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



October 2018: H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Defence had visited India at the invitation of Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Defence, Government of India.

During the visit, H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi had met Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman on 16th October 2018 in New Delhi and discussed defence cooperation between the UAE and India. In their meeting, the Ministers undertook a review of bilateral defence cooperation and deliberated upon measures to further intensify cooperation channels. They recognized that deeper bilateral defence cooperation has been emphasized by the leadership of both countries as a central element in the expanded UAE-India Strategic Partnership. They discussed an array of bilateral and multilateral issues of common concern.

Both the Ministers have also deliberated on a range of defence cooperation issues and agreed upon priority areas for cooperation including enhanced military to military exchanges, training, military medicine and defence industry tie ups.

H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi re-affirmed the strong ties between the UAE and India, and expressed his hope to strengthen them. For her part, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman welcomed the visit of the UAE Minister of State for Defence and praised the strong relations between the UAE and India. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both sides.

During the visit, H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bawardi also visited Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and Aircraft & Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) at Bengaluru.





October 2018: H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Cabinet Member & Minister of State and CEO, ADNOC Group visited India to participate in Energy Leader's Roundtable chaired by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The energy roundtable, held in New Delhi, was attended by Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, GoI; Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GoI; H.E. Khalid Al Falih, Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of Saudi Aramco; H.E. Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, Secretary General, OPEC; along with global CEOs and experts from the Oil and Gas sector.

Interacting with the global leaders of the energy sector, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the significant positioning of India in the oil and gas market. Prime Minister Modi made a strong case for a partnership between the producers and consumers, in the oil market, as it exists in other markets. This will help stabilise the global economy which is on path of recovery. PM Modi highlighted economic challenges, including serious resource crunch, faced by oil consuming countries due to rising crude oil prices. He suggested that cooperation of the oil producing countries would be very critical to bridge this gap. Prime Minister also spoke about the various policy initiatives and developmental measures undertaken by his Government in the sector.

In his address, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber conveyed the greetings of the UAE's leadership, and underlined the importance of strategic relationship between the UAE and India. He also reaffirmed the close and longstanding political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries. He also expressed UAE leadership's wish to strengthen mutual ties, particularly in the Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Sectors.

Dr. Al Jaber said, "The UAE and India have long-enjoyed strong bonds of friendship, based on cultural, political and trading links between our two nations. This is especially true in the energy sector, where the relationship has advanced beyond a buyer-seller dynamic to that of strategic energy security cooperation."

"Energy cooperation is an important aspect of the UAE's relations with India. We are keen to expand and deepen that relationship and believe there are mutually beneficial partnership and co-investment opportunities across our Upstream and Downstream value chains. ADNOC is ready to work with its existing and potential new partners to meet the growing demand for energy and petrochemical products in India," he added.





H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber also participated in the CERAWEEK 2nd India Energy Forum held from 14th to 16th October 2018 in New Delhi, where he delivered a speech highlighting the key role UAE will play in providing energy that will drive India's economic expansion over the next two decades. India's energy demand is set to grow by 165% – more than six times the global average and triple the rate of growth projected throughout non-OECD countries.

While addressing the forum, Dr. Al Jaber noted, "India's energy security is a top priority for the UAE and ADNOC. As ADNOC continues to explore opportunities internationally, we look forward to deepening our ties with Indian energy partners across the entire crude, refining, petrochemical and derivatives value chain,"

"In addition, we are keen to invite Indian companies into our ambitious downstream investment plans within the UAE. There are multiple opportunities to join us in partnerships that will generate attractive financial returns for strategic partners, while delivering long-lasting economic benefits for the UAE," he continued.

Dr. Al Jaber said that "ADNOC has a strong track record of energy cooperation with India and looks forward to continuing to play a central role as a trusted partner with India, so that together both can optimize the opportunities that lie ahead."

As an example of the growing energy links between the UAE and India, he highlighted the June agreement with Saudi Aramco, Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum, making ADNOC a strategic partner in the Ratnagiri refining and petrochemicals complex. ADNOC will be a key supplier of crude to the 1.2 million barrels per day refinery, which will plug directly into a plant with a capacity of 18 million tons of higher value petrochemical products destined for India's high growth market.

Other examples of energy cooperation between UAE and India, the supply of six million barrels of ADNOC crude to India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to fortify India's energy security as well as the ONGC Videsh-led consortium participation in Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum offshore concession, the first time Indian oil and gas companies have been awarded a stake in Abu Dhabi's Upstream business.

