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Participation of UAE Delegation in Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019

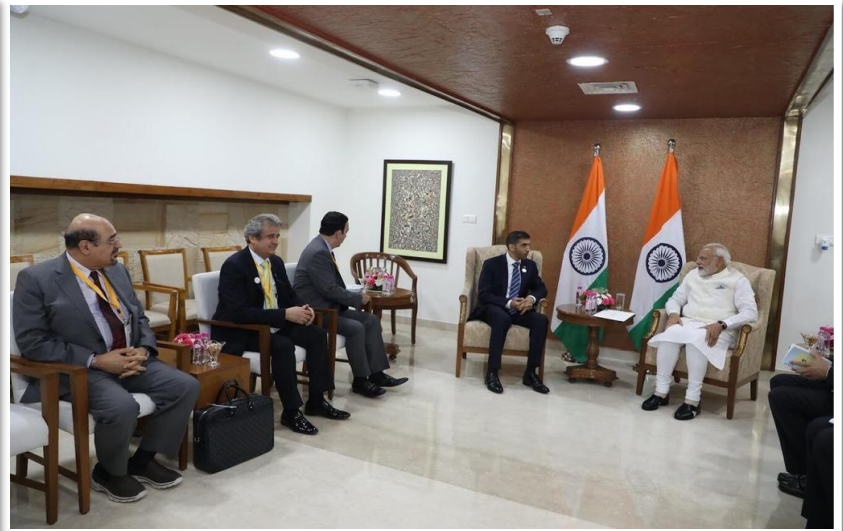
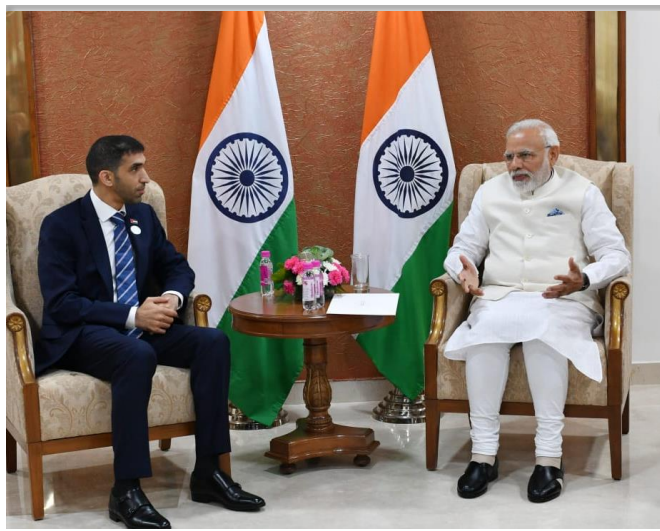


H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has led a high-level delegation from the UAE to participate in ninth edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit held in Gandhinagar on 18-20th January 2019. The Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The UAE participated in the event as a Partner Country for the second consecutive year.

The UAE delegation comprised of senior officials including H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India; Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) & Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group; Mr Jamal Majid Bin Theniyah, Chairman, Emaar India; Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International; Mr Hadi Badri, Chief Strategy Officer, Emaar Properties; Mr Mohamed Juma Al Musharrkh, CEO, Sharjah FDI Office (Invest in Sharjah), and several other senior officials and business leaders from the UAE.

In his keynote address at the Summit's inauguration ceremony, H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi said, "The UAE and India enjoy long-standing and cordial relations across multiple fronts. Backed by the political and people-to-people interactions, bilateral trade continued to soar despite global headwinds. Valued at USD 180 million per annum in the 1970s, the balance of trade volume between India and the UAE is now worth USD 57 billion, making India the largest trading partner of the UAE, while the UAE is India's third largest trading partner – after China and the US. 2018 saw a flurry of investments by the UAE companies in India, and the UAE-India relationship has entered a vibrant growth phase with bilateral trade on track to exceed USD 100 billion by 2020."

His Excellency Dr. Al Zeyoudi noted that the UAE hosts the largest Indian expatriate community in the world, comprising more than 3.3 million people. Members of the Indian community in the UAE have helped the Indian economy flourish through their hard-earned remittances. The UAE is currently the largest source of remittances to India that amounted to an astounding USD 13.82 billion in 2017.





He added, “As we look back at our achievements, they energize us and give us the confidence that a lot more can be done together. We aspire to see the trajectory of the UAE-India ties continue to soar, entering new areas of cooperation and dynamism.”

H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi had a meeting with Shri Narendra Modi, Indian Prime Minister on the sideline of the summit. The meeting addressed ways to enhance and strengthen economic and investment partnerships in areas of common interest, most notably infrastructure, energy, and tourism. Dr. Thani was accompanied by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India; Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) & Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group; Mr Jamal Majid Bin Theniyah, Chairman, Emaar India etc. for the meeting.

During the summit, H.E Dr. Al Zeyoudi had also met Shri Vijay Rupani, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Gujarat. In the meeting, both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties and took stock of the developments in the region. Both Ministers while welcoming cooperation and the progress in the UAE-India bilateral relations, reaffirmed their determination to further strengthen the bilateral engagement.

At the Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show, held on the sideline of the summit, His Excellency Dr. Al Zeyoudi, accompanied by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, inaugurated the UAE pavilion.

The UAE Minister also participated in the UAE Country Seminar where he highlighted the UAE’s appeal as a global business destination.

Addressing UAE and Indian businesspeople at the event, he said, “The UAE has become a global hub for entrepreneurship and investment, thanks to the significant efforts made by the Federal Government and local departments to create a world class, business-friendly environment, enabling the country to vie with the best.”

He added, “According to the World Bank’s Doing Business Report 2019, the UAE moved up 10 spots to the 11th place globally, out of 190 economies. The report also states that the UAE is the best-performing country in the Middle East and North Africa region. The rise in the UAE’s rank is a result of a package of reforms in the past year that boosted the country’s economic competitiveness.”

Elaborating on FDI, H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi said, “UAE investments in India are valued at an estimated USD 8 billion, of which USD 5.33 billion is in the form of foreign direct investment, while the remaining is portfolio investment, making UAE the 10th biggest investor in India in terms of foreign direct investment. The UAE’s investments in India are concentrated mainly in six sectors: services, power, construction development, air transport, food, and hotels and tourism.”

He added, “Several prominent private and public sector Indian companies and banks operate in the UAE. In addition, major Indian companies have been able to obtain a significant number of contracts in the UAE. Data released by the UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority indicates that the total foreign direct investment from India to the UAE amounted to over USD 6.5 billion.

Participation of UAE Delegation in Partnership Summit



H.E. Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansoori, UAE Minister of Economy has led a high-level official delegation from the UAE to participate in the 25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019 held in Mumbai on 12-13th January 2019. The Partnership Summit witnessed the attendance of more than 1,400 participants from 40 countries around the world.

The Partnership Summit was inaugurated by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India and was addressed by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India; Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and several other key dignitaries. His Excellency Sultan Mansoori delivered the 'Special Address' in the Inaugural Session of the event.

The UAE was the Partner Country of the event and the high level delegation from the UAE included more than 40 senior officials and business leaders including H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India; H.E. Abdulla Al Saleh, Under-Secretary, UAE Ministry of Economy for Foreign Trade Affairs; H.E. Jamal Al Jarwan, Secretary-General, UAE International Investors Council (UAEIIC); H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Al Kaabi, Assistant Under-Secretary for Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources, UAE Ministry of Energy and Industry and the UAE Governor at OPEC; Mr Mohammed Hamdan Nasser Al Zaabi, Director - Trade Promotion, UAE Ministry of Economy; Mr Dawood Al Shezawi, CEO, Annual Investment Meeting (AIM), etc.





In order to showcase the investment opportunities in the UAE, a country seminar on ‘UAE - Gateway for Business’ was organised during the event. The seminar was addressed by key dignitaries including H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna; H.E. Abdulla Al Saleh; H.E. Jamal Al Jarwan; H.E. Ahmed Al Kaabi; Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India; Mr Essa Abdulla Al Ghurair, Chairman, Essa Al-Ghurair Investment L.L.C.; Mr Salah Sharaf, Executive Director, Sharaf Group, etc. The seminar highlighted the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and discuss relevant opportunities to strengthen the economic and investment partnerships between their public and private sectors.

On the sideline of the event, His Excellency Sultan Mansoori had a bilateral meeting with Shri Suresh Prabhu and discussed areas of mutual cooperation and further enhancing bilateral trade & investments between both the countries.



Visit of Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India to the UAE



Smt. Sushma Swaraj was invited by H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation as the 'Guest of Honour' to address the Inaugural Plenary of the 46th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held on 1-2 March 2019 in Abu Dhabi.

In her plenary address, Smt. Sushma Swaraj observed that 2019 is a very special year since OIC is celebrating its Golden Jubilee, UAE is celebrating 2019 as the 'Year of Tolerance' and India is celebrating 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj conveyed her deep appreciation for the sagacious leadership of the UAE for inviting India for the OIC meeting and reiterated that the highly successful visits of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces to India in 2017 as the Chief Guest on Republic Day and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Abu Dhabi in 2018 have cemented our ties bilaterally and with the region & beyond.

Indian External Affairs Minister underlined the steps taken by the Indian Government over the last five years or so to substantially enhance relations with individual member countries of OIC. Smt. Sushma Swaraj mentioned that more than USD 12 billion has been extended as lines of credit and nearly USD 4 billion as grant assistance to OIC member countries under our development partnership.

Hon'ble External Affairs Minister further added that India also offers around 4500 ITEC slots and 2000 educational scholarships annually to OIC countries contributing to their capacity building in a very big way. The trade between India and OIC countries was around USD 230 billion amounting to 30% of India's total trade.

The OIC meeting was also attended by H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE; Mr T. S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI; Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, Joint Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai and other senior officials.



Visit of H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Cabinet Member & Minister of State and Chief Executive Officer, ADNOC Group to India



H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Cabinet Member & Minister of State and CEO, ADNOC Group visited India to participate in Petrotech 2019 held from 10 to 12th February 2019 in Delhi NCR. The 13th edition of Petrotech 2019, the international oil and gas conference and exhibition, was inaugurated by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in the august gathering of Ministers and delegates from around 60 participating countries.

