UAE - INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

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UIBC NEWSLETTER

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UIBC ACTIVITIES

FLYING WEDGE DEFENCE UNVEILS INDIA'S FIRST AI-PILOTED FIGHTER JET FULL-SCALE PROTOTYPE



Unveiling of India's First AI-Piloted Fighter Jet, FWD Supreme

As the global defence industry moves towards artificial intelligence, autonomous aircraft and new models of combat aviation, an Indian AI warfare company, raised the curtain on its vision to give India its first AI-Piloted Fighter Jet.

Marking a historic milestone in the advancement of Indian defence and aerospace industry, Bengaluru based Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA), a defence tech company, unveiled the nation's first AI-piloted fighter jet programme, FWD Supreme, showcasing its full-scale static prototype, on 13th October 2026. The event was held at Le Méridien in New Delhi.

The event was graced by Shri A. Anbarasu (IAS), DG Acquisition; Air Marshal Prem Kumar, DG Weapon Systems; Lt. General Puneet Ahuja, Chief of Staff, Western Command and Major General Tarun Aggarwal, ADG Acquisition Tech; Also joined by Mr Miguel Abreu, CEO of SketchPixel and Director of KEYDEF.

Being developed as an AI-powered autonomous fighter jet, FWD Supreme Heavy is specified to a 1,500 kg-plus class, with an approximate payload capacity of 350 kg. The aircraft is designed to feature a 5 kN propulsion system, a maximum speed of Mach 0.8 - 0.85 and a cruising speed of approximately 500 - 600 km/h. Expected to have a range exceeding 1,500 km and an endurance of more than two hours, the platform is supported by satellite communications (SATCOM). The aircraft will follow a flying-wing configuration incorporating an internal weapons bay, with approximate dimensions of 10 metres by 10 metres.

While speaking during the conference, Mr Suhas Tejaskanda, FWDA, said, "FWD SUPREME represents our commitment to building advanced defence capabilities through Indian design, engineering and manufacturing. Our ambition is to develop a family of AI-piloted fighter aircraft that combines operational relevance with affordability. Through Operation 777, we aim to bring together international partners around an India-led development and manufacturing programme, while strengthening our country's indigenous aerospace capabilities".



(L-R): *Mr. Suhas Tejaskanda, Founder & CEO, Flying Wedge (Defence & Aerospace); Mr Mukesh Kalra, Head – Business Development, UIBC*

"We are looking to integrate the DRDO engine to make it completely indigenous, reducing any delay and dependency on foreign components. FWD Supreme Lite which has already passed the taxi trials is 90% indigenous equipped with a made in India engine manufactured by UMS, Coimbatore", he further added.

The programme is being developed in phases. The lite version, said to be designed for the army, is a 250 kg-class demonstrator, which also serves as a test bed. It has already completed taxi trials and is now being prepared for its first flight in the next two months, according to FWDA.

The event also introduced the esteemed team behind FWD Supreme, who have also designed Tejas Mark1 and AMCA and are now designing FWD Supreme. The programme is being led by Sr Girish Dixit , Secretary ADA and Control systems expert (former DRDO scientist), and is joined by distinguished aerospace scientists including Mr. V. Subba Rao, Outstanding Scientist (OS), Scientist 'H', Project Director, LCA Tejas programme; Mr. G. Radhakrishnan, Outstanding Scientist H Airframe & Structural Systems; Mr Mahesh Prabhakar Padwale, Outstanding Scientist H, Propulsion & Engine-Integration; Mr. R.S. Rao, Outstanding Scientist H, Avionics and weapon integration collectively bringing decades of experience in military aviation, fighter aircraft development, aerospace engineering, and advanced defence technologies.

Giving heartiest congratulation for the unveiling at the event chief guest, DG Acquisition, Shri A. Anbarasu (IAS), said, "It makes us happy to see that the Indian defence ecosystem is growing at a stellar pace. We are living in an extraordinary situation. The war between Russia and Ukraine has continued as the years have passed. The conflict in the Middle East began earlier this year, and we do not know what trajectory it will take."