In his remarks, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said, " India cannot work in isolation, as from a global perspective, global market shifts, technological disruptions, financial markets & paper trading, and possible disruption in the form of energy transition are shaping the future of energy security. He said that any action on energy must take into account the global consensus achieved by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the "Paris Agreement" of 2015 and decisions of the G20 Leaders' meeting in Hamburg in 2017 that regard energy security as one of the guiding principles for energy transition."





The sixth meeting of the UAE - India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments was held on 15th October 2018 in Mumbai to review the progress being made in addressing the agreed matters of the previous meeting held in January 2018 in Abu Dhabi and to discuss on a number of new key issues of mutual importance.

The meeting was co-chaired by H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court and Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India. A number of senior officials from both the countries were also present during the meeting.

In the meeting, both sides apprised the positive outcomes achieved by the Joint Task Force till date, expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral trade and investment between the two countries, and agreed upon the need to further explore ways to facilitate investments in key Indian and UAE sectors with potential for economic growth.

While discussing the future road map, the two sides deliberated on opportunities for cooperation in numerous potential investment projects in India including infrastructure corridor projects; highways sector; Sagar Mala projects; and Greenfield Airports. Both dignitaries and their respective delegation members also deliberated on UAE-India Agro exports potential and projects in food processing sector.

During the meeting, specific in-depth discussions were held on the opportunities for cooperation and investment in the railway sectors of both countries where Etihad Rail, the developer and operator of the UAE's national railway, is exploring areas of strategic partnership with Indian counterparts. The two sides also considered opportunities in India's logistics sector.

Other key points of discussion at the meeting included the current constraints experienced by some UAE institutional investors in India, UAE request for additional airline capacity entitlements and points of call in India, and efforts to expedite the resolution of the outstanding issues experienced by certain UAE companies in India. In this context, both sides recognised the importance of resolving these issues for the continued growth of broader economic relations, and agreed to convene direct consultations between their respective parties to discuss and resolve these issues in a timely and mutually satisfactory manner.

The two sides expressed satisfaction on the ongoing strong engagements in the hydro carbon sector. The UAE side welcomed the proposal of UAE's participation in Padur Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility. Agreeing to the idea of import of Urea and Sulphur, it was proposed that both sides would work for long term supply contract. The UAE side responded positively to Indian suggestion to increase short-term and long-term capital flows into India.



Following the meeting, a workshop was organised where investment opportunities in the UAE and India were presented by both the sides. This workshop also included a briefing from the Abu Dhabi Investment Office highlighting its vision and mission to position Abu Dhabi as an investment destination and attract investment through robust partnerships in order to achieve further growth and diversification in knowledge sectors. Other presentations were also made from Indian Government entities highlighting investment opportunities in the infrastructure and manufacturing sectors in India.

In his address, H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force said that, "Over recent years, the Joint Task Force has performed an important role in facilitating dialogue between the UAE and India in respect of bilateral economic and investment cooperation. Through this discourse, both sides have built a deeper understanding of each other's goals and objectives, leading to progress in a number of key areas. The spirit of collaboration demonstrated till date by both sides has been promising and provides a foundation for even greater cooperation and partnership as new and emerging priorities come into focus".

He further added that "From the UAE side, the knowledge we have gained over the years has enabled us to target our infrastructure investments in areas that align more closely to the Indian Government's most pressing priorities. These efforts continue unabated and I see considerable opportunities for the UAE and Indian companies to partner on projects in key growth areas, such as the railway sector, with potential for strong financial returns. We look forward to continue our strategic dialogue to achieve ever-closer economic cooperation between the UAE and India and, ultimately, to realise the full potential of our strategic relationship."

While addressing the HLTF meeting, Shri Suresh Prabhu said that "The discussions held in the meeting will open new and bigger investment opportunities from the UAE to India. This platform has enabled to resolve a number of outstanding issues faced by investors in both the countries. We look forward to deeper engagement between India and the UAE in the coming years".

He further added that, "The impact of the measures taken by the Indian Government has resulted in record FDI inflows of over USD 61.9 billion in 2018 and an impressive jump of 30 places in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business rankings. We welcome the proposals that we have received from DP World in diverse sectors including ICDs and logistics parks, Sagar Mala Projects, Special Economic Zones and development of Cruise Terminals. We also welcome the vision of EMAAR on UAE-India Food Partnership Programme and their proposals for Mega Food City in Kutch; Food City in Pawarkheda; Mega Food City in Aurangabad; Deep Sea Fishing Harbor in Mangrol; Logistics and Warehouse in Itarsi; Fruits & Vegetables Hub in Nashik and Warehousing Hub in Bhiwandi. These are poised to transform the UAE-India investment relationship."