The event was attended by Shri Yogi Aditya Nath, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh; Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, GoI; H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India; along with several other senior officials and business leaders.

In his inaugural address, PM Modi underlined the importance of energy as a key driver of socio-economic growth. PM said that last five years have seen major reforms in India's oil and gas sector. "India today has the fourth largest refining capacity in the world. This will further grow by about 200 million metric tons by 2030", he added.

He further added that currently, India is the fastest growing large economy in the world and could be the second largest global economy by 2030 and also the third largest energy consumer in the world. With energy demand expected to more than double by 2040 and India remains attractive market for energy companies, he added.

He noted that India is making rapid strides towards a gas based economy. Over sixteen thousand kilometres of gas pipeline has been constructed and an additional eleven thousand kilometers is under construction. The tenth bid round for City Gas Distribution cover over four hundred districts and extend coverage of City Gas Distribution to seventy percent of our population", he added.

Reminding the global community to join hands in tackling the challenge of climate change, he said targets we set for ourselves at COP-21 in Paris can be achieved. In this context, he mentioned that India has made rapid strides in meeting its commitments.





During the Petrotech energy conference, H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber was felicitated with the "International Lifetime Achievement Award" by Shri Narendra Modi for his unique contribution towards shaping the world's energy structure with his intellectual leadership, insight clear vision and practical guidance. The International Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for exemplary work in the oil and gas industry at the global level.

While receiving the award, Dr. Al Jaber said, "I am honoured and humbled to accept an award that recognises ADNOC's evolution, under the wise guidance of the UAE's leadership, as an oil and gas company of the future that is responding to the expanding energy needs of the growth markets of Asia and, notably, India. Following the UAE Leadership's direction, ADNOC has built on the close bonds of friendship between the UAE and India to strengthen our strategic energy partnership".

Dr. Jaber shared, "In this new energy era, ADNOC is adopting more creative strategies and more flexible business models to capture growth, maximize efficiency and create greater value from every barrel of oil produced. There is a real need for the oil and gas industry to modernise, in order to ensure the world's growing energy needs are met in the 4th Industrial Age".

He further added that "At the same time, we are pushing the boundaries of partnership to bring technology, expertise and financial acumen, aimed at maximising the value of our resources, as we take advantage of the rising global demand for crude, refined and petrochemical products."

In his address, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Recognising the dramatic shift in energy demand among the rising economies of Asia and, in particular, India, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber has reshaped the buyer-seller relationship into one based on true strategic partnership. As a result, Dr. Sultan has made a valuable contribution to regional and global energy security, while redefining the traditional NOC business model to adapt to a fast-evolving energy landscape. In short, Dr. Sultan has proven himself a true industry pioneer, who is ensuring the oil and gas industry remains relevant, agile and responsive to the needs of the future."

While interacting with reporters on the sidelines of Petrotech 2019, Dr. Al Jaber acknowledged the close, mutually beneficial, strategic and economic relationship between the UAE and India. He mentioned that ADNOC is the only foreign oil and gas company, so far, to invest by way of crude oil in India's strategic petroleum reserves programme. It is also a stakeholder, along with Saudi Aramco, and a consortium of Indian state-run companies, in one of India's largest refinery and petrochemicals projects, to be constructed at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. In addition, in February 2018, for the first time, an Indian consortium of three companies, comprising ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Company and Bharat PetroResources Ltd., was awarded a 10% participating interest in Abu Dhabi's offshore Lower Zakum concession.

He shared that the UAE is keen on making more investments in India, both in refining and petrochemical projects, as well as stocking more crude in storage projects. "India is very high on our strategic agenda and expanding our strategic reserve in India will be an item on the agenda to be discussed with our friends and counterparts in India", he added.

"We are looking at the expanding investment portfolio in downstream sectors, especially in oil refining and petrochemicals. We are only looking at strategic partnerships given that we can also bring our own crude. India is not only an important market for us, India is a very strategic partner. We will continue to always look for ways to enhance our avenues of cooperation," Dr. Al Jaber said.

Visit of H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Al Mehairi, UAE Minister of State for Food Security



H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Al Mehairi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Food Security had visited India on 27-28th March 2019 to discuss bilateral cooperation between UAE and India in areas of food security.

During her visit, H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi had met Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Gov. In the meeting, both dignitaries discussed about setting up of a 'Food Security Alliance' and further strengthening the bilateral relations between both the countries. The discussion was centred on establishing a dependable long term partnership of India with the UAE for its food security through knowledge sharing, cooperation for R&D in agricultural technology, farming, reducing food wastage, customizing & standardizing the agro food products as per UAE standards, etc.

In her another meeting with Ms Pushpa Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing, Govt. of India, H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi discussed about UAE-India bilateral cooperation in areas of Food Security including reduction of the wastage of the perishable agri produce, enhancing shelf life of food products, etc.

H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi had also met Dr. Awasthi, Managing Director & CEO, Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO). During the meeting, both sides held strategic discussions regarding long term association for sustainable Food Security and ways & means of collaboration with IFFCO for food security requirements.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India accompanied Her Excellency for the above meetings.

During the visit, H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi visited Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and met senior officials to discuss various avenues for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the areas of agriculture between the UAE and India. H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi also visited industrial plants of LT Foods and Kohinoor in Haryana and discussed with their management regarding expanding their businesses in the MENA region through UAE. Her Excellency was accompanied by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India and Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of the UAE to India.

H.E. Mariam Al Mehairi also participated in an interactive session with the agro and food processing industry players including Lulu Group, Advoc, Dabur, Mother Dairy, LT Foods, Kohinoor Foods, etc. While addressing the participants, H.E. Mariam shared that the prospects for productive engagement between the UAE and India in this sector are immense. She said that concept of a bilateral Food Security Alliance is similar to strategic cooperation between the UAE and India in Energy Security, which was conceptualized following the recent high level exchanges by leaders of both countries.

In the meeting, H.E. Mariam unveiled the idea of setting up an "Indian Food City" in the UAE. She said, it could be set up in a free zone in the UAE and would work well for value addition in the zone and exports to third countries. Her Excellency further added that such a facility would allow India to bring its advanced food and agricultural technology which can be harnessed in the UAE for mutual benefit.

Visit of Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala to the UAE



A high level delegation led by Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala had visited UAE from 13 to 16th February 2019 to attract investments in the State. Hon'ble Minister was accompanied by Mr Tom Jose, Chief Secretary of Kerala; Dr. Kamala Kannan Ellangovan, Principal Secretary (Industries), and other senior officials from the State Government.

H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, UAE received Shri Pinarayi Vijayan and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, both the leaders discussed bilateral relations between the UAE and Kerala in the economic, development, investment and cultural fields and the means of strengthening them. They also exchanged points of view for many regional and international issues of common interest.

The meeting was also attended by H.E. Sheikh Sultan bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, Adviser to the UAE President along with senior officials from both the sides.

During the visit, Hon'ble Chief Minister had also met H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Court. In the meeting, Kerala CM shared details relating to the vast opportunities that Kerala can offer for mutual growth, especially in the infrastructure sector. He presented specific investment projects including an Aerospace Park near Kannur Airport, Petrochemical Park, Food Procurement Park, Spices Park, Defence Park and a Life Sciences Park for ADIA's consideration. He also extended an invite to H.H. Sheikh Hamed to visit Kerala.

In his another meeting with H.E. Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmad Al Jaber, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State and CEO, ADNOC Group, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan invited ADNOC to invest in a proposed 380-acre petrochemical complex in Kochi in Kerala. Elaborating on the outcome of his meeting with Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, the Kerala CM shared that a Task Force will be set up to look into the investment projects in the State.

Shri Vijayan was accompanied by H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE; Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International, and his delegation members for the meeting.





The Kerala Chief Minister along with his accompanying delegation had met H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, UAE Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, at Al Rumailah Palace.

H.H. Sheikh Hamad welcomed Shri Pinarayi Vijayan and said that the visit would contribute towards enhancing cooperation between the UAE and Kerala in the best interest of the two sides. His Highness and Hon'ble Chief Minister discussed a number of issues related to ways to develop cooperation and ties between the two countries. They also exchanged views on a number of regional and international topics of mutual interest.

Shri Vijayan conveyed thanks to H.H. Sheikh Hamad for the invitation, which mirrors the strong friendship and cooperation between the UAE and India while highlighting the attention given to the Indian community by the UAE's Government and people, especially citizens of Kerala. The meeting was attended by senior officials from both the sides.

During the visit, Shri Vijayan and his accompanying delegation had also met H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. In the meeting, they discussed about sustaining the longstanding bonds between the UAE and India, in general, and Dubai and Kerala in particular.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed underlined the keenness of the leaderships of both countries to further enhance the bilateral relations. During the meeting, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum received an official invitation from Chief Minister Shri Vijayan to visit Kerala.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for International Cooperation; H.E. Ibrahim Al Shaibani, Director General, Dubai Ruler's Court; H.E. Khalifa Saeed Sulaiman, Director General, Dubai Protocol and Hospitality Department; H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE; Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International; along with officials from both the sides.

Shri Vijayan along with H.E. Sheikh Khalid bin Abdullah bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman, Sharjah Ports and Customs Department, inaugurated the second edition of 'Come on Kerala' Business Conclave held at Sharjah Expo Centre from 14 to 16th February 2019. The three day event held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, was organised by Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Gulf Madhyamam Group, to further strengthen trade and cultural ties between India and Gulf countries.

At the business conclave, Hon'ble Chief Minister had an interactive discussion with a gathering of leading investors and business leaders from the UAE and apprised them of the strides made by Kerala, and made a strong pitch for investment in the state.

The event was attended by Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai; Mr P.K. Kunhalikutty, Indian parliamentarian; Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International, etc.

During the visit, Shri Vijayan also attended the two-day Loka Kerala Sabha (LKS) at Etisalat Academy in Dubai. The Chief Minister addressed over 15,000 Keralites in the UAE during a cultural festival.



