



# UAE-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL



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

January 2021



[www.uibc.org](http://www.uibc.org)

Telephonic Conversation between H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces and Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces had a telephonic conversation with Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

During the conversation, the two leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations and expand their horizons in light of the overall strategic partnership between the two countries as well as a number of regional and global issues of mutual interest. They also reviewed the latest progress on COVID-19 in the two countries and globally in addition to the effective cooperation between the UAE and India in fighting the virus and exchanging expertise in this regard.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed and PM Modi emphasised the importance they attach to the strength and richness of the bilateral relationship and explored ways for consolidating the strategic cooperation between the two friendly countries. They agreed to maintain close consultations and cooperation for further strengthening the UAE-India partnership in the post COVID world. In this context, they discussed the opportunities for further diversifying trade and investment links.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed congratulated PM Modi for the Republic Day marked on 26<sup>th</sup> January and wished further development, stability and prosperity for the friendly people of India. His Highness reiterated the strong UAE-India ties in various fields and expressed UAE's keenness on further enhancing them for the benefit of the two countries and peoples, especially in the economic, trade, technology, energy and other domains.

PM Modi warmly reciprocated the good wishes and expressed his special appreciation & thanked Crown Prince for his personal attention and care for the well-being of Indian expatriate community in the UAE. He also echoed the desire to boost ties and reiterated commitment to consolidate bilateral ties & seek partnership in new areas.

The two leaders shared their confidence that the COVID crisis would soon be overcome and looked forward to meeting in person in the near future.

## Visit of Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India to the UAE



Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, GoI had visited UAE on an official visit from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

During the visit, Shri Muraleedharan called on H.E. Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence. In the meeting, both sides had productive discussions on further enhancing UAE-India people to people relations, especially relating to labour welfare & skill development and reiterated their commitment in addressing mutual issues of concern and forging strong cooperation in the areas related to labour welfare.

In his another meeting, Shri Muraleedharan had met H.E. Ahmed Ali Al Sayegh, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation and discussed expanding the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between both the countries in trade, investment, connectivity, IT, space & welfare of Indian community. Both sides also had discussions on the way forward in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), under UAE's continuing Chairmanship.

Shri Muraleedharan had addressed the Indian community at the community events organised in Dubai and Abu Dhabi and lauded its efforts in contributing towards strengthening UAE-India relations. Hon'ble MOS praised the support extended by the business community and various professional groups during the Covid crisis and highlighted that while support of the UAE Government was crucial in successful implementation of 'Vande Bharat Mission', the support and coordination of the business community and social organizations with the Embassy and Consulate was equally important. He also appealed to the business community to contribute to the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' programmes launched by PM Modi.

During the interactive session with Indian community members in Dubai, Shri Muraleedharan praised the concept of 'uberisation of educational infrastructure' in the Upskilling and Training of the Blue Collar workers through Academia- Industry- Consulate partnership. He also launched the 'Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayta Kendra' – mobile app as a welfare initiative by the Government of India to ensure Indian expatriates a better way to connect & communicate to the Consulate General of India, Dubai, and Embassy of India in UAE and provide updated information to the user at fingertips.

Shri V. Muraleedharan also inaugurated the first ever Upskilling & Training Centre for Indian Blue Collar Workers in UAE at Delhi Private School (DPS), Jebel Ali. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of Mr Vipul, Joint Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI; Mr Dinesh Kothari, Chairman, DPS Society in UAE; and Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai.





On this occasion, Hon'ble MOS inaugurated the classes for Basic Arabic language, English Language, and Computer skills in the premises of the DPS School. He also interacted with the workers and expressed happiness to see the interest of the workers, especially female workers to enhance their skills and increase their employability in the UAE.

While interacting with the Indian workers, Hon'ble MoS extended his warm greetings and conveyed that Indian Government is deeply committed to the welfare of Indian expatriate community & labourers abroad and attaches great value to the contribution of the blue collar workers to the Indian economy, by way of remittances sent and assured full support to them.

During the visit, Hon'ble MOS also visited Pravasi Bhartiya Sahayta Kendra (PBSK) and had a media interaction where he addressed media on the important matters pertaining to UAE-India relations and highlighted various welfare policies and other aspects of Govt. of India on a range of issues pertaining to NRIs.

His other engagements included visit to the office of the Indian Association Ajman where he conveyed his deep appreciation to the organisation for their exemplary work towards welfare of Indian community, especially poor labourers and distressed women. He also mentioned about the important role played by the Association during Covid times and also thanked the leadership of Govt. of Ajman for extending support to the Indian community during the pandemic.

Further, the minister inaugurated the office of Indian People Forum in Ajman and urged all the community organizations to work closely for the welfare of Indian expatriates in the UAE and thereby enhancing the close ties between the two nations and its people.