In order to facilitate investments and resolve issues relating to the UAE Investments in India, a special UAE desk 'UAE PLUS' was decided to establish in Invest India. Also, it was decided to establish a Fast Track Mechanism at the level of Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), GoI and Ambassador of UAE to India to continuously monitor and resolve bilateral issues.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP, Government of India



October 2018: In the sixth UAE-India High Level Task force Meeting held on 15th October 2018 in Mumbai, it was mutually decided to create a Fast Track Committee between the UAE and India at the level of Secretary, DIPP, Gol and UAE Ambassador to India, to continuously monitor and resolve issues relating to UAE investments in India.

The first meeting of the Fast Track Committee was held between H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India and Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India on 23rd October 2018 to review the progress being made in addressing the issues discussed earlier and to elaborate on a number of new key issues of mutual importance.

In the meeting, they discussed in detail regarding three key subjects that needs utmost attention i.e. Air Service Agreement, UAE-India Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA), and UAE-India Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

Other key points of discussion at the meeting included wide-ranging issues experienced by certain UAE companies and the resolution for the same. In this context, both sides recognized the importance of resolving these issues for further strengthening bilateral trade relations and pave the way for continued strategic dialogue.

Dr. Ahmed Albanna also discussed regarding expediting the resolution of current outstanding issues associated with existing UAE investments in India, including those of Etisalat, Emaar and DP World. He further discussed wide-ranging matters of mutual interest including the identification of priority sectors of engagement for possible investments in the two countries.

The meeting culminated on a positive note with both sides agreeing to work together and represent respective countries to explore investment opportunities and take advantage of the huge market access and relaxed policy framework. They also noted the positive outcomes achieved by the Joint Task Force till date and agreed upon the need to further explore ways to facilitate investment in key Indian and UAE sectors with potential for economic growth.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India.



October 2018: Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala had visited UAE to seek support of the expatriate community in rebuilding the flood-hit state. During his four-day visit, Kerala Chief Minister had presented the reconstruction plans to business and community leaders in a series of meetings titled "Together with Kerala" in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Ruler's Representative in the Dhafra Region, and Chairman, Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) received Kerala CM and his accompanying delegation at Al Nakheel Palace in Abu Dhabi. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the means of strengthening them and exchanged points of view for many regional and international issues of common interest.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan affirmed the UAE's interest in continuing to consolidate bilateral relations and developing cooperation in all fields with India, which brings goodness to the peoples of both brotherly countries. H.H. said that the UAE is committed to constantly lead in the field of humanitarian work and offer assistance to the needy, especially in the emergencies like Kerala floods while affirming that this care is inspired by the vision of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. H.H. Sheikh Hamdan assured that the ERC will provide all possible support and assistance to Kerala.

Shri Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his thanks and appreciation to the UAE leadership and people of the Emirate for their stance and interaction in terms of relief towards the crisis the state faced during the floods. He praised the humanitarian and developmental efforts which the ERC undertakes in different areas.

The Kerala Chief Minister had a meeting with H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance in his Palace, where he briefed the latter regarding his Government's various initiatives to rebuild Kerala. H.H. Sheikh Nahyan highlighted the distinguished relations between the two leaderships and Governments, and emphasized the keenness of the UAE to develop relations with Kerala in various fields. The Chief Minister had also met H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman - Board of Trustees, Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation during the visit.

Shri Vijayan addressed a gathering of 2,500 people at the India Social and Cultural Centre in Abu Dhabi where H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Tolerance was the Chief Guest of the event.

In his meetings with Indian expatriate community, Shri Vijayan urged UAE based businessmen and NRIs to invest in Kerala, citing the ease of doing business in the state. He shared that Kerala is an investment-friendly state, offering single-window clearances and guaranteed approval to businesses. Organizations facing any issues can directly approach the Chief Minister's office or the Chief Minister, if need be.

Indian business leaders including Mr M.A. Yusuf Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group; Dr B.R. Shetty, Founder and Chairman, NMC Healthcare; Dr Azad Moopen, Chairman, Aster DM Healthcare; and Mr Ram Buxani, Chairman, ITL Cosmos Group, etc. have pledged support and exhorted others to respond to the Chief Minister's call.



October 2018: A high-level delegation from the UAE, led by H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, visited India to attend the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi.