January 2019: H.E. Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, UAE Minister of Education, along with delegation from the UAE, had visited New Delhi on an official visit to learn about India's experience in the field of education and human resource development.

During the visit, H.E. Hussain Hammadi had met Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development, Government of India and discussed on enhancing cooperation in the field of education and to strengthen the relationship between the UAE and India. H.E. Hammadi was accompanied by H.E. Dr. Ahmed AlBanna, UAE Ambassador to India and other UAE delegation members for the meeting.

H.E. Hammadi thanked the Indian Government for the invitation and shared that India's experience in education is one of the most successful experiences at the regional and international levels. There is a consensus among industry experts that this experience is the key to India's successes and achievements in science, technology, space and scientific education including medical and engineering, which offers a modern educational level comparable to that of developed countries.

While highlighting the areas of cooperation in educational sector, H.E. Hammadi shared that the India's rich experience in the education sector can be used to improve the quality of education in the UAE especially for promoting creativity and development of innovative skills.

His Excellency further added that UAE can work with India to customize a grading system for ranking UAE institutions, open platform of education (online education) which will not only benefit students of UAE but the entire Middle East and Africa region specially those Arab states which are going through disrupt political phase and student exchange programs as well.





Shri Prakash Javadekar welcomed the suggestions of H.E. Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi and expressed mutual concern on them. He also appreciated the UAE for its pilot program to issue teaching license for all of the teachers employed in the country which will get renewed every 5 years for which they would need to undergo an exam. Hon'ble HRD Minister of India further suggested for organising meetings of senior officials from both the sides to identify the areas of cooperation and signing of MoUs to work together in the field of education and HRD.

H.E. Hammadi and his accompanied delegation had also met with the officials of Educational Consultants India Limited (EdCil), a Public Sector Enterprises under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, offering management and consultancy services for development of new educational methods.

The UAE delegation also visited the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and had met the senior functionaries of the institute. During the visit, UAE delegation members were briefed regarding the educational system and the syllabus of the Institute. H.E. Hammadi shared that joint programmes, exchange of students between Khalifa University and IIT Delhi can be explored. Apart from discussion on possible collaboration with IIT Delhi, the delegation from the UAE also visited IIT Delhi's Lecture Hall Complex, Chemistry, Physics and Computer labs to understand the educational infrastructure and facilities at the institute.

Later, the delegation also visited Delhi Public School and toured its class room halls, Science labs, Computer labs, Robotics lab and Mathematics lab wherein they interacted with students and discussed teaching methods and the course studied. The UAE delegation also visited the Sports Complex of DPS RK Puram. The delegation members planted a Ghaf, the national tree of the UAE, as a gesture of friendship.





Sharjah has showcased the Emirati culture, as the Guest of Honour, at the 27th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), organised by National Book Trust of India from 5 to 13th January 2019. The nine-day book fair witnessed the participation of a host of international authors, intellectuals, as well as leading literary and cultural entities.

Sharjah's cultural delegation was led by H.H. Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Executive Chairman, Sharjah's Department of Government Relations, and included prominent officials of cultural and academic entities in Sharjah.

The Sharjah pavilion at the book fair was set up by the Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) and featured the emirate's prominent publishers, and other cultural and academic entities, including the Emirates Writers Union (EWU), Emirates Publishers Association (EPA), Sharjah Department of Culture, Sharjah Institute for Heritage, Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi Centre for Gulf Studies, Sharjah Media Corporation, UAE Board on Books for Young People, Knowledge without Borders - 1001 Titles, Al Qasimi Publications, and Kalimat Group.

To mark Sharjah's participation as Guest of Honour, Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) in collaboration with Emirates Writers Union have brought diverse works of literature by poets, writers, researchers and playwrights in the Hindi language to offer Indian readers a taste of Emirati and Arabic literary culture.

Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India inaugurated the book fair and the inaugural function was attended by H.H. Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Al Qasimi; Mr Ahmed Bin Rakkad Al Ameri, Chairman, Sharjah Book Authority; H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India; and other delegation members from the UAE.

Shri Prakash Javadekar welcomed authors from the Emirate to the event and said India's friendship with Sharjah was being exhibited this week through the Fair. While addressing the audience, H.H. Sheikh Fahim bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Executive Chairman, Sharjah's Department of Government Relations, described the Emirate's participation in the New Delhi World Book Fair as the Guest of Honour as the "addition of a significant milestone in the international relations of Sharjah."

Sharjah, he said, had come a long way in realising the synthesis of cultures through books. With India, such cross-cultural relations complement ties at the political level with centuries-old memories of spices leaving Indian shores and landing in the Gulf. He further added that "We are here to present our gems of literature. Today we stitch together another strand in our cultural fabric of cooperation with India."



The Hindi and English translations of the novel *Bibi Fatima and the King's Sons* by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, were launched at the inaugural function of the book fair.

Sharjah also organised a plethora of seminars, literary discussions, and talks on the growing scope of publishing in the UAE, poetry recitation evenings featuring dozens of Arab and Emirati authors, intellectuals and artists. Through more than around 25 different events/ activities, the Sharjah Pavilion brought the cultural vision of Sharjah that lays special emphasis on bringing nations and cultures together through vibrant interactions and exchange of books and knowledge.

The seventh edition of CEO Speak was held on the sideline of NDWBF. The "India-Emirati Forum" organised at the event offered publishers a common platform to explore emerging business opportunities and discuss shared challenges and how to face them. While addressing the participants at India-Emirati Forum, Mr Ahmed bin Rakkad Al Ameri, Chairman, Sharjah Book Authority, said that "the participation in the New Delhi World Book Fair will increase the understanding of Arab and Emirati culture in India through literary exchange besides bridging cultural communication between both countries."

The Emirates Publishers Association organised a panel discussion titled "UAE's Experience in the Publishing Field", at the book fair. It addressed the unique capabilities of the UAE's publishing industry, many opportunities offered by the local market, and shed light on the government's efforts to promote industry practices. It was moderated by Mr Rashid Al Kous, Executive Director, Emirates Publishers Association, who emphasised that the selection of Sharjah as the UNESCO World Book Capital 2019 is an ideal opportunity to introduce Indian publishers to the investment opportunities in the UAE's book market and enable them to boost collaboration with local publishers.

Sharjah has also hosted a historical symposium shedding light on India's prominent position in the cultural legacy of Arabic books and manuscripts. An intellectual discussion titled 'India in the Arabic Manuscripts' was attended by several Arabic writers, poets and historians. The session emphasized on exploring ways to bring unpublished manuscripts written in the era that detail Indo-Arab relations to the attention of publishers, so more can be learnt about the historical exchanges between the two cultures, and the importance of disseminating the information contained within these manuscripts was highlighted.

The cultural panels and sessions hosted at Sharjah's pavilion discussed an array of topics, such as "The challenges of translating Arabic language into international languages", "The history of addressing India throughout the ages as presented in the biographies and travel literature by several Arab authors and explorers" and "The history of Indian presence in 20th century Emirati poetry".

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India attended an artistic symposium, 'Emirate and Indian Cinema', on 8th January 2019, at the Sharjah Pavilion. This session was performed by Dr. Habeeb Ghloom. The interaction stopped at many historical stations and presented evidence for the strong & continuing presence of the Emirates captivating landscape as well as actors in Indian cinema.

The Sharjah Pavilion also showcased the Arabic calligraphy and displayed different Arabic crafts at the fair. The Sharjah Institute of Heritage had set up their stall displaying Arabic handcraft which is practiced in the UAE. Arabic women showcased the old method of cloth dyeing and handcraft to promote the Arabic culture.





The Special Olympics World Games 2019 was hosted in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 14 to 21st March 2019 for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa since the movement's founding over 50 years ago. The event was held under the Patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces with a mission to promote positive social change for people with intellectual disabilities and create a more inclusive society.

With more than 7,500 athletes and 3,000 coaches, representing over 192 nations for seven days of incredible Olympic-style sports, the Special Olympics World Games at Abu Dhabi 2019 was the largest sports and humanitarian event in the world and set the benchmark for the most unified Games in the 50-year history of the Special Olympics movement. It aimed to empower people with intellectual disabilities to become accepted and valued members of their communities, which leads to a more respectful and inclusive society for all. The event saw the participation of thousands of spectators including Government and business leaders, celebrities and activists, Honored Guests and more.

In addition to sports competition, the 2019 World Games featured inspiring non-sports activities and programs, including Unified Sports experiences, free Healthy Athletes screenings, a GenUin Global Youth Summit, and the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The World Games was officially opened by H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. In his inaugural speech, H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan stated that he feels proud to be with the Special Olympics athletes and said them, "Here in the UAE, everyone supports you and takes pride in you." He further added that the UAE would be able to deliver a message to the world that anything can be possible if the person has determination.

India participated in the Special Olympics World Games for the 9th time and created history by clinching an astounding tally of 368 medals, including 85 gold, 154 silver and 129 bronze at the Special Olympics World Summer Games Abu Dhabi 2019.

284 athletes from India participated in the prestigious event and medals were won across all sports including athletics, golf, volleyball, aquatics, cycling, judo, powerlifting, table tennis, roller skating, badminton, basketball traditional, handball traditional and football 7-side female at the Special Olympics 2019.

Indian powerlifters performed brilliantly and bagged the maximum number of medals including 20 gold, 33 silver and 43 bronze while Roller Skating team earned India 49 medals including 13 gold, 20 silver and 16 bronze. In cycling, the Indians won 11 gold, 14 silver and 20 bronze to total 45 medals, while the country's track and field athletes returned with 39 medals including 5 gold, 24 silver and 10 bronze. It was also the first time India participated in Judo and Futsal, clinching 3 gold, 1 silver and 7 medals respectively. This was by far the best performance by Indian Team at the Special Olympics World Games.

ADNOC awards Onshore Exploration Block to Indian Consortium



March 2019: Urja Bharat Pte Ltd, a 50:50 consortium of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (Indian Oil) and Bharat PetroResources Ltd (BPRL), has won the entire stake in the Abu Dhabi onshore Block 1 concession. BPRL is a subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL). The award has been endorsed by Abu Dhabi's Supreme Petroleum Council (SPC) and represents a further deepening of the fast-growing UAE-India energy relationship.