Shri Muraleedharan had also visited Gulf Medical University in Thumbay Medicity Campus in Ajman where he expressed his deep gratitude to the frontline workers including doctors and paramedics for their support during the Covid crisis. He appreciated the excellent facilities for healthcare and medical education and research, as well as the University's advanced training and teaching facilities and potential role of Gulf Medical University in the upskilling of Indian workers. He was accompanied by Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai.



Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



**January 2021:** H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Mr Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

During the meeting, Dr. Albanna and Mr Bhattacharyya appreciated the level of cooperation between the UAE and India in combating the Covid19 pandemic & agreed to continue working closely together. Both sides appreciated the positive developments witnessed between both the nations and reiterated the growth potential for the bilateral trade. They discussed means of enhancing bilateral relations between the UAE and India, particularly in trade and investment.

Their discussions were focused on how well both the countries have expanded their relationship and praised the significant steps taken by their respective Governments to cooperate closely in the multilateral fields towards strengthening the bilateral relationship. Both dignitaries reiterated their commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors and to deepen the traditionally close and friendly relationship between the two countries.

Participation of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India at the virtual meeting on PCPIR organized by the Bureau of Investment Promotion, Government of Rajasthan



**January 2021:** H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had participated virtually at the meeting on Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) organized by the Bureau of Investment Promotion, Government of Rajasthan.

The virtual meeting was attended by Shri Ashok Gehlot, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan; Shri Parsadi Lal, Minister for Industries, Government of Rajasthan; Mr Kuldeep Ranka, Principal Secretary to CM Rajasthan; senior ministers and officials along with potential investors and representatives of companies from across the world.

During the virtual meet, the state Government representatives highlighted the opportunities and advantages for investment in the PCPIR and assured support to the potential investors. The PCPIR is being developed by the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO) near the 9-MTPA (million tonnes per annum) HPCL Rajasthan Refinery and Petrochemical Complex in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

## Monthly News Wrap (January 2021)

### SCCI discusses strengthening economic relations with Karnataka



The Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) has reviewed means of enhancing economic, investment and commercial relations and expanding the prospects of cooperation with Karnataka. This came in a meeting held between H.E. Abdullah Sultan Al Owais, Chairman, SCCI and Mr Perikal M Sundar, President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) in the presence of senior officials from both the sides. Discussions were held on topics of mutual interest including expanding the prospects of cooperation between SCCI and FKCCI to support the private sector in both countries to take better advantage of the available investment opportunities.

### UAE's LuLu Group to set up food processing unit in Greater Noida



The UAE-based LuLu Group International is all set to expand its footprint in India by setting up a food and vegetable processing unit in Greater Noida, a key investment of an estimated amount of Rs 200 crore that the company hopes will create at least 2,000 job opportunities in the region. The company has acquired 20 acres of industrial land for the unit at Greater Noida at Rs 75 crore, where fruits, vegetables and meat products will be collected, processed and packed before being distributed.

### Dubai's Brixton Group to set up industrial smart city in Kochi



Dubai based Brixton Group has announced to set up a futuristic and state-of-the-art industrial smart city in Kerala. The project with an investment of Rs 1200 crore will be set up near Kalamssery, Kochi in nearly 30 acres of land. Slated to be completed by 2023, the industrial smart city will have five business verticals, namely smart mall, business centre, convention centre, smart warehouse and an international academy. The project is estimated to generate over 3 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities across the country.

### SpiceJet adds more destinations to India from Ras Al Khaimah International Airport



UAE residents and tourists seeking greater choice for their journeys to India now have more options to select this year following the announcement that SpiceJet has extended its operations from Ras Al Khaimah International Airport to five more Indian cities including Mumbai, Cochin, Amritsar, Lucknow and Jaipur, besides increasing frequencies to its existing Delhi-Ras Al Khaimah-Delhi route. The addition of the five new destinations and increased number of services from Indira Gandhi International Airport comes just two months after the airline established its inaugural service to Delhi from RAK Airport.

### First Vistara flight from Delhi lands in Sharjah



The inaugural Vistara flight from Delhi to Sharjah landed in the emirate on 25 January 2021 and was welcomed with a traditional water cannon salute. A number of officials were present at Sharjah Airport, where a grand reception was hosted in the lounge including Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai, his accompanying delegation, as well as a number of airport officials. Vistara commenced its daily flight service to Sharjah in the UAE from Delhi under the air bubble agreement. Sharjah is Vistara's second destination in the UAE after Dubai where it operates four times weekly flight services from Delhi.