The ISA First Assembly was co-hosted by India and France and it emphasized the importance of deploying solar energy solutions globally to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The event was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in the presence of Mr Antonio Guterres, Secretary General, United Nations (UN).

In his address, Dr. Thani highlighted India's important role in forging new alliances to accelerate international deployment of solar energy. He also praised the efforts made by France in recent years to mobilise global endeavors to address the issue of climate change, and its integral role in signing the historic Paris Agreement.

Dr. Thani while addressing the Assembly said that, "The UAE has a decade long history in the field of renewable energy that dates back to the establishment of Masdar, our flagship renewable energy company, in 2006. Subsequently, in 2009, the country became the host of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the first international organisation dedicated to promote renewable energy which has been playing a significant role in facilitating renewable energy deployment around the world."

The UAE Minister noted that technological advancements and public-private partnerships have greatly contributed to driving costs down, making renewables among the most viable and cost-effective energy options available. Solar energy is particularly attractive to the UAE, given the abundant land and solar resources in the country.

On the sidelines of the ISA First Assembly, Dr. Al Zeyoudi had met Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Government of India to further explore opportunities for collaboration in the power sector. He also met Mr Upendra Tripathy and extended best wishes for his success, as the first Director-General of ISA, in promoting solar energy across the globe.

3rd UAE-India Consular Committee Meeting



The third UAE-India Consular Committee meeting was held on 29th October 2018 in New Delhi to review cooperation strategies. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Mansour Abdel Kareem Al Faheem, Advisor (Consular and Proceeds Development Affairs) to the UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Mr Manpreet Vohra, Additional Secretary (CPV & CT), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

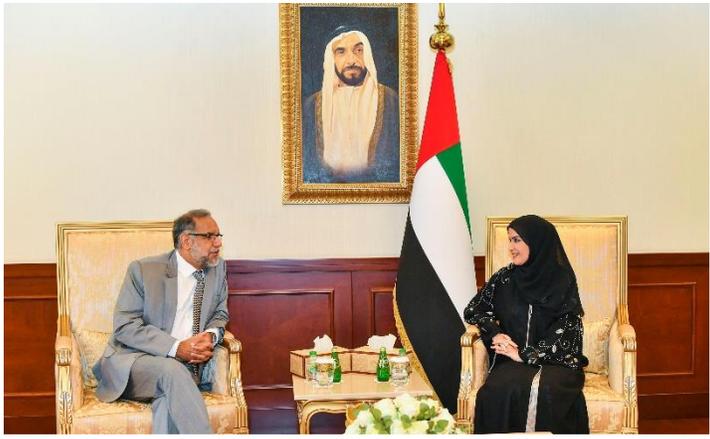
During the meeting, Mr Al Faheem conveyed the greetings of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and their statements praising the deep consular ties between the two countries, noting the recent signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), on the mutual exemption of pre-entry visa for holders of diplomatic and private passports.

Mr Al Faheem said that the Emirati-Indian bilateral ties, especially in consular affairs, in future will witness many achievements in terms of serving the citizens of both nations. He further mentioned that the exchange of ideas and information will help in advancing joint consular action between the two countries. He added that India is a leading destination for Emirati travelers, supported by the large number of Emirati citizens who visit the country on an annual basis.

Mr Manpreet Vohra conveyed the greetings of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India and praised the services provided to Indian citizens in the UAE. He further added that the UAE is a preferred destination of Indians for tourism, and trade & investments. He expressed his hope that both sides can further enhance consular ties and cooperation in coming years.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India; senior officials from the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the UAE Ministry of Interior, the UAE Embassy in New Delhi, and their Indian counterparts.

Meeting of H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE with H.E. Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, Chairperson and Speaker, UAE Federal National Council (FNC)



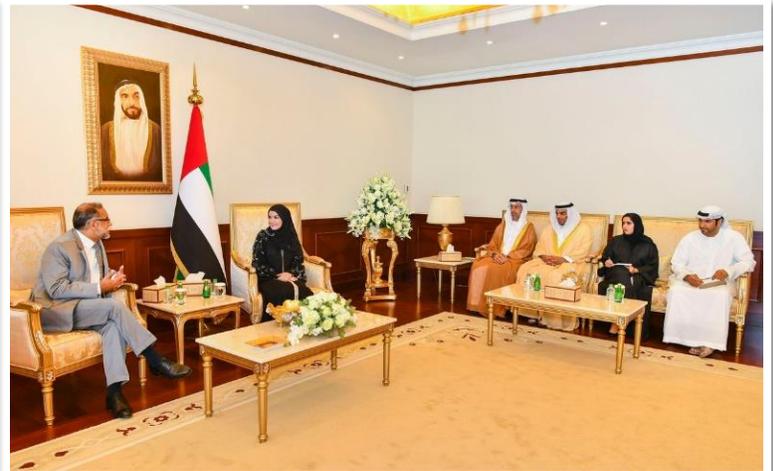
October 2018: H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE called on H.E. Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, Chairperson and Speaker, UAE Federal National Council (FNC) to discuss bilateral cooperation and issues of common interest between the two countries.