Under the 35-year Agreements, the Indian consortium will hold a 100% stake in the exploration phase and invest up to AED 626 million (USD 170 million), including a participation fee, to explore for and evaluate oil and gas opportunities in the block, which covers a large area around Ruwais and includes already discovered but undeveloped conventional oil and gas fields.

Following successful exploration activities and appraisal of the existing discoveries, the Indian consortium will be granted the opportunity to develop and produce any discoveries. The Agreement includes an option for ADNOC to hold a 60% stake in the production phase. The Agreements were signed by H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and CEO, ADNOC Group; Mr D. Rajkumar, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd; and Mr Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation.

During the signing ceremony, H.E. Dr. Al Jaber said, "This award highlights the important role of energy cooperation in strengthening the strategic relationship between the UAE and India. It also underlines ADNOC's 2030 smart growth strategy and our targeted approach to engage with value-add partners who can contribute the right combination of market-access, capital and technology, as we reinforce our position as an essential energy provider to the world."

He further added that "The consortium of Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation, both of whom ADNOC already partners with offshore, was selected after a very competitive bid round. The open bidding process represents a major advance in how ADNOC is accelerating the exploration and development of Abu Dhabi's substantial untapped hydrocarbon resources as we continue to maximize value, in line with the UAE leadership's directives."

Mr D. Rajkumar said, "We are elated with the award of Onshore Block 1, which strengthens our historical engagement with ADNOC and the UAE, giving further impetus to the already flourishing relationship in the energy sector between ADNOC and India's leading Oil and Gas Fortune 500 companies, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Indian Oil Corporation."

Mr Sanjiv Singh said that "We are delighted to be chosen by ADNOC to participate in this project, which will strengthen our efforts to achieve India's energy security. It is the second time that Indian oil and gas companies would venture into the development of hydrocarbon resources in the UAE, after acquiring stakes in Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum Concession. We look forward to further strengthening our relationship in the hydrocarbons sector of the UAE."

In the past 12 months, ADNOC has enhanced its strategic energy links with India, a key growth market for crude, refined and petrochemical products. It is the only foreign energy company, so far, to partner in India's strategic petroleum reserves program. It is also a stakeholder in one of India's largest refinery and petrochemicals projects, to be constructed on India's west coast. In addition, in February 2018, for the first time, an Indian consortium of three companies, comprising ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Company and Bharat PetroResources Ltd., a subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, was awarded a 10% participating interest in Abu Dhabi's offshore Lower Zakum Concession.

Inauguration of UAE Pavilion at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019

January 2019: His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, along with H.E. Dr Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India, inaugurated the UAE pavilion at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019 held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

UAE was one of the partner country of the summit and the UAE Pavilion was managed by UAE-India Business Council (UIBC). Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India visited the UAE pavilion at the summit and interacted with H.E. Dr. Thani and other UAE delegation members.

The inauguration ceremony was also witnessed by Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International; Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India; Mr Sharad Agarwal, Vice Chairman, UIBC & Chief Executive Officer-India, Emirates NBD Bank (PJSC); and a number of UAE delegation members.





January 2019: A UAE country seminar was organised during the ninth edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit held in Gandhinagar. UAE delegation led by His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment had participated in the seminar. The UAE country seminar highlighted the immense opportunities of promoting UAE-India bilateral trade and investment.

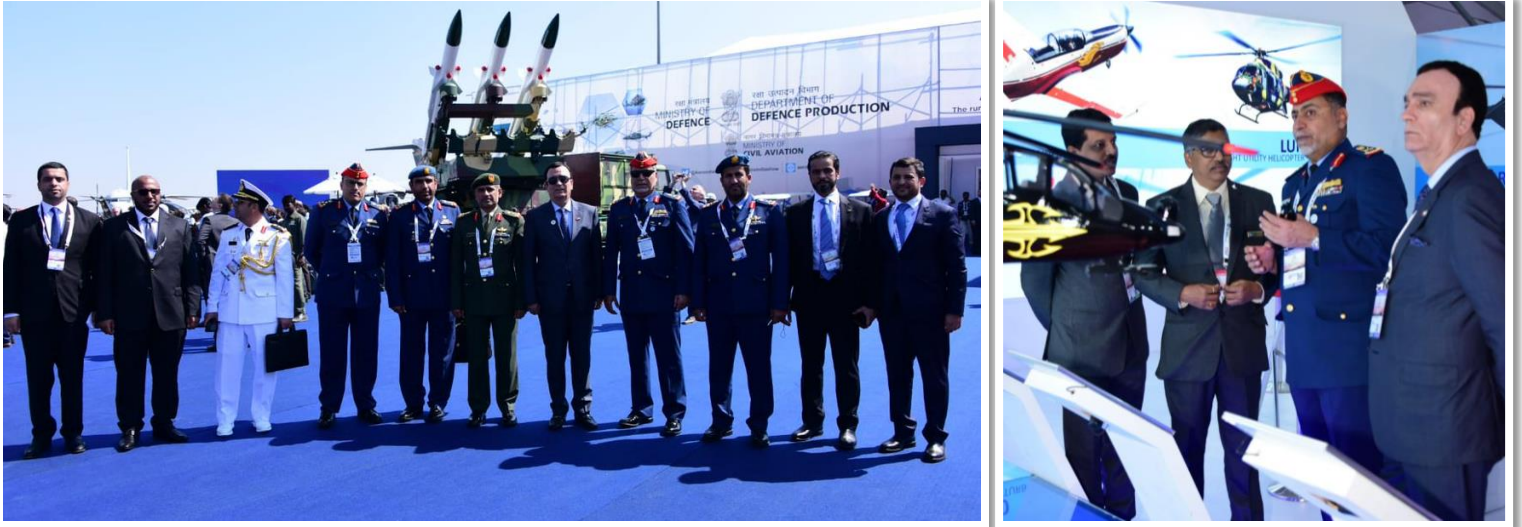
H.E. Dr. Thani delivered the Key Note Address at the seminar and said that "The UAE has become a global hub for entrepreneurship and investment, thanks to the significant efforts made by the Federal Government and local departments to create a world class, business-friendly environment, enabling the country to vie with the best." H.E. Dr. Thani further added that "UAE investments in India are valued at an estimated USD 8 billion, of which USD 5.33 billion is in the form of foreign direct investment, while the remaining is portfolio investment, making the UAE the 10th biggest investor in India in terms of foreign direct investment. The UAE's investments in India span multiple sectors, most notably the services sector, power, construction development, air transport, food, and hotels and tourism."

In his address at the seminar, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna highlighted that the UAE-India bilateral relations continue to evolve over time, from mere commercial cooperation into strategic partnership. He appreciated the positive developments witnessed between both the nations and reiterated the growth potential for the bilateral trade.

The UAE country seminar was also addressed by Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) & Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group; Mr Yusuff Ali, Chairman and Managing Director, Lulu Group International; Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India; Mr Sharad Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer-India, Emirates NBD Bank (PJSC); etc.



Participation of UAE Delegation in Aero India Show 2019



Major General Abdullah Al Sayed Al Hashemi, Assistant Under-Secretary, UAE Ministry of Defence, has led a high-level delegation from the UAE to participate in Aero India Show 2019 held in Bengaluru from 20 to 24th February 2019. The UAE delegation comprised of dignitaries including H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India; Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India and several other senior officials from the UAE Ministry of Defence.

The 12th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition was inaugurated by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Defence, Government of India. The UAE delegation attended the inaugural function and interacted with other dignitaries. Over 600 Indian Companies and 200 International Companies participated in the event.

The event was attended by Shri HD Kumaraswamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka; Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India; Dr. Subhash Bhamre, Indian Minister of State for Defence; Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GoI; the three Service Chiefs of the Army, Navy and the Air Force; Mr Sanjay Mitra, Defence Secretary, GoI; Dr. Ajay Kumar, Secretary - Defence Production; delegates from several foreign countries, senior serving officers from the three Services, veterans, and senior executives from defence industry.

During her inaugural address at the Aero India 2019, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman welcomed a host of Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers along with their delegations who were representing various countries from all around the world. She said that this edition of Aero India intended and endeavoured to put India on the Global map and intended metaphorically to be a "Runway to a billion opportunities"!

In her remarks, Smt. Sitharaman made a strong pitch for 'Make in India' and referred to a slew of initiatives taken by the Government, including permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Defence manufacturing, Defence Offset Policy 2016, Delicensing of Defence items, iDEX and the Defence Investor's cell. She invited investors to capitalise on the ecosystem in aerospace and other sectors in India which offered a big market for Defence manufacturing.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman further stated that the Government is committed to create an enabling environment for a domestic ecosystem of defence manufacturing, the results of which were already visible. She said, "With the policy initiatives and the procedural reforms, I am confident that India will emerge as a key player in the global defence arena. We will create an ecosystem in which there would be enhanced technological collaborations of the public as well as private sectors with the foreign Defence OEMs. Strategic partnerships will be forged with increased integration of skills, systems, technologies and manufacturing capabilities."

Major General Abdullah Al Sayed Al Hashemi along with H.E. Dr. Albanna and the accompanying delegation visited several pavilions at the Aero India Show, and looked at the exhibits put up by various Indian and International participants.

Interactive Session of UAE Delegation with 'Invest Punjab'



With an objective to strengthen Punjab's partnership with the UAE, Invest Punjab (Govt. of Punjab) had organised an interactive session with key UAE investors on 11th March 2019 in Chandigarh. UAE companies including DP World, Sharaf Group, Lulu Group, EMAAR, DMCC, etc. attended the interactive session with senior officials of Punjab Government. H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE and Mr Sujoy Bose, Managing Director and CEO, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have also participated in the interactive session.

The interactive session aimed to provide a platform for Emirati companies to share their existing/future plans in regard to making investments in India. The UAE companies have evinced keen interest for making huge investments in the arena of Agriculture & Food, Exports, Infrastructure, Logistics, Real Estate and Water Management in Punjab.

