who relayed his greetings to the UAE leadership, wishing the country further progress and prosperity.

The two leaders discussed cooperation ties between the UAE and India in different fields and means of advancing the bilateral relations to a higher level to realise the goals and aspirations of the two countries. H.H. Sheikh Abdullah and PM Modi also reviewed regional and international developments, and exchanged views on various matters of mutual concern.

The UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation apprised about the strategic relationship between the UAE and India, highlighting that both the nations have witnessed qualitative leaps across different domains over the past few years. His Highness also outlined UAE's vision to enhance bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit of the two countries and their peoples and also for peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

Shri Narendra Modi welcomed His Highness visit to India, expressing that the visit will produce desirable outcomes further contributing to strengthening the relations between the UAE and India. PM Modi reiterated commitment to work with the UAE leadership to take the bilateral relationship to higher levels in all spheres of cooperation, including in trade and economy, energy, tourism and people-to-people contacts. He also reaffirmed India's keenness to strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations with the UAE via bilateral partnerships that serve the development, progress and prosperity of the two nations.

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

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, GoI



**July 2019:** H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, GoI in New Delhi.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations between the UAE and India and ways to further strengthen co-operation. Dr. Albanna and Shri Muraleedharan agreed on the importance of working together to enhance the level of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views and political stances pertaining to the latest regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Shri Muraleedharan thanked the UAE's leadership and Government for honouring Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, with the "Zayed Medal," which reflects the deep ties between the UAE and India that have developed to a strategic partnership.

Shri Muraleedharan expressed his satisfaction on the discussions held during the visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. He also shared that both the nations aim to reinforce their overall bilateral cooperation and expressed his keenness to monitor the outcomes of the meetings held between H.H. Sheikh Abdullah and Indian officials.

The UAE Ambassador Dr. Albanna stressed his keenness to cooperate with Indian officials and look into the issues of mutual concern, as well as the topics raised during the meeting held between H.H. Sheikh Abdullah and his Indian counterpart.

Dr. Albanna reaffirmed the depth and importance of UAE's relationship with India and highlighted the importance of revising an aerial transport agreement to serve interest of both the nations and its people.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, JS (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI.



## Keynote Address of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India at the International Conference-cum-Awards on Civil Aviation and Cargo



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India had delivered the Keynote Address at the 12<sup>th</sup> International conference cum awards on Civil Aviation and Cargo held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in New Delhi. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Civil Aviation, Housing & Urban Development was the Chief Guest of the event.

In his keynote address, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna stressed upon the need to see how both countries can collaborate, cooperate and expand the industry and become partners in growth of the aviation sector. He further added, "The vision of our leadership with our plans, end goals will make us reach to the maximum relationship in all sectors, including airline as we are trying to grow people to people connections."

While addressing the participants, Hon'ble Minister Shri Puri had shared that Indian Aviation sector is witnessing rapidly increasing demand and it is projected that air passenger traffic by 2040 would increase nearly by five times.

Hon'ble Minister also gave away the awards to the winners nominated under various categories. Some of the winners were Airbus, AAI Cargo, Bird Academy, Air India Express, Spice Jet, Frankfinn.



## UAE-India Defence Cooperation



**July 2019:** As part of India's endeavour to outreach to the Middle East in the field of defence cooperation, a delegation from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) visited India and had undergone training at Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.

As part of the programme, the contingent from the UAE, comprising of 20 soldiers reached IMA, Dehradun on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 for seven weeks training starting from 18<sup>th</sup> July.

The training will involve various aspects pertaining to 'Drill' which is the bedrock of discipline in the Armed Forces. The Indian Army has been facilitating this kind of military training engagements, for a large number of militaries of friendly foreign nations in the past. However, this is the first time that such kind of training has been organized for the UAE officers at IMA.

A communique from the IMA said, "The interaction between counterparts would go on a long way in enhancing the relations between the UAE and India." It is pertinent to mention that for the first time a military contingent of UAE had participated in the India's Republic Day parade in 2017.

The UAE Defence delegation had also met H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India and had discussed bilateral relations related to the development of technological & defence products.

H.E. Dr. Albanna had also received a delegation of officers of the India's National Defence College prior to their visit to the UAE and briefed them about strong relation between the two countries and areas of cooperation in the defence sector.





## Launch of 'India-UAE Bridge' initiative by DP World



**July 2019:** DP World UAE Region has launched, 'The India-UAE Bridge', a major initiative aimed at attracting Indian trade and investments to its flagship Jebel Ali Port and Jebel Ali Free Zone (JAFZA) by offering end-to-end solutions to companies and entrepreneurs.

Under the initiative, JAFZA is offering end-to-end solutions to support investors through value propositions such as the integration of DP World's assets in both countries, easing access to markets beyond the company's network connectivity and global portfolio. The initiative will also serve as a platform for talented Indians looking to share their ideas and businesses to markets in the Middle East and further.