During the meeting, Dr. Al Qubaisi re-affirmed the importance of activating Parliamentary relations between the UAE Federal National Council and the Parliament of India through the establishment of a Parliamentary Friendship Committee to coordinate their stances towards various issues of mutual interest.

While discussing, H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri hailed the FNC's role through its parliamentary diplomacy and active participation in international events. He also thanked the UAE Government and people for participating in the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

The two sides also discussed a range of bilateral and multilateral matters of common concern.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Ahmed Shabib Al Dhaheri, Secretary General, UAE Federal National Council and other officials.



Meeting of H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE with H.E. Abdul Rahman Bin Mohamed Al Owais, UAE Minister of State for Health and Prevention

October 2018: H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE had a courtesy meeting with H.E. Abdul Rahman Bin Mohamed Al Owais, UAE Minister of State for Health and Prevention to discuss cooperation in Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals and AYUSH between the UAE and India.



Visit of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GoI to the UAE



November 2018: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India had visited UAE during Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) in Abu Dhabi. Shri Pradhan addressed the Ministerial Session held at the event and inaugurated the Indian Pavilion at ADIPEC along with H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Cabinet Member & Minister of State and CEO, ADNOC Group. Indian Oil PSU's like HPCL, IOCL, BPCL, ONGC, OIL, EIL, etc. and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) have participated in the event.

On the sidelines of ADIPEC, a MoU was signed between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to explore the possibility of storing ADNOC crude oil at ISPRL's underground oil storage facility at Padur in Karnataka, which has a 2.5 million tonne capacity. Under the MoU, ADNOC is expected to store crude in compartments at Padur. The MoU was signed by Mr Abdulla Salem Al Dhaheri, Director - Marketing, Sales & Trading, ADNOC and Mr HPS Ahuja, CEO & MD, ISPRL in the presence of H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber and Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

The MoU with ISPRL, an Indian Government-owned company mandated to store crude oil for emergency needs, followed the arrival, on November 4, of the final shipment of the initial delivery of ADNOC crude to be stored in another ISPRL underground facility at Mangalore, also in Karnataka, which will store 5.86 million barrels of ADNOC crude oil. ADNOC is the only foreign oil and gas company, so far, to invest by way of crude oil in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves Program.

On the occasion, H.E. Dr Al Jaber said, "India is an important oil market and this agreement underscores the strategic energy partnership between the UAE and India that leverages the UAE and ADNOC's expertise and oil resources. It is our firm hope that we will be able to convert this framework agreement into a new mutually beneficial partnership that will create opportunities for ADNOC to increase deliveries of high quality crude oil to India's expanding energy market and helping India meet its growing energy demand and safeguard its energy security."



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said “This Memorandum of Understanding will allow ISPRL to explore, with ADNOC, opportunities related to the possible storage of ADNOC crude at Padur, which would help to significantly strengthen the country’s strategic petroleum reserves. This agreement reflects the strong bonds of cooperation between India and the UAE and provides a foundation for strengthening and expanding our strategic energy relationship.”

On the sidelines of ADIPEC, an Investors’ Meet on Indian Upstream Sector was organised by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) in Abu Dhabi. While addressing the participants, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan had invited global investors to participate in the auction of oil and gas acreages being conducted by the Government under the second round of bidding for Discovered Small Fields (DSF-II) and blocks being awarded under the new Open Acreage Licensing Policy.

The DSF-II includes 60 discoveries with estimated in-place reserves of over 195 Million Tons of Oil and Oil Equivalent Gas (Mtoe). The second round of bids under OALP includes 14 blocks with total area of 29,233 Square Kilometer. Hon’ble Minister said India’s oil and gas demand is expected to increase nearly three-fold to 607 Million Tonne in 2040 from 229 MT currently.

Indian Government had launched the first round of bids for Discovered Small Fields in 2016, under which 30 contract areas were awarded to 20 companies. Similarly, under the first cycle of recently concluded OALP auctions, the government awarded 55 blocks to nine domestic companies. International upstream players had skipped the first round of DSF and OALP auctions.