While interacting with the UAE delegation, Mr Karan Avtar Singh, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Punjab said that the State had recognized this unique opportunity and chosen UAE as one of its strategic partner for attracting investments and promoting trade, and had initiated an investment promotion campaign for the same.

Ms Vini Mahajan, Additional Chief Secretary - Industries and Commerce and Investment Promotion, Govt. of Punjab shared that this initiative is in-line with the Punjab Government's endeavour to attract FDI to the state. It will also help in giving exposure to local exporters from Punjab and enabling them to grow their global footprint, she added.

Mr Rajat Aggarwal, CEO, Invest Punjab pointed out that concerted efforts of the State Government have already started to bearing fruits. As a result, the Lulu Group has started exporting kinnow, other fresh fruits and vegetables, besides honey, through Punjab Agro Juices Limited from the state.

On the sidelines of the interactive session, the members of visiting delegation also had one-on-one meeting with Chief Minister of Punjab and other senior officials of various departments of State Government to explore opportunities for investments in Punjab. Prominent export houses of Punjab namely PAIC, Markfed, Milkfed, Suguna Foods, Trident, M.K. Overseas, Mrs Bectors Foods, etc. have also joined the meeting and showcased their product portfolio to the members of visiting delegation.

Major Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group; Mr Yuvraj Narayan, Group CFO, DP World; Mr Rizwan Soomar, Deputy Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) and CEO & MD - Subcontinent, Hindustan Ports Pvt Ltd.; Mr Saifee T Rupawala, Group CEO, LuLu, etc. were among the key UAE delegates who have attended the session and interacted with the Punjab Government.



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India had participated in the fifth edition of ET Global Business Summit 2019 held on 22 - 23rd February 2019 in New Delhi. He was accompanied by Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group; Mr Shyam Kapur, Vice President, Sharaf Group; Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of the UAE to India; and Mr Abdul Salam, Director General, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC).

The Global Business Summit, is a flagship initiative of the Times Group that envisions to bring together visionaries, thought leaders, heads of state, policy makers, academicians and corporate heads cohesively driving a singular agenda for Scripting Economic Change, by connecting the building blocks of Economics for India and the Globe. The theme of this year's summit was 'Social, Sustainable & Scalable'.

Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India was the Chief Guest at the summit and shared his views on the theme 'New Economy - New Rules'.

Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf delivered a special address on "The UAE-Indian Economic Partnership towards wider prospects with a focus on Infrastructure Sector" at the event.

On the sidelines of the Global Business Summit, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna and Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf had met Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India.



Participation of UAE Delegation in Logix India 2019



The first edition of Logix India 2019 was held from 31st January to 2nd February 2019 in New Delhi. The 3 day event focusing on Logistics and its allied sectors was organized by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) with the support of Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

An UAE delegation comprising of logistics and freight companies, led by Ms Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, National Association of Freight and Logistics (NAFL) had participated in the event.

The event was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India. In his inaugural address, Shri Suresh Prabhu mentioned that the Commerce Ministry is working on a draft National Logistics Policy, aimed at promoting seamless movement of goods across the country and reducing high transaction cost of traders. The proposed policy would also focus on increasing the warehousing capacity, and identify gaps that could be bridged to bring down the cost of logistics for traders.

Ms Nadia Aziz addressed the event and shared her perspective on 'UAE-India Business Opportunities'. A large number of logistics companies from over 25 countries had participated in the event and exchanged business prospects and opportunities to make Indian logistics sector global.





February 2019: Dubai Care delegation led by His Excellency Tariq Al Gurg, Chief Executive Officer, Dubai Cares (part of Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives) visited India to witness the successful completion of its education program, launched in 2013 in partnership with Pratham. The education program focused on enhancing literacy and numeracy skills, as well as Early Childhood Education (ECE) services. In recognition of the successes and impact of this program, the visit also saw the launch of a new ECE program that aims to tackle the challenges and gaps in ECE in the country.

Commenting on the successful completion of the first program, H.E. Al Gurg said, "I am glad to witness the success of Dubai Cares' Literacy and Numeracy programme in India. The Government of India has been extremely attentive to communities that require education support; however, lack of resources required to deliver quality education to children still exists. We are proud that Dubai Cares has played a key role to bridge the gap in this area, in-line with the Government strategy. We are also pleased with the positive results the programme has achieved in general, and more specifically in terms of enhancing the learning levels among children at the ECE level. Pratham India has been an invaluable partner to us, and I am gratified by how many lives we were able to transform during that short period of time."

During the visit, H.E. Tariq Al Gurg had met H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India, and explained about the Dubai Care projects. In the meeting, H.E. Dr. Albanna reviewed the programs of Dubai Cares in education & other development projects. While praising the Dubai Care development projects, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India said, "We are proud of Dubai Cares' efforts towards supporting education in India in partnership with Pratham. The success, which both organizations have achieved so far is commendable. These efforts support the UAE's strategy for foreign aid, and help further strengthen the ties between the two countries. We wish them best of luck for their future endeavour and assure the embassy's support for this noble cause."

During the visit, H.E. Tariq Al Gurg and the accompanying delegation had a meeting with Dr. Sarvendra Vikram Bahadur Singh, Director, State Council of Educational Research and Training, Government of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow and visited other program sites. The UAE delegation had also met Mr Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister, Govt. of Delhi in New Delhi.



Address of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had delivered a lecture on the theme “The flourishing relationship between the UAE and India” at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) on 18th March 2019 in New Delhi.

The interactive session was organised by the UAE Embassy in India and was hosted by IIT Delhi in collaboration with CD Foundation. It was attended by students of IIT, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi University (DU) and a number of media persons.

While addressing the audience, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna highlighted the Air Service Agreement between the UAE and India. He mentioned that the UAE Government is working with India to make air travel to the UAE more affordable for Indian tourists and visitors. He further added that bilateral discussions are under way to increase two-way air-traffic.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna also spoke on ‘Student Exchange Programs’ that are available in the UAE for Indian students. He highlighted that student exchanges may emerge as a new addition to the expanding bilateral relations between the UAE and India as there is a growing interest among Indian students in enrolling in educational institutions in the UAE.

The lecture was followed by an interactive Q&A session between the UAE Ambassador Dr. Albanna and participants.

Students from IIT, Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University raised their queries regarding the opportunities available for them in the UAE to pursue higher education.

The UAE Ambassador shared regarding the UAE’s expanding education sector. He apprised that several world-renowned universities had opened campuses in the UAE and were accepting students from the region and beyond. He welcomed Indian students to study in these campuses.

He further added that hitherto universities in the US, Britain, Canada and Australia have been the favourite destinations for Indians wishing to study abroad. But this may change in favour of campuses in the UAE with growing information exchanges between the two countries about the educational opportunities in each other’s locations.

H.E. Dr. Albanna also shared that H.E. Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, UAE Minister of Education to New Delhi has visited India this year in January. His Excellency apprised that one of his engagements in New Delhi was at the Indian Institute of Technology. He mentioned that such visits at educational institutions across India adds value to creating awareness among students and parents about opportunities for higher learning in the United Arab Emirates.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna expressed his gratitude towards the management of IIT Delhi for the opportunity and acknowledged the efforts for organising the interactive session.

Address by Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UIBC and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group at a Seminar on "Delivering Good Governance - Indian Experience"



Consulate General of India in Dubai (CGI) in association with Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Dubai had organised a Seminar on "Delivering Good Governance - Indian Experience" on 1st February 2019. The seminar witnessed the participation from all walks of life including Emirati businessmen, academia, professionals & large expatriate community.



The seminar was addressed by Mr Vipul, Consul General of India in Dubai; Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UIBC and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group; and other dignitaries who shared their perspectives on the subject.





The UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) jointly with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in New Delhi had organized an interactive meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India with leading Emirati companies on 17th January in Mumbai.

The interactive session aimed to provide a platform for Emirati companies to share their issues & concerns relating to India operation and also to apprise about their future expansion plans to the UAE Ambassador.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Abdul Salam, Director General, UIBC thanked the UAE Ambassador and all the participants for joining the interactive session. He shared that this joint initiative of the UAE Embassy in New Delhi and UIBC provides an opportunity to UAE Companies to discuss their concerns with the UAE Ambassador and seek advice and help in resolving them. Moreover, it also help in getting the updates on the developments taking place between both the countries due to ongoing bilateral visits & talks for promoting mutual cooperation.

While addressing the participants, H.E. Dr. Al Banna highlighted the growing bilateral relations between the two countries, especially developments taking place in the areas of trade & economy in the recent years. H.E. Dr. Al Banna shared the recent develop regarding setting up of a fast track system for facilitating the UAE's investments in India. His Excellency shared that the fast track system which is co-chaired by him and Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, DIPP, Govt. of India is an outcome of the sixth UAE-India High Level Task force Meeting held on 15th October 2018 in Mumbai where 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 for facilitating all future investments in the UAE.

H.E. Dr. Al Banna highlighted the importance of holding regular similar interactions to understand the industry issues & concerns; and advised the Emirati companies to share inputs relating to their unresolved issues which can be taken up with the Indian Government.

H.E. Dr. Al Banna also shared that, as per the directives of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, there is need to establish a 'Youth Platform' within the UAE-India Business Council (UIBC), to promote young Emirati talents and their Indian counterparts.

Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India while addressing the participants highlighted the several ongoing discussions and efforts to resolve the industry concerns and facilitating the UAE investments in India. Mr Alfalahi welcomed this initiative and invited all the companies for regular interaction with the UAE Embassy for resolving their issues & concerns.

The interactive meeting ended positively with an active participation from the UAE companies. All the participating companies/ officials welcomed this initiatives and thanked the UAE Embassy for its proposal to engage in similar interactions and prepare a future roadmap to promote the UAE investments. The companies agreed to form various sub-committees, such as those related to aviation, logistical services and banking & financial, to discuss their common issues.

The interactive session was attended by H.E. Mohammed Saleh Ahmed Al Teneiji, UAE Consul-General in Mumbai and heads of leading Emirati companies in India, including DP World, Emirates NBD, Emirates Airlines, Etihad Airways, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Major Brands, RAK Ceramics, NMDC, etc.