### Indian eyewear major plans Gulf debut, eyes USD 250 million business by 2025



Lenskart, the largest eyewear retailer of India, has announced its foray into the Middle East market with USD 50 million investment towards the expansion in the UAE market and plans to open its first retail store in Dubai. The eyewear specialist so far has launched its operations in the UAE through online offerings, with free delivery across Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. The company plans to provide eyewear through its online and offline stores across the Middle East within a year and generate USD 250 million business over the next 3-4 years.

## Monthly News Wrap (January 2021)

### UAE-India pact to help with forecast and early warnings on cyclones, tsunamis, sand storms



The UAE and India will work together to forecast and warn of cyclones, tsunamis and sand and dust storms within the new agreement on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of atmospheric sciences in both the countries. The UAE's National Centre of Meteorology and India's Ministry of Earth Sciences have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard. The agreement covers the integration of radar network in both the countries, cooperation in forecasting tropical cyclones, exchanging satellite information, tsunami modelling and early warning. It also stipulates the integration of seismic network information, early warning of sand and dust storms, and exchange of expertise in scientific innovations, research and training.

### India's Darwin Platform Group signs MoUs to boost UAE-India Partnership



Darwin Platform Group of Companies (DPGC), one of the leading global business conglomerates from India, has announced its investment plans and partnership with UAE-based companies in several sectors including Manufacturing, Retail, Education, Avionics, Infrastructure, Energy, Oil, Gas, and Information Technology etc. DPGC's Dubai-headquartered companies signed several agreements to form joint ventures and other modes of partnerships. For India, DPGC's retail arm, DP Retail, entered a partnership with one of UAE's leading retail companies, Jan Bros, to market their products and provide supply-chain support.

### Dubai Airports, GMR-Hyderabad announce formation of a logistics corridor for global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines



The Dubai Airports, operator of Dubai International (DXB) and Dubai World Central (DWC), and GMR Hyderabad (GMR-HYD) have joined forces to build an exclusive Vaccine Air Freight Corridor Product called 'HYDXB-VAXCOR' ('Hyderabad to Dubai global vaccine corridor'). With interlinked cargo facilities at DXB and DWC and in partnership with Dnata cargo, the HYD-DXB vaccine corridor will connect major vaccine manufacturers in India with markets around the world via Dubai's cargo hub and provide capacity to seamlessly handle up to 300 tonnes of vaccines per day.

### LuLu Group hosts India Fest 2021 across UAE



On the sidelines of celebrations of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Indian Republic Day, leading retail chain LuLu hosted GCC-wide 'India Fest' that showcased the best of India in food, culture, ethnic wear and fun across its 198 stores. During this promotion, shoppers enjoyed a wide variety of imported products from India and delicious dishes, along with cultural activities and competitions in stores and via LuLu's social media channels. H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE, shared, "LuLu has played a key role in the food security of India especially during this pandemic. LuLu has been one of the biggest contributors in the UAE-India trade initiatives and their efforts of promoting business even during these challenging times are highly commendable."

### UAE home to largest number of Indians abroad at 3.5 million



The United Arab Emirates is home to the most number of non-resident Indians (NRIs), which according to the United Nations, is the largest in the world. The Indian diaspora is one of the most "vibrant and dynamic", with 18 million people across the planet. As per the report of the United Nations, India's large diaspora is distributed across a number of major countries of destination, with the UAE (3.5 million), the US (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) hosting the largest numbers of migrants from India.



## Major Upcoming Events

02-04 March. 2021	 <b>Maritime India Summit</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
12-19 March. 2021	 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Global Ayurveda Festival</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
17-19 March. 2021	 <b>India Chem</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
17-19 March. 2021	 <b>Technotex</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
24 March. 2021	 <b>Annapoorna Anufood India: Virtual Buyer Seller Meet</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
24-26 March. 2021	 <b>SATTE</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
24-26 March. 2021	 <b>Advantage Healthcare India</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
05-07 April. 2021	 <b>DUPHAT</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
16-19 May. 2021	 <b>Arabian Travel Market</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
23-29 May. 2021	 <b>Abu Dhabi International Book Fair</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
14-16 June. 2021	 <b>Middle East Energy Dubai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
21-24 June. 2021	 <b>Arab Health</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
06-08 September. 2021	 <b>Annapoorna ANUFOOD India</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
07-09 September. 2021	 <b>SIAL Middle East</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
12-15 September. 2021	 <b>The Big 5: International Building &amp; Construction Show</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
15-17 September. 2021	 <b>Renewable Energy India Expo</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
1 October 2021 - 31 March. 2022	 <b>Expo 2020</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



### **UAE- India Business Council (UIBC)**

11th floor, One Horizon Center  
Golf course Road, DLF Phase V, Sector- 43  
Gurugram – 122002  
E: office@uibc.org ; uibc@uibc.org  
W: www.uibc.org