He further added, "In this context, looking at the cornerstone and the way forward put forth by our Honourable Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri, today's event fits very well within the policy enunciated by the Government of India. It amplifies the concept of 'Owned by India', producing and owning in India, and this is the direction in which we have to move forward in the coming days."

Built and manufactured entirely in India, the programme positions India amongst the top 4 programs that are parallel running in the globe and envisions to make advanced combat aviation more affordable through indigenous development, AI-enabled systems and scalable aircraft production.

At the core of FWD Supreme platforms is FWDA's Mobbing Doctrine, an approach to air combat built around AI-piloted aircraft operating as a coordinated force. Instead of relying on a small number of high-value platforms, the doctrine envisions multiple autonomous aircraft working together like a swarm of jets, sharing information and making coordinated decisions in real time.

The objective is to change the economics of air combat by deploying capable, networked aircraft at scale, absorbing losses without losing the mission, and creating an operational advantage through numbers, autonomy and coordination.

The event progressed with a briefing on the programme's development, intended applications, affordability-led approach to combat aviation and future roadmap. The next phase of FWD Supreme will focus on technology development, testing and integration, alongside the development of the wider Supreme family of aircraft.

FWDA also plans to build international aerospace and manufacturing partnerships through Operation 777, with the aim of developing an India-led ecosystem for advanced combat aviation.

ABOUT FLYING WEDGE DEFENCE & AEROSPACE - "SAVING JAWANS"

Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace (FWDA) is an Indian defence technology and AI Warfare company focused on AI-driven warfare systems and development of next-generation combat aviation technologies, headquartered in Bengaluru. Founded in 2022 by Suhas Tejaskanda, the company was established with a vision to reduce India's dependence on expensive air-defence imports and advance self-reliance in cutting-edge aerospace technologies.

FWDA became the first Indian company to secure DGCA type certification for an indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The company subsequently unveiled India's first unmanned bomber aircraft, the FWD-200B, which successfully completed its maiden flight on 3 September 2024.

On 22 August 2025, FWDA announced the readiness of the Kaal Bhairava E2A2 programme, India's first AI-powered Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Autonomous Combat Aircraft. Designed and developed entirely in India, the platform is engineered for up to 30 hours of endurance and a range of 3,000 km, delivering AI-driven autonomy for precision strikes, swarm operations, and real-time Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions.

Built with zero foreign dependency, the platform ensures complete data sovereignty and eliminates external kill-switch risks while being positioned at a fraction of the cost of comparable Predator-class UAV systems. The programme has secured a USD 25 million export order from a South Asian nation and enabled the company's first international manufacturing node in Portugal, marking a significant milestone in India's global expansion strategy.

The Kaal Bhairava Lite variant has successfully conducted flight demonstrations with the Indian Army, including operations in high-altitude environments in Jammu & Kashmir. The platform has been showcased to multiple Indian defence stakeholders and is currently undergoing further evaluation and engagement processes with various security forces.

With a growing portfolio of autonomous strike systems, AI-enabled combat platforms, and scalable unmanned aircraft programmes, Flying Wedge Defence & Aerospace aims to position India as a global hub for next-generation autonomous defence technologies.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED HOLDS EXPANDED MEETING WITH INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER IN MUMBAI



H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, held an expanded meeting with Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, during his working visit to Mumbai.

The meeting reflected the two countries' shared commitment to strengthening their strategic relations and growing bilateral cooperation and partnerships to serve their mutual interests and support their development aspirations.

The two top diplomats discussed opportunities to further foster cooperation across key sectors, including the economy, trade, investment, education, culture and heritage, under the UAE-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

They also discussed cooperation within international organisations, as well as preparations for the UAE to host the 2026 United Nations Water Conference in partnership with the Republic of Senegal this December and India's participation in the global event.