The announcement was made at India-UAE Bridge launch function held in Dubai that was addressed by key dignitaries including H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE; Mr Mohammed Al Muallem, CEO and Managing Director, DP World, UAE Region; DP World officials; and other business leaders.

Addressing the participants, H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri said, "The India-UAE Bridge is a win-win for both sides. India is now the fifth largest economy in the world and one of the fastest growing major economies. During the current year, India is expected to add almost USD 200 billion to global economic growth."

He further added that DP World already has substantial investments in India and Indian companies account for a large share of total investments into JAFZA. With their advanced infrastructure and logistics capabilities, DP World and JAFZA are ideally positioned to become key partners in India's growth story. He expects that the proposed Bridge could become a significant element in the UAE-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Mr Mohammed Al Muallem said, "Under the India-UAE Bridge, that will create synergies between DP World (UAE Region) and India and the ports & logistics capabilities in both the countries, we will be able to offer integrated supply chain solutions to businesses through our unique end-to-end solutions."

Mr Muallem highlighted the synergies that exist in DP World's portfolio across India and the UAE, and the integrated solutions ranging from port-centric logistics, inland logistics, freight, and transport. He further added that Governments of both the nations seek to ease trade integration capabilities of global trade enabler DP World's portfolio of over 150 operations in over 40 countries across six continents through the India-UAE Bridge.

## Ground Breaking Ceremony of UP Investor's Summit



The second Ground Breaking Ceremony of UP Investor's Summit was held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Lucknow. The event was inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs, GoI. Hon'ble Minister laid the foundation stone of over 250 projects worth Rs. 65,000 crores at the event. The event was also addressed by a number of dignitaries including Shri Yogi Adityanath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh; Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International; Mr N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons; Mr Gautam Adani, Chairman, Adani Group; etc.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shah highlighted the proactive steps taken by the Indian Government for enhancing 'Ease of Doing Business' that has led to significant increase in FDI. Within last five years, India has climbed up from 142 to 77 on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings, he added.

Shri Amit Shah congratulated the UP Government, under the leadership of Shri Yogi Adityanath, for working at an amazing pace to materialize the proposed investments during the first ground breaking ceremony inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi last year. The Home Minister assured the investors that not only the state government but the Indian Government is also committed to see all investments in the state fructify on the ground. Within next 5 years UP will be on the top in ease of doing business rankings and socio-economic development profile among the states in India.

While addressing the participants, Shri Yogi Adityanath thanked PM Shri Modi for laying down the vision of developing India into a USD 5 trillion economy. Hon'ble Chief Minister assured the global investors that the UP Government would facilitate ease of doing business and security of investment to realize PM's vision.

At the event, Mr Yusuff Ali shared that around 70 percent of the civil work of the Lulu Mall in Lucknow is complete. The Lulu's Lucknow mall would be the largest in North India, he added. Apart from a food processing plant in UP, Mr Yusuff Ali said that the company also plans to set up a shopping mall in Sahibabad in Uttar Pradesh. The company had earlier announced plans for two more shopping malls at Varanasi and Noida in Uttar Pradesh. Mr Yusuff Ali also acknowledged the support of the state for these projects and assured full cooperation for investing in Uttar Pradesh in a big way.















## Monthly News Wrap (July 2019)

<b>'India-UAE Bridge' expands trade and investment ties</b>		<b>DMCC partnered with DED to introduce dual licensing scheme</b>	
	The trade and investment flow between the United Arab Emirates and India are poised to expand rapidly with the launch of a major initiative by DP World, UAE Region. <a href="#">Read More</a>		Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) have signed a MoU with the Department of Economic Development (DED) to collaborate on the licencing of companies in Dubai allowing them to operate within the free zone and onshore. <a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>UAE approves sectors eligible for 100% foreign ownership</b>		<b>UAE's Ministry of Economy cancels fees for 102 services</b>	
	The UAE will allow up to 100% foreign ownership to a total of 122 economic activities operating across 13 sectors to support the growth environment and to reaffirm UAE's position on the global arena as a hub for investment. <a href="#">Read More</a>		The UAE Ministry of Economy has cancelled fees on more than 100 Government services and reduced the charges for others as the authorities look to provide a boost to the business community by lowering the cost of doing business. <a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>UAE to allow 100% foreign ownership to Maritime businesses</b>		<b>UAE fastest growing e-commerce market in MENA region</b>	
	H.E. Abdullah Al Nuaimi, UAE Minister for Infrastructure Development said that the UAE is preparing a draft law to allow foreigners to own up to 100% of businesses in the maritime industry in accordance with specific criteria. <a href="#">Read More</a>		The UAE has retained its position as the most advanced e-commerce market in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with e-commerce transactions in the country estimated to hit AED 59 billion in 2019, according to a joint study by Dubai Economy and digital payment solutions leader, Visa. <a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>PSP investments ties up with ADIA and NIIF to invest in GVK Airport Holdings Ltd</b>		<b>Abu Dhabi firm invests in Indian online grocery start-up</b>	
	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has partnered with Canada's Public Sector Pension Investment Board (PSP Investments) to buy 49% of GVK Airport Holdings Ltd for about Rs 6,000 crore. <a href="#">Read More</a>		Indian online grocery start-up, Grofers has received investment of USD 10 million from a unit of Abu Dhabi Capital Group (ADCG), further evidence of the growing appetite by Middle East investors to fund Indian start-ups and e-commerce companies. <a href="#">Read More</a>
<b>Indian Rupee now accepted at Dubai Duty Free shops</b>		<b>India's Oyo launches Capital O hotels in the UAE</b>	
	Starting July 1, all Dubai Duty Free stores began accepting the Indian rupee for financial transactions. The Indian Rupee is the 16 <sup>th</sup> foreign currency to be accepted at Dubai Duty Free. <a href="#">Read More</a>		India-based global hospitality chain, Oyo Hotels & Homes, announced the launch of its premium offering for business travellers 'Capital O' in the UAE market. <a href="#">Read More</a>