During the visit, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan also had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Nasser Bin Thani Juma Al Hamli, UAE Cabinet Member & Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization with regard to India-UAE Skill Mapping Project. With digital age in focus, both the Ministers discussed areas of cooperation with the UAE in terms of Skill development of Indian people working in UAE. They also discussed the need of synchronization of certification and standards of the two countries so that people skilled in India are able to easily secure jobs in the UAE. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan was accompanied by H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE for the meeting.





October 2018: H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India to discuss regarding increasing Investments and Bilateral Trade between both the countries.

Based on the High Level Task force Meeting that took place on 15th October 2018 in Mumbai, it was mutually agreed to create a Fast Track Committee to expedite the resolution mechanism for the legacy issues faced by some of the major UAE investors in India and various other matters that needs attention as a single window platform for all future investments in UAE. The first meeting of the Fast Track Committee between H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India and Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Govt. of India was held on 23rd October 2018.

During the follow up meeting with Shri Suresh Prabhu, UAE Ambassador briefed him about the various discussions held in the first Fast Track Committee meeting on 23rd October, outlining the three major subjects that needs utmost attention and quick action i.e. Air Service Agreement, UAE-India Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPA), UAE-India Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

In the meeting, Dr. Ahmed Albanna discussed in detail the issues related to Air Service Agreement between both the countries, and requested for additional airline capacity entitlements and points of call in India. In order to discuss various issues of mutual interest, both parties agreed to hold a meeting at a senior level in December and carry forward the discussions in a positive, constructive and result oriented manner.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India and Dr. Shefali Juneja, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Gol.



November 2018: H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Mr T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI and Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, JS (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI to discuss regarding the UAE- India Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) on 3-4 December 2018 in Abu Dhabi.

The Joint Commission Meeting will provide an opportunity to exchange views on the priorities from both the Governments covering important ongoing & future cooperation in areas of space, agriculture, food processing, railways, HR & education and more. Both sides are looking forward to the adoption of the forthcoming planned meeting, which will further enhance the broad-based partnership and set the agenda for enhanced cooperation in the coming years. Both the countries, while welcoming cooperation and the progress in their relations, reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen their bilateral engagement.

Dr. Ahmed Albanna further discussed about the upcoming visit of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, the Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah to India for New Delhi World Book Fair scheduled to be held from 5th to 13th January 2019. During the upcoming visit, His Highness has expressed interest in conducting official courtesy meeting with President of India to discuss the progress achieved in bilateral ties and reiterated their commitment to further intensify bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors and to deepen the traditionally close and friendly relationship between the UAE and India. He also wants to explore the possibility of Vice President inaugurating the Sharjah Pavilion at the World Book fair since Sharjah is 'Guest of Honor' country for the event.

In the meeting, Dr. Albanna also discussed about upcoming visit of H.E. Shamma Bint Sohail Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of State for Youth Affairs to New Delhi from 7th to 8th January 2019. During her visit, Her Excellency would like to meet her counterpart in India, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India to begin a long term bilateral association between both the countries and discuss the progressive initiatives to improve the skills and stature of youth. His Excellency also discussed the proposed visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in June 2019. Also, it was discussed to create a joint youth platform involving the start-ups from the UAE and India, forming "Youth Start-up Summit".

Mr T.S. Tirumurti, thanked the UAE Ambassador for briefing him in detail about all the visits and agendas behind it. He assured him full support and timely implementation to take it forth.

The two sides also reaffirmed their deep commitment in building a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, in order to elevate their multifaceted ties to an even higher and qualitatively new level based on mutual understanding and confidence with the primary objective to ensure a conducive and peaceful environment for the progress and development of the two countries. They also discussed about the high-level bilateral matters for the year and praised the significant momentum witnessed in bilateral relations, after high level business delegations visits from both sides.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna appreciated the support extended by Indian Government and mentioned that the ongoing close cooperation on a range of different issues will remain a key pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



The second edition of India-UAE Strategic Conclave 2018 was organised by Economic Times in association with UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) on 27th November 2018 in Abu Dhabi. It brought together key Government officials and business leaders from both sides and explored the areas of promoting bilateral ties between both the countries.

On the sidelines of the conclave, UAE-India CEOs' Roundtable was organised to deliberate upon industry issues & concerns and suggest measures for further enhancing the bilateral trade and investment. H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE and H.E. Jamal Saif Al Jarawan, Secretary General, UAE International Investors Council (UAEIIC) co-chaired the CEOs' Roundtable along with Dr. Tayeb Kamali, Director General - Education Training Development, UAE Ministry of Interior.