During the meeting, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed expressed his pleasure at visiting India and Mumbai, praising the rapid development and growth witnessed by the city and the country as a whole.

He highlighted the deep-rooted longstanding ties between the two countries and expressed pride in the UAE's position as India's third-largest trading partner globally, after the United States and the People's Republic of China. H.H. Sheikh Abdullah reaffirmed the commitment of the UAE, its leadership and people to further strengthening this relationship, making it closer, stronger and more diversified across various fields. READ MORE



ABDULLAH BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN JOINS TRILATERAL MEETING WITH FMs OF US, INDIA

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in a trilateral meeting in Mumbai, India, with Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs, and Mr Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State.

The meeting explored ways to strengthen cooperation and partnership among the three countries across various sectors, including the economy, trade, investment, technology and artificial intelligence, to advance shared interests, deepen economic integration, enhance regional and international cooperation, and promote sustainable development.

During the meeting, the UAE top diplomat underscored the depth of the UAE's strategic relations with the Republic of India and the United States, noting that both partnerships continue to develop. He highlighted the shared commitment to capitalising on opportunities to expand cooperation across various sectors in support of common development objectives.

The meeting also discussed regional and international developments, exchanging views on issues of mutual concern and ongoing efforts to strengthen security and stability and promote development and prosperity across the region and beyond. READ MORE



UAE APPROVES BUDGET OF OVER DH290 BILLION FOR 2027 TO 2029

UAE has approved a budget of Dh292.5 billion for the years 2027 to 2029, Vice President H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced on 12 October 2026. He said that this number marks a growth of 8.3 per cent compared to the previous three-year period.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed, who also serves as Ruler of Dubai, said that the priorities of the government remain unchanged: education, health, housing, social services, quality of life and stability of citizens.

The 2027 budget specifically has been approved as Dh90.1 billion.

The 2027 federal budget has been broken down as follows:

- Dh34.6 billion allocated to social development and pensions (38.4 per cent)
- Dh29.1 billion allocated to government affairs (32.3 per cent)
- Dh5.6 billion allocated to financial assets and investments (6.2 per cent)
- Dh17.8 billion allocated to federal expenses (19.7 per cent)
- Dh3 billion allocated to infrastructure and economic resources (3.4 per cent)

Last year, H.H Sheikh Mohammed announced Dubai's largest budget cycle in history, for the years 2026 to 2028, which listed total expenditures of Dh302.7 billion, and total revenues of Dh329.2 billion, with an operating surplus of 5 per cent.

H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, said the budget should not be measured simply by the scale of financial resources, but by the quality and scale of the sustainable impact it delivers. READ MORE

UAE SIGNALS ANOTHER $25 BILLION INVESTMENT IN INDIA; EYES PORTS, ENERGY AND SPACE SECTORS: PIYUSH GOYAL



The United Arab Emirates has indicated its intent to invest an additional $25 billion in India in the near future, Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal said on Monday (September 28, 2026), as the two countries agreed to deepen cooperation across ports, shipbuilding, energy security, space technology and financial services.

Speaking after co-chairing the 14th India-UAE High-Level Joint Task Force on Investments with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority Managing Director H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Shri Goyal said the UAE has already invested around $25 billion in India and has a longer-term objective of taking its investments in the country to $100 billion.

> *"The UAE believes in India and is one of our largest foreign direct investment sources of capital. They have already invested $25 billion and are the seventh-largest source of FDI. They have also given intent to invest another $25 billion in the near future," **Shri Goyal** said.*

The discussions at the task force meeting covered investments, trade facilitation, taxation, logistics, energy, market access and financial cooperation, including the use of local currencies for bilateral trade. READ MORE

CRESCENT ENTERPRISES AND TVS AUTOMOBILE SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE MYTVS GROWTH ACROSS INDIA, UAE AND MENA



Crescent Enterprises and TVS Automobile Solutions (TVS ASL) on 5 October 2026 announced a strategic partnership to support myTVS' next phase of growth across India, the UAE and wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA). As part of the partnership, Crescent Enterprises has led a US$ 45 million (₹425 Cr) Series D funding round for TVS ASL through CE-Invests, its strategic investments platform. myTVS, TVS ASL's integrated automotive aftermarket brand, combines digital capabilities with a physical service network of more than 1,000 garages and 10,000 retailers across India. It serves more than 10 million customers directly and indirectly and has established itself as a preferred partner to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), electric vehicle manufacturers and corporate customers.