Interactive Meeting of UAE Ambassador with Indian Companies - Mumbai



Participation of UAE Delegation in India Pharma 2019



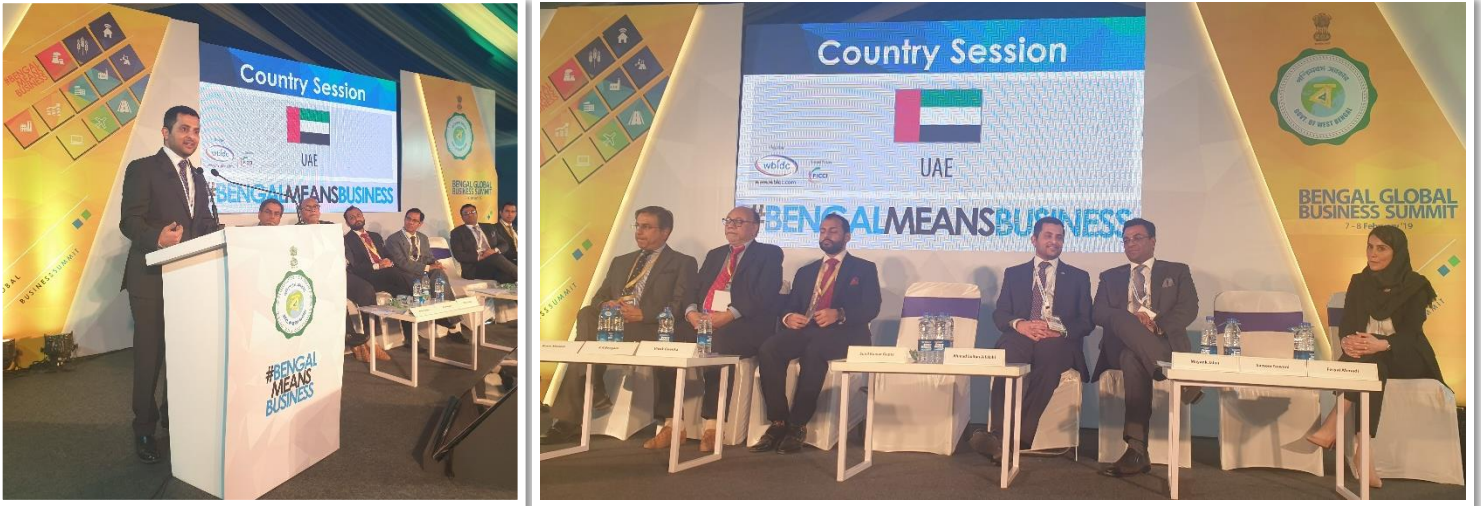
H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India had participated in the fourth edition of India Pharma 2019 held on 18-19th February 2019 in Bengaluru.

The event was addressed by Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda, Hon'ble Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Statistics and Programme Implementation; Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of State (Chemical & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping); Shri KJ George, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Scale Industries, Government of Karnataka; and other dignitaries.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India attended the inaugural session of India Pharma 2019 and interacted with the dignitaries. He was accompanied by Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India.

On the sidelines of the event, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna met some of the UAE companies participating in the event.





A delegation from the UAE had participated in the fifth edition of Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) 2019 held on 7 - 8th February 2019 at Biswa Bangla International Convention Center, Kolkata. The investment summit was inaugurated by Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal and attracted major business tycoons from all over the country. The event witnessed the participation of over 5000 delegates including around 450 international delegates from around the globe, underling both the primacy of West Bengal as an attractive investment destination and a stable and progressive policy regime. The UAE participated in the event as a Partner Country.

Welcoming investors from across the globe, Smt. Banerjee said that W. Bengal is the ideal destination for business as it is the gateway for not only the northeastern states but also to neighbouring Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. She shared that "Bengal is a destination, from where you can invest, from where you get a ready market. I welcome the UAE-based DP World, who have signed a 74% equity to develop the until now stalled river port at Kulpi. The Group will develop the Kulpi port, work for which was stalled for the last seven year, by investing Rs 3,000 crore" she said.

At the summit, the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) for facilitating trade between both the sides. The MoU was signed by Ms Feryal Ahmadi, Chief Operating Officer, DMCC and Ms Vandana Yadav, Managing Director, WBIDC. The MoU commits both parties to raise awareness around export promotion, facilitate trade, boost investment interaction and connect businesses from across geographies, sectors and industries.

Ms Feryal Ahmadi said, "As we deepen our already strong partnership with the business community in India, DMCC takes pride in collaborating with WBIDC, and the state of West Bengal, to seek new ways to attract, facilitate and promote trade. As a result of our relationship with WBIDC, the initiatives outlined in this MoU serve as a launch pad for Indian businesses looking to grow in Dubai and beyond".

"India is the UAE's second largest trading partner by volume. Both countries are making a concerted effort to strengthen commercial ties, create an environment that is even more welcoming to investment, removes unnecessary bureaucracy and opens the door for trade. By signing this MoU, we are delighted that DMCC and State of Bengal are clearly embracing this approach and one that will only serve to benefit both countries," said Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of the UAE in India.

Ms Vandana Yadav noted, "There is a strong synergy between Dubai and the state of West Bengal. Looking ahead, there is a significant opportunity to strengthen ties, collaborate further and work even closer together to boost business activity and knowledge transfer. DMCC is a strong partner, and will help Dubai, India and West Bengal do precisely that. We look forward to working with the world's leading Free Zone and meet the ambitious targets outlined in our MoU".

On the sidelines of the summit, a UAE Country Session was organised in order to showcase the investment opportunities in the UAE and explore business linkages, partnerships and collaborations.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Shri H D Kumaraswamy,
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka



February 2019: H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had met Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka in Bengaluru to discuss means of cooperation to further strengthen the bilateral relations and to follow-up on the outcome of the visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation.

During the meeting, H.E. Dr. Albanna conveyed UAE's interest in making investments in infrastructure development, establishment of food parks, low cost housing projects, etc. in Karnataka.

Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy highlighted that the UAE's investment in Karnataka has risen over the years in different areas such as agriculture, irrigation, renewable energy, innovation and technologies, automobiles, digital medicine etc. He informed that the state has been exporting flowers, vegetables and fruits to European countries and he looks forward to UAE's investment in these areas too.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Selvakumar S, Secretary to CM Karnataka; Mr Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Karnataka; Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of the UAE to India; along with several other officials.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, GoI



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India on 22nd January 2019 in New Delhi.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation, particularly in the fields of Civil Aviation, Food Security, Infrastructure, Food Storage etc.

They also reviewed the potential for the exchange of food grains exports, as well as raising levels of commercial and investment relations between the UAE and India.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Gol



January 2019: H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India and Mr Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Gol have explored ways to boost UAE-India relations to achieve progress, development and prosperity in both countries. This came in the meetings H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna had with Mr Vijay Gokhale.

During the first meeting which was also attended by Dr. T. V. Nagendra Prasad, Joint Secretary (Gulf), Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Albanna and Mr Vijay Gokhale vowed to work together in order to enhance cooperation across all sectors. They discussed about the bilateral cooperation for ensuring a conducive and peaceful environment for the progress and development between the UAE and India.



In another meeting with Mr Vijay Gokhale, H.E. Dr. Albanna discussed regarding the bilateral matters between the UAE and India. During the meeting, they discussed about the feedback received from the UAE delegation on their participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2019. They also discussed other related matters of mutual importance.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI



The UAE and India have explored ways to take bilateral relations to a higher level with special emphasis on the Aviation Sector. This came in a meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI on 19th March 2019 in New Delhi. The meeting was also attended by Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad, JS (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI and Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India.

During the meeting, both sides discussed the legacy issues related to the Emirati investments in India, as well as Air Service Agreements and a number of other key issues of mutual importance.

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna briefed Mr Tirumurti about the current state of UAE-India Civil Aviation pending issues. In the meeting, Dr. Albanna mentioned about reinforcing ties between the UAE and India in the fields of Agriculture and Nutrition.

His Excellency also discussed about the visit of H.E. Mariam Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Food Security to India scheduled to be held from 27 to 29th March 2019. Dr. Albanna apprised that the visit of the UAE Food Security Minister aims to forge a long term association between both the countries and discuss the progressive initiatives in the food sector.

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

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had met Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Govt. of India on 19th March 2019 in New Delhi.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed legacy of issues including taxation on sister companies, Air Service Agreements, etc. and to review the progress being made in addressing the issues agreed in the previous meetings. The meeting also touched on issues of mutual interest and both the sides deliberated on ways to reinforce bilateral relations between the two countries.

The discussions at the meeting were centred on promoting bilateral trade and commercial activities between the UAE and India and finding the way forward to address issues of both the countries. The meeting culminated on a positive note with both sides agreeing to work together to explore investment opportunities.

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

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Govt. of India



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had met Mr Ramesh Abhishek, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Government of India, for the signing of the Joint Statement on setting up a Fast Track System for UAE Companies in India on 9th January 2019 in New Delhi.

The signing of the MoU to establish a Fast Track system took place for facilitating UAE investments in India and to increase the bilateral trade & investments between the UAE and India. The Fast Track system will be set up in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The key objectives of the Fast Track system will be to pave the way for UAE investments and identify & solve problems faced by UAE companies and investors with their operations in India. The Fast Track system will also serve as a platform for discussing general suggestions from the point of view of UAE companies and investors with regard to Ease of Doing Business in India. This system will aim at processing applications and enquiries within one month where possible.

This Joint Statement was an outcome of the sixth UAE-India High Level Task force Meeting held on 15th October 2018 in Mumbai where 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.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Mr Khalifa Ahmed Al-Ali, Deputy Minister & Director General, Food Security Centre (Abu Dhabi)



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India had met Mr Khalifa Ahmed Al-Ali, Deputy Minister & Director General, Food Security Centre (Abu Dhabi) on 16th January 2019 at the UAE Embassy in New Delhi.