The CEOs' Roundtable was attended by key business leaders like Mr Salah Ibrahim Sharaf, Executive Director, Sharaf Group; Dr B. R. Shetty, Founder and Chairman, NMC Healthcare; Capt. BVJK Sharma, JMD and CEO, JSW Infrastructure; Ms Sangita Reddy, JMD, Apollo Hospitals; Mr Gautam Sashittal, CEO, DMCC; Mr Samir Chaturvedi, CEO, Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD); Ms Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, National Association of Air Freight & Logistics (NAFL); Mr Vijay Karia, Chairman & MD, Ravin Group of Companies, etc.



India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) 2018 – Dubai



“Made for Trade Live” DMCC Roadshows - Mumbai and Hyderabad



RAKEZ Business Investment Forum - New Delhi



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had addressed the Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) Business Investment Forum held on 28nd November 2018 in New Delhi.

The investment forum highlighted the strong UAE-India bilateral economic ties and had witnessed the participation of H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Chairman, RAKEZ; Mr Ramy Jallad, Group CEO, RAKEZ; and Indian business leaders. The event was geared towards drawing more Indian manufacturers to Ras Al Khaimah's industrial ecosystem.

The RAKEZ Business Investment Forum, followed the overwhelming success of the RAKEZ forum held in Mumbai last year. Mr Ramy Jallad highlighted the different investment options for Indian companies and shared that RAKEZ currently hosts over 3,100 SMEs and over 230 industrialists from India, making up to nearly a quarter of the economic zone's total company population.

He further added that India is deeply rooted in RAKEZ's DNA. To put that into context, RAKEZ has registered nearly 700 companies out of the over 11,000 enquiries it has received from Indian businessmen since January this year. RAKEZ saw interest from manufacturing leaders in the fields of food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, and consumer care, among others.

News Wrap (October - November 2018)

Indian hotel major set to make Dubai debut in 2019



Indian hospitality firm Lemon Tree Hotels Limited announced that it has inked an agreement with Al Waleed Real Estate to launch its first hotel in Dubai. The hotel is expected to be operational by June 2019. [Read More](#)

Dubai fast food chain plans USD 28 mn Indian expansion



Dubai-based quick service restaurant chain Doner and Gyros will invest Rs 200 crore (USD 28 million) over the next five years to fund its expansion in India, a senior official said. [Read More](#)

India Accelerator eyes UAE startup ecosystem



India Accelerator, launchpad for early stage technology start-ups is keen on tapping the UAE ecosystem, said Ms Mona Singh, co-founder of India Accelerator (IA). [Read More](#)

Lulu Group to invest Rs 2400 crore to develop IT sector in Kerala



As part of its efforts to promote the IT sector in Kerala, Lulu group will make an investment of Rs 2,400 crore to develop a total of 50 lakh sq ft of IT space in Kochi. [Read More](#)

Sharjah-India bolster economic ties during roundtable discussions



The Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah) had organised the Sharjah-India Business Roundtable on the sidelines of the India-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS), as part of India's continued interest in the emirate's economy. [Read More](#)

BR Shetty's Finablr buys Indian digital payment firm



Finablr, the parent company of UAE Exchange, acquired India's digital payments firm TimesofMoney from Network International to capitalise on the growth of e-commerce. [Read More](#)

New UAE FDI law comes into force



H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE president issued the new FDI law which aims to promote and develop the country's investment environment, and attract FDI in line with national development policies. [Read More](#)

UAE can drive India's growth story



The UAE and India are set for landmark cooperation and development in all sectors of economy, Government officials, diplomats and business leaders opined during an event held in Abu Dhabi. [Read More](#)

UAE to participate in 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit'



The UAE will participate in the 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit', as a partner country for the second consecutive year. The Summit is scheduled to be held from 18th to 20th January 2019 in Gujarat. [Read More](#)

UAE maps strategies to realise 2071 goals



The UAE Government had recently launched seven future national strategies that promote the development model of the Government to reach the UAE Centennial 2071 targets. [Read More](#)

UAE's KhalifaSat successfully launches into space



Marking a new milestone that adds to the UAE's achievements in the development of the national space sector, KhalifaSat, the first 100% Emirati engineered & developed satellite, successfully launched into space from Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan. [Read More](#)