The investment will support myTVS' next phase of profitable growth in India by extending its physical service network and further developing AI-enabled diagnostics, predictive maintenance and other digital capabilities. Crescent Enterprises will also bring its regional networks and market expertise to support myTVS' expansion into the UAE and wider MENA region.

"Built over generations of trade, enterprise and human connection, the UAE–India relationship is becoming ever more important – not only to both countries, but to economic growth across MENA, Asia and beyond," said ***Mr Badr Jafar, CEO of Crescent Enterprises****. "The strongest economic corridors carry more than capital: they move technology, ideas and operating expertise in both directions. When India's scale, talent and innovation connect with the UAE's capital, infrastructure and regional reach, each market becomes a platform for the other's growth. That reciprocal model creates value far beyond either country and reflects principles that have long shaped Crescent Enterprises' investment and partnership strategy."* READ MORE

OUR MEMBERS

"INDIA CAN BE NO.1 SOON": VFS GLOBAL CEO ZUBIN KARKARIA SHARES STUDENT TRAVEL, VISA AND TOURISM TRENDS AT NDTV WORLD SUMMIT 2026



Founder and CEO of VFS Global, Mr Zubin Karkaria, attended NDTV World Summit 2026, where he spoke to NDTV's Mr Vishnu Som during a session titled "A World Within Reach: The Future of Global Travel." Discussing how international travel is evolving amid geopolitical tensions and changing government policies, Mr Karkaria said the industry had remained resilient through several crises and would continue to grow. He also spoke about India's position as a major source of international students, the changing preferences of Indian travellers, and what visa applicants should know about the role of VFS Global.

"TRAVEL WILL CONTINUE, BUT SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS DECIDE WHO COMES IN"

Mr Karkaria, who has spent more than three decades in the travel and tourism industry, said the sector had shown resilience through events such as SARS, H1N1 and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as geopolitical tensions.

Citing a World Travel and Tourism Council report, he said travel and tourism contributes around $12 trillion to the global economy, with 1 in 9 jobs linked to the sector, directly or indirectly. He said international travel would continue, but countries would retain the authority to decide who could enter and for what purpose. READ MORE

EMIRATES NBD BECOMES FIRST MENA BANK TO HARNESS OPENAI'S SOVEREIGN AI INFRASTRUCTURE FOR CUSTOMERS IN THE UAE



Emirates NBD, a leading banking group in the Middle East, North Africa, Türkiye and South Asia (MENATSA) region, and OpenAI announced a new enterprise collaboration that will make Emirates NBD the first bank in the MENA region to deploy OpenAI's GPT models using in-country inference infrastructure in the UAE.

Banks operate in one of the world's most highly regulated industries, where security, governance and compliance are non-negotiable. Access to in-country inference allows financial institutions to adopt frontier AI at enterprise scale while supporting local regulatory expectations around data residency, privacy and operational resilience. This announcement represents an important milestone in advancing sovereign AI capabilities for financial services in the UAE.

SCALING AI ENTERPRISE-WIDE

Emirates NBD will deploy OpenAI's models across several areas of the business, including enhancing intelligent customer engagement across digital channels, supporting risk and compliance with advanced analytics, automating knowledge-intensive workflows and improving employee productivity.

Furthermore, Emirates NBD will connect OpenAI's models with its internal systems, APIs and enterprise data, enabling the Bank to accelerate the development of new digital services, improve customer personalisation, boost engineering and operational productivity, and strengthen risk monitoring and financial crime controls.