## Monthly News Wrap (July 2019)

<h3>Dubai's Empire Marine plans Indian expansion</h3>	<h3>DIFC Mission to India drives Mutual Collaboration</h3>
 <p>Dubai based boat, yacht and marine products manufacturer and distributor, Empire Marine International has entered the Indian market, by signing a Joint Venture (JV) deal with Kerala-based Greenix. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and the Govt. of Maharashtra signed a MoU to mutually support FinTech start-ups based in their respective markets, whilst facilitating the development of their business ecosystems through collaboration and the sharing of resources. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<h3>India's Ola is now backed by investors from Dubai</h3>	<h3>India's Samana Group set to launch first school in Gulf region</h3>
 <p>India based ride-hailing platform Ola Cabs has received investment in the latest round of fundraising from Dubai based start-up investment firm Jabbar Internet Group. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Kerala based hospitality-to-retail group Samana Global Business Solutions has partnered with Indian academic institution Sathbhavana World School to open a K-12 school in Fujairah, its first school in the Gulf region. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<h3>Abu Dhabi media hub teams up with Bollywood star to spot movie talent</h3>	<h3>Indian Pavilion to be a permanent showcase for the Country in Dubai</h3>
 <p>TwoFour54 and Suniel Shetty's firm FTC Talent Media &amp; Entertainment, a Content Production and Talent Placement Company, have signed an agreement to work together to nurture young talent within Abu Dhabi's rapidly growing film industry. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Indian Minister of Commerce &amp; Industry and Railways told in a meeting held recently that although the expo ends after 6 months, the India Pavilion must continue to function as a showcase in Dubai Expo 2020. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<h3>Indian airlines to add more flights to and from UAE</h3>	<h3>India's Renewable Energy sector received USD 1.5 billion FDI in FY19</h3>
 <p>India's national carriers Air India (AI), SpiceJet and GoAir have confirmed to increase their frequencies and introduce new routes between Dubai and a number of Indian cities. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Shri RK Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Power, GOI, shared that the India's renewable energy sector received USD 1.5 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) in FY19 which is 20.1% higher than the previous fiscal year. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>
<h3>Dubai set to reinforce its status as a hub for SME growth</h3>	<h3>Dubai in top 5 global international shipping centres</h3>
 <p>With Dubai's economy entering a new phase of development and the government launching initiatives to simplify and reduce the cost of doing business, the emirate is set to become an even more productive base for small and medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). <a href="#">Read More</a></p>	 <p>Dubai has been ranked fifth in the International Shipping Centre Development Index (ISCDI) for the second consecutive year as the emirate continues to shine on the global maritime map. <a href="#">Read More</a></p>



## Major Upcoming Events

08-12 August. 2019		<b>India International Jewellery Show (IIJS), Mumbai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
29-31 August. 2019		<b>Annapoorna ANUFOOD, Mumbai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
10-11 September. 2019		<b>Future Manufacturing and Trade Summit, Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
18-20 September. 2019		<b>Renewable Energy India Expo, Delhi NCR</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
22-26 September. 2019		<b>UAE Maritime Week, Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
23-25 September. 2019		<b>India Tourism Mart, New Delhi</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
06-10 October. 2019		<b>GITEX Technology Week, Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
14-16 October. 2019		<b>India Mobile Congress, New Delhi</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
29-31 October. 2019		<b>Gulfood Manufacturing, Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
01-04 November. 2019		<b>World Food India, New Delhi</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
07-08 November. 2019		<b>Rising Himachal - Global Investors' Meet, Dharamshala</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
11-14 November. 2019		<b>ADIPEC, Abu Dhabi</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
17-21 November. 2019		<b>Dubai Airshow</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
25-28 November. 2019		<b>The Big 5, Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
26-28 November. 2019		<b>CPHI India, Delhi NCR</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
09-11 December. 2019		<b>SIAL Middle East, Abu Dhabi</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
27-30 January. 2020		<b>Arab Health, Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>



## 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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