During the meeting, they discussed different programs, projects & platforms available in India on Food Security. They reiterated their commitment to make valuable contributions to strengthen business relations & to explore investment opportunities in the food sector.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India with Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UIBC and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, UAE Ambassador to India had met Maj Gen (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) and Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group on 22nd February 2019 in New Delhi. During the meeting, they discussed regarding the means & ways of strengthening the role of UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) and different activities to be organised by UIBC in collaboration with the UAE Embassy for promoting UAE-India bilateral trade & investment ties.

They discussed a road map to strengthen the overall bilateral relationship between the UAE & India through different means & platforms. Also, it was discussed to showcase the linkages of business with tolerance through different activities and programmes with the help of industry stakeholders and partners.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Ahmad Alfalahi, Commercial Attache of the UAE to India and Mr Abdul Salam, Director General, UAE-India Business Council (UIBC).

Meeting of H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE with H.E. Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, UAE Minister of Education



H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE had met H.E. Hussain Bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, UAE Minister of Education on 25th March 2019 in Abu Dhabi to discuss regarding the issue of rejection of equivalency of some Indian degrees by the UAE authorities due to lack of clarity over internal/external marks.

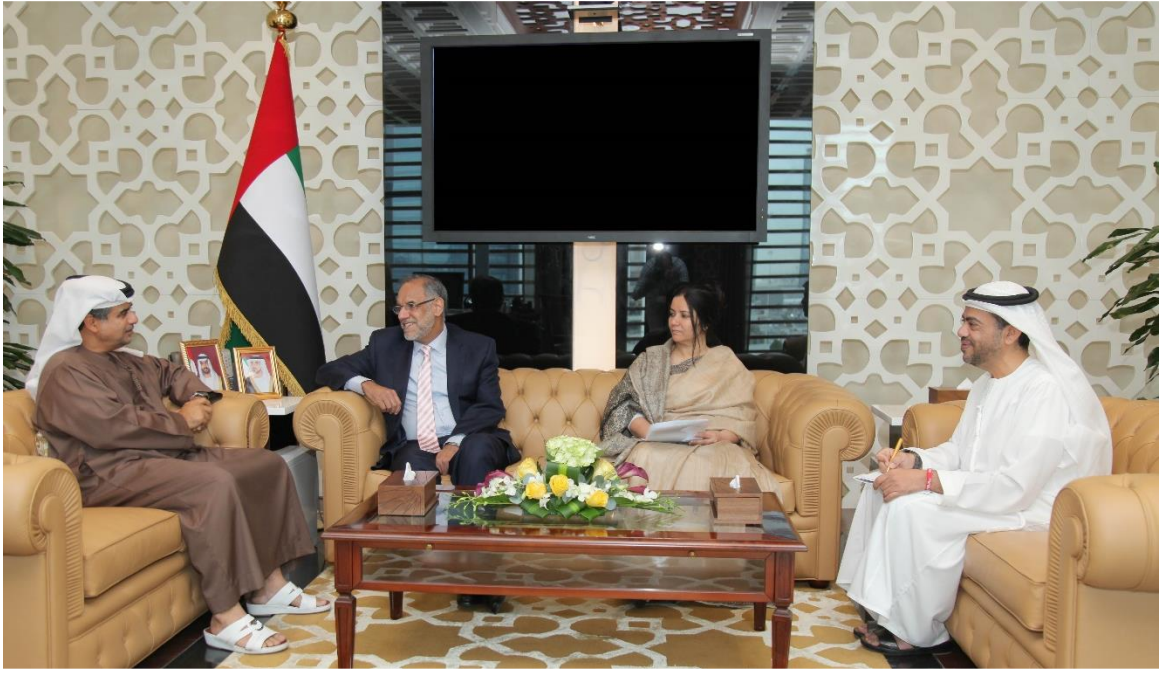
To work in the UAE, Indian nationals have to obtain an equivalency certificate from the UAE Ministry of Education for their educational and professional qualifications. Many such applications for equivalency from Indians have been rejected in the past due to lack of clarity over internal or external marks in their mark lists.

Following the Indian Ambassador's meeting with the UAE Education Minister, the UAE Ministry of Education conveyed that it has reviewed the information provided to it through the 'Action Plan for Academic and Administrative Reforms' issued by the India's University Grant Commission (UGC). The UAE Education Ministry has come to know that the word "external" in the mark sheet reflects the method of evaluation and not place of study and notified that it has no objection to equivalence those degrees that meets all other certificate equivalency criteria.

The UAE Ministry also notified that those applications that have been rejected previously will be reviewed and equivalency letters would be issued after meeting all other certificate equivalency conditions.

The UAE Ministry of Education further informed that it is working on all such applications gradually and requested for cooperation from all concerned as it will take some time to review all these cases due to vast number of such applications.

Meeting of H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE with H.E. Youssif Saeed Al-Abri, Undersecretary, Abu Dhabi Judicial Department



H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE had a courtesy meeting with H.E. Youssif Saeed Al-Abri, Undersecretary, Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD) on 2nd March 2019.

During the meeting, both dignitaries reviewed opportunities for cooperation and coordination between the ADJD and the Judicial Institutions in India; and discussed the means of strengthening them in line with the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs and Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department, through working constantly to cement the ties with various judicial institutions regionally and internationally.

H.E. Youssif Saeed Al-Abri shared that the Judicial Department is keen to improve and ensure easy & smooth access to all the services provided by the department, as well as enhance effectiveness and sustainability of judicial processes.

In the meeting, H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri acclaimed the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department for the adoption of workers' claim forms in Hindi. The Indian Ambassador praised the initiatives of the Judicial Department in the interest of the UAE resident communities, especially the adoption of interactive forms of court cases and the inclusion of Hindi along with both the Arabic and English languages in labor cases to eliminate the language barrier among the litigants. He also appreciated the efforts of the Judicial Department for providing multi-language translation services, in order to ensure access to justice and to provide judicial and legal services at the highest international levels.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Salah Khamis Al-Junaibi, Director - Institutional Communication and International Cooperation, Abu Dhabi Judicial Department and Mrs Smita Pant, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi.

Meeting of H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE with H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Under-Secretary, Court of the Ruler's Representative in Al Ain Region



H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE had met H.H. Sheikh Hazza bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Under-Secretary, Court of the Ruler's Representative in Al Ain Region on 7th February 2019.

During the meeting, H.H. Sheikh Hazza welcomed the Indian Ambassador and admired the progressive ties between the UAE and India at various levels. They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination.

Meeting of H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE with H.E. Eng. Ahmed Mohamed Sharif Al Khouri, Director General, Federal Transport Authority - Land & Maritime (FTA)











H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri, Indian Ambassador to the UAE had a courtesy meeting with H.E. Eng. Ahmed Mohamed Sharif Al Khouri, Director General, Federal Transport Authority - Land & Maritime (FTA) on 19th February 2019 in Abu Dhabi. H.E. Eng. Al Khouri welcomed the Indian diplomatic mission and reviewed the initiatives and pioneering projects carried out by the FTA within its regulatory and supervisory role in the land and maritime transport sector aimed at achieving the vision of good leadership that constitutes the roadmap for the FTA's strategy and ambitious initiatives. The meeting was also attended by Mr Vipul, Consul General of India and other senior officials from both the sides.

During the meeting, bilateral talks were held focusing on increasing cooperation and coordination between the two nations, exchange of experiences in the land and sea sectors, benefiting from the best practices of the two sides and discussing a draft MoU on maritime transport which mainly focuses on boosting coordination between the two countries in the field of maritime safety and exchanging experiences in ship management, training and marine education etc.

H.E. Navdeep Singh Suri praised the deeply rooted relations between the UAE and India, and the strong leadership of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

In the meeting, H.E. Eng. Al Khouri shared that the land and sea transport sector in the UAE is experiencing a qualitative leap and prosperity in line with the operational plans of the entities concerned with the infrastructure of land and sea transport. He also highlighted that the FTA is also seeking, through its strategic and operational plan, to play an active role in supporting the local concerned institutions; all in order to achieve the UAE Vision 2021, which translates the guidance of the UAE wise leadership in these two vital sectors.

Quarterly News Wrap (January to March 2019)

<p>H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, PM Modi discuss fostering cooperation</p>	<p>UAE Minister launches roadmap to improve Food Security</p>
 <p>H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Shri Narendra Modi, PM of India discussed ways of further advancing the distinguished relations between the UAE and India. Read More</p>	 <p>The UAE's bid to become one of the world's top 10 food secure nations has taken a major step forward with the launch of a food security roadmap for the Middle East by H.E. Mariam Almheiri, UAE's Minister of State for Food Security. Read More</p>
<p>UAE Cabinet approves National Space Strategy 2030</p>	<p>UAE Ministry inaugurates Zayed-Gandhi digital exhibition</p>
 <p>The UAE Government adopted the National Space Strategy 2030 during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi, aiming to achieve UAE's vision in the field of space exploration, technologies, and applications. Read More</p>	 <p>UAE's Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development has inaugurated the Zayed-Gandhi Digital Exhibition at Manarat Al Saadiyat on 12th March 2019. Read More</p>
<p>Dubai rolled out 5 new initiatives to boost Business</p>	<p>Dubai to host the 2021 World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment</p>
 <p>Dubai's Department of Finance (DOF) has rolled out five initiatives to support small- and medium-sized enterprises and public-private partnerships, including the allocation of AED1 billion worth of projects for government-private partnerships. Read More</p>	 <p>Dubai has been chosen to host the 18th World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in February 2021. US-based Conway Inc announced that it has awarded the Dubai Investment Development Agency the rights to host the event at the same time as the World Expo 2020 takes place. Read More</p>
<p>Infibeam's Dubai arm is divesting 51% stake to UniPropitia for USD 25 million</p>	<p>New USD 450m Tamil Infra Fund to target Middle East investors</p>
 <p>Infibeam Avenues Ltd is venturing into Arab League countries via a strategic alliance with Dubai based UniPropita Group, to accelerate its international growth and revenue share. UniPropita will also acquire 51% stake in IAL's subsidiary Infibeam Global EMEA FZ-LLC for USD 25 million. Read More</p>	 <p>Institutional and high net worth individual investors from the Middle East region will be among the focus group of overseas investors for the USD 450 million new alternate investment fund to be launched by Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Fund Management Corporation (TNIFMC). Read More</p>
<p>Abu Dhabi-backed firm signs deal to buy Indian toll road</p>	<p>Dubai Holding seeks investors for SmartCity Kochi hotel project</p>
 <p>Cube Highways and Infrastructure III Pte Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), has entered into a binding deal with India's Reliance Infrastructure to acquire Delhi-Agra Toll Roadway. Read More</p>	 <p>SmartCity Kochi, the futuristic Indian IT project being promoted by the investment vehicle of Dubai's ruler, is currently looking for a joint venture partner to help it build a five-star hotel at its site in central Kerala. Read More</p>