The deployment supports the UAE's vision of building world-class AI infrastructure and accelerating responsible AI adoption across strategic sectors. It also aligns with the UAE's National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence 2031 and reflects the growing availability of sovereign AI capabilities that enable organisations to deploy advanced AI while meeting local governance and regulatory requirements.



> ***Mr Miguel Rio-Tinto, Group Chief Digital and Information Officer at Emirates NBD**, said: "Artificial Intelligence is central to the future of banking. Through our collaboration with OpenAI and access to in-country inference in the UAE, we are embedding frontier AI capabilities directly into our operating model. This ensures we can innovate at speed while maintaining the highest standards of governance, security and regulatory alignment. AI is not an experiment for us, it is a core capability that will define how we build, serve and scale."*

READ MORE

HINDUJA GROUP DEEPENS U.P. PLAY, EYES EXPANSION ACROSS MOBILITY, ENERGY, DIGITAL AND HEALTHCARE SECTORS



The Hinduja Group is looking to deepen its presence across Uttar Pradesh, with investments and initiatives spanning commercial vehicles, renewable energy, digital connectivity, financial services, healthcare and education, as the group aligns its expansion plans with the state's vision of becoming a developed economy by 2047.

Dr Sunil K Chadda, Group President, Corporate Affairs, Hinduja Group, met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath on 5 October 2026 and apprised him of the Group's ongoing work and proposed investments in the state.

Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath was briefed on the contributions of various Hinduja Group companies in Uttar Pradesh over the past 24 months, including their initiatives in mobility, education, healthcare, digital connectivity and social welfare.

He was also apprised of the Group's ongoing and proposed projects aimed at creating employment, strengthening infrastructure and contributing to the social and economic development of the state.

> *"Uttar Pradesh is an important part of our growth journey. Under the leadership of Chairman, Hinduja Group of Companies (India), Mr Ashok P. Hinduja and Chairman of Ashok Leyland, the flagship commercial vehicle company of the Hinduja Group, Executive Chairman, Mr Dheeraj Hinduja, the Hinduja Group remains committed to supporting the vision of Viksit Uttar Pradesh 2047 and contributing to the state's economic and social development,"* ***Mr Chadda*** *said.*

Mr Ashok P. Hinduja's message is to carry forward the moral values instilled by his parents by serving society and contributing to social causes without any personal interest or expectation.

ASHOK LEYLAND TO DOUBLE LUCKNOW CAPACITY

The Group's most significant recent manufacturing investment in the state is Ashok Leyland's Lucknow facility, which was inaugurated in January 2026. The plant is currently operational with a planned capacity of 2,500 vehicles a year, and the company plans to raise this to 5,000 vehicles a year over the next six to seven months. The Group has credited the Uttar Pradesh government for its support during the project phase. "We see considerable potential in Uttar Pradesh as a manufacturing and mobility hub. The expansion of the Ashok Leyland plant reflects our confidence in the state's investment climate and its growing role in India's mobility ecosystem," Mr Chadda said. READ MORE

UPCOMING EVENTS

11th GES GLOBAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

28-29 November 2026
World Trade Center
Mumbai
INDIA

INVEST TELANGANA
Rising together

07-09 December 2026
Bharat Future City
Hyderabad
INDIA

GITEX GLOBAL
EXPO
8-11 DEC 2026
EXPO CITY DUBAI
SUMMIT
7 DEC 2026
DWTC

08-11 December 2026
Expo City
Dubai
UAE

Vibrant GUJARAT 10-12 Jan 2027
Viksit Gujarat - Shaping Global Future | 11th Global Summit

10-12 January 2027
Mahatma Mandir Convention &
Exhibition Centre
Gandhinagar
INDIA

IEW INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2027

28-31 January 2027
New Town Convention Centre
Kolkata
INDIA



UAE - INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL

UIBC

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 Late Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India during 11th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on September 3, 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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