Dubai boosts position as global maritime hub



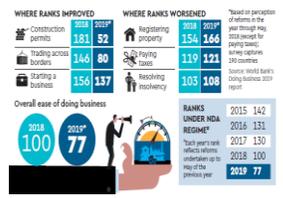
Dubai has continued to strengthen its position as one of the world's leading global maritime clusters, providing a base of operations to a growing number of international companies, experts at the UAE Maritime Week 2018 said. [Read More](#)

UAE up ten spots to 11th on World Bank's Doing Business 2019 Report



The UAE has expedited its march towards making the economy more attractive for foreign investment and easier to do business as the latest World Bank Ease of Doing Business report, ranked the UAE 11th globally from 21st in 2017. [Read More](#)

India improves rank by 23 Positions in Ease of Doing Business Report 2019



India has jumped 23 places to 77th rank in the global Ease of Doing Business rankings released by World Bank, making it the only country to rank among the top 10 improvers for the second consecutive year. [Read More](#)

Dubai issues nearly 1,900 new business licences in October



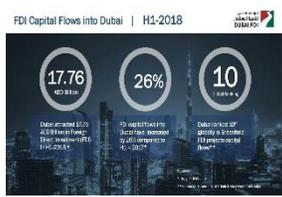
Dubai's Department of Economic Development (DED) issued 1,898 new licences during October 2018, an increase of 25.8% compared to September, as Dubai remained a destination of choice for investment in business sectors. [Read More](#)

Sharjah as "Guest of Honour" at New Delhi World Book Fair



Brisk preparations are under way here to honour Sharjah as the "Guest of Honour" at the New Delhi World Book Fair scheduled to be held from 5th to 13th January next year. [Read More](#)

Dubai's FDI rose 26% in first half of 2018



Dubai remains magnet for global foreign investors, especially in a new age sectors like e-commerce, AI, blockchain and fintech as the emirate recorded 26% rise in FDI in the first-half of 2018, reaching AED 17.7 billion. [Read More](#)

Air Odisha to dilute stake to Sharjah-based NRI crude oil company



Air Odisha is all set to take a Sharjah-based NRI investor on board as it seeks to tap fresh capital to fuel its expansion plans and the announcement to this effect is likely to be made soon, a source said. [Read More](#)

37% of India's outbound market will travel to GCC by 2022



The latest research, published by Colliers International, predicts some nine million Indians will travel to the GCC by 2022, 37% of India's total outbound market with business, place of work and leisure underpinning this demand. [Read More](#)

OYO expands international presence with UAE foray



Hospitality firm OYO announced the launch of its operations in the UAE as part of its expansion plans in the Middle East. The company has launched the operations with over 10 full inventory franchised and operated hotels in Dubai, Sharjah and Fujairah. [Read More](#)

IndiGo links Abu Dhabi with Kerala



The Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) received low-cost airline IndiGo's inaugural flight to and from India in October. The daily flights will connect the UAE capital with Cochin International Airport (COK) and Calicut International Airport (CCJ). [Read More](#)

DP World led JV to develop free trade zone at Indian port



Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (HIPL), a joint venture between DP World (65%) and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), has won the bid to develop and operate the Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) at JNPT Mumbai, for USD 78 million. [Read More](#)

UAE - India Upcoming Events

05-13 Jan. 2019		New Delhi World Book Fair View Details
12-13 Jan. 2019		Partnership Summit, Mumbai View Details
15-16 Jan. 2019		Global Aviation Summit, Mumbai View Details
16-18 Jan. 2019		SATTE, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR View Details
18-20 Jan. 2019		Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, Gandhinagar, Gujarat View Details
28-31 Jan. 2019		Arab Health, Dubai View Details
31 Jan - 02 Feb. 2019		Logix India, New Delhi View Details
10-12 Feb. 2019		The World Government Summit, Dubai View Details
17-21 Feb. 2019		IDEX, Abu Dhabi View Details
17-21 Feb. 2019		Gulfood, Dubai View Details
26-28 Feb. 2019		DUPHAT, Dubai View Details
05-07 March. 2019		Middle East Electricity, Dubai View Details
08-10 April. 2019		Annual Investment Meeting, Dubai View Details
28 April - 01 May. 2019		Arabian Travel Market, Dubai View Details
02-04 April. 2019		International Apparel & Textile Fair, Dubai View Details
10-12 June. 2019		Automechanika Dubai View Details



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



UAE - India Business Council (UIBC)

512, Kailash Building, K.G. Marg, New Delhi - 110001

T: +91 11 23413024, 49536383

E: office@uipc.org; uipc@uipc.org

W: www.uipc.org