Quarterly News Wrap (January to March 2019)

Lulu to expand in India with two more new malls



The Lulu Group has announced its plans to build shopping malls in Bengaluru and Chennai as part of a major expansion of its interests in India. This is on top of the mall projects the Group had announced for three other Indian cities - Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram and Vishakhapatnam. [Read More](#)

Abu Dhabi launches AED520 million 'Hub71'



A new platform dubbed as 'Hub71' was launched in Abu Dhabi to support high tech startups. Hub71 was established by the Government to further underpin the Emirate's status as a vibrant destination of digital transformation, innovative initiatives & high-tech entrepreneurs in collaboration with key global technology companies. [Read More](#)

DCT Abu Dhabi announces initiatives to drive tourism sector investment



In line with the 'Ghadan 21' ambition, to make Abu Dhabi one of the best places in the world to do business, invest, live, work and visit, the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, announced strategic initiatives to further drive the development of the Emirate's tourism sector. [Read More](#)

India's GoAir launches flights to Abu Dhabi



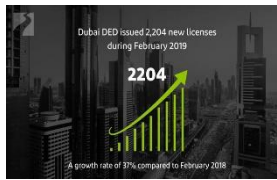
Abu Dhabi Airports has welcomed GoAir's launch of four new flights between Kannur International Airport and Abu Dhabi International Airport. GoAir's inaugural flight from Kannur to Abu Dhabi comes as the Indian subcontinent remains one of the most popular destinations for travellers departing from Abu Dhabi. [Read More](#)

UAE is region's best market for Logistics



Outlook for the UAE logistics markets remains strong as the country has retained its positions as the third-best globally and the first regionally among top 55 emerging markets for logistics. [Read More](#)

Dubai DED issued 2,204 new licences in February 2019



The Business Registration and Licensing (BRL) sector of the Department of Economic Development (DED), Dubai, issued 2,204 new licenses in February, a growth of 37% compared to the same month of 2018. [Read More](#)

UAE start-ups account for 88% of regional deal value



UAE start-ups have secured USD 31.36 million in investments which account for 88% of the whole deal value of the region. Local Services, Ecommerce and Financial Services are the top three industries accounting for 44% of the entire deal count. [Read More](#)

UAE Real Estate offers best returns on Investment



According to industry analysts, Dubai and Abu Dhabi offer rental yields more than double of what is offered by the world's major established cities such as London, Paris and New York. [Read More](#)

Ghaf tree chosen as the logo for UAE's 'Year of Tolerance'





The Ghaf, the UAE's national tree has been chosen as the official logo for the 'Year of Tolerance'. The logo will be used by all UAE Government, private and media entities in all campaigns, initiatives & programmes launched during 2019. [Read More](#)

Hindi becomes the third official language of Abu Dhabi's Court



In a landmark development, Abu Dhabi announced Hindi as the third official language after Arabic and English to be used in its court. This step has been taken to improve access to the judicial system. [Read More](#)

Quarterly News Wrap (January to March 2019)

<p>ENOC Group, Indian Oil Company announce alliance</p>  <p>ENOC Group has announced a strategic alliance with Indian Oil Company (IOC) worth USD 63 billion, in a joint effort to expand its global footprint while building on IOC's R&D infrastructure to mitigate future manufacturing challenges. Read More</p>	<p>Thomas Cook India picks 51% stake in Dubai imaging firm</p>  <p>Thomas Cook India Group, the travel services group, has announced its acquisition of a 51 percent stake in Dubai based Digiphot Entertainment Imaging (DEI) in a deal worth USD 40.6 million. Read More</p>
<p>India's Tea Valley forays into ME region</p>  <p>Tea Valley, an Assam tea brand debuted at GulFood 2019 marking its foray into to the Middle East market with the world's widest ever range of tea blends for the international tea lovers, aimed at catering to a growing interest and trend towards specialty tea market in the region. Read More</p>	<p>Popular Indian snacks headed to Dubai in Choithrams deal</p>  <p>Middle East supermarket chain Choithrams is partnering up with India's Future Consumer Limited (FCL) to bring popular Indian snacks to the UAE market for the first time, the company announced last month. Read More</p>
<p>UAE's Tabreed signs Indian cooling deal, first outside Gulf</p>  <p>The National Central Cooling Company, Tabreed, has entered into a 30 year concession for a contracted cooling capacity of 20,000 refrigeration tonnes (RTs) with Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) to build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in Amaravati. Read More</p>	<p>India's L&T wins EPC deal for UAE power project</p>  <p>L&T's power transmission and distribution (PT&D) business announced that it has secured a UAE Government order for the construction, supply, installation, testing, and commissioning of a 132/11kV substation and associated works. Read More</p>
<p>The Golden Era of UAE-India relations</p>  <p>Relations between India and the UAE are going through a golden era. They are at their best ever. The bilateral relationship has matured and transformed into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership as both countries continue to explore deeper cooperation in new areas. Read More</p>	<p>Emirates airline to explore direct flights to Calicut in Kerala</p>  <p>Emirates airline is exploring the possibility of starting its own direct flights to Kozhikode Calicut International airport in Kerala. Senior officials from Emirates will inspect the airport soon, according to an executive from Kozhikode Calicut International. Read More</p>
<p>H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber transformed UAE-India energy relations into a strategic partnership</p>  <p>The tremendous contributions of H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmad Al Jaber, UAE Minister of State and Group CEO, ADNOC, have helped transform the "buyer, seller" relationship between the UAE and India in the field of energy into a "truly strategic" partnership, said the Indian Ambassador to the UAE. Read More</p>	<p>Indian Government drives big bang reforms in Oil & Gas Sector</p>  <p>The Indian Govt. approved the policy framework on reforms in exploration and licensing sector for enhancing domestic exploration and production of oil and gas. The decision signals a paradigm shift in the core goal of the Govt., moving from revenue maximisation to production maximisation, with focus on exploration. Read More</p>

Quarterly News Wrap (January to March 2019)

Indians among top foreign investors in Dubai property in 2018		Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Kotak to launch Special Situations Fund in India	
	The Dubai real estate market continued to attract a strong inflow of foreign funds with Indians, British, Pakistanis and Jordanians accounting for nearly one-third of total investments during the first 11 months of 2018. Read More		A wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has partnered with Kotak Investment Advisors Limited to launch the Kotak Special Situations Fund, which will target a range of Non-Performing Loan (NPL) opportunities in India. Read More
Why logistics sees more tech-savvy startups in UAE		UAE and Saudi Arabia to invest in making India hub for Food Security	
	More startups are investing in the UAE's logistics market to meet the increasing demand created by the rapid rise in e-commerce service providers across the GCC, according to industry specialists. Read More		UAE and Saudi Arabia have decided to make India as a base for food security for the countries and plan to invest in both organic and food processing industries, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation said. Read More
Dubai Delegation visits India as Foreign investments hit USD 1 billion		UAE-India to broaden ties in Transport and Roads Infrastructure Development	
	Dubai's leading business entities in trade and investment, real estate and startup development comprising of more than 80 companies visited India in an effort to build on the AED 3.7 billion (USD 1 billion) foreign direct investments seen during 2018. Read More		The Director-General and Chairman-Board of Executive Directors, UAE Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), met India's Consul-General in Dubai, and explored means of boosting cooperation & exchanging expertise between RTA and Indian entities operating in the fields of railways, roads and transport. Read More
Dubai Customs, Indian firms explore ways to promote trade		New 100% Investment Law redefines UAE's business landscape	
	Mr Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director, Dubai Customs and Mr Vipul, Indian Consul-General in Dubai have explored ways of enhancing trade with India and tackling any challenges that may face the companies of both the nations. Read More		The UAE cabinet has initiated implementation of 100% foreign ownership and 10-year residency visas for expats, investors and business people. The new laws are expected to give a major fillip to private and foreign direct investments (FDIs). Read More
India's OYO plans UAE expansion		DP World invests USD 3bn in global growth plan in 2018	
	OYO, the unicorn Indian hospitality start-up, will soon enter Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Saudi Arabia, as part of its ambitious expansion plans in GCC. Read More		DP World has announced a total fund investment of USD 3 billion in diversifying its global business portfolio during 2018. The company revealed its major projects including the launch of a USD 3 billion investment platform in India, the acquisition of complementary businesses in India, Europe and Peru. Read More

Major Upcoming Events

24-30 April. 2019		Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, Abu Dhabi View Details
28 April - 01 May. 2019		Arabian Travel Market, Dubai View Details
10-12 June. 2019		Automechanika Dubai View Details
08-12 August. 2019		India International Jewellery Show (IIJS), Mumbai View Details
29-31 August. 2019		Annapoorna ANUFOOD, Mumbai View Details
10-11 September. 2019		Future Manufacturing and Trade Summit, Dubai View Details
18-20 September. 2019		Renewable Energy India Expo, Delhi NCR View Details
26-27 September. 2019		Rising Himachal - Global Investors' Meet, Dharamshala View Details
06-10 October. 2019		GITEX Technology Week, Dubai View Details
29-31 October. 2019		Gulfood Manufacturing, Dubai View Details
01-04 November. 2019		World Food India, New Delhi View Details
11-14 November. 2019		ADIPEC, Abu Dhabi View Details
17-21 November. 2019		Dubai Airshow View Details
25-28 November. 2019		The Big 5, Dubai View Details
26-28 November. 2019		CPHI India, Delhi NCR View Details
09-11 December. 2019		SIAL Middle East, Abu Dhabi View Details
27-30 January. 2020		Arab Health, 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



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