



# UAE-INDIA BUSINESS COUNCIL



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

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



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces had a telephonic conversation with Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 to discuss strategic relations between the two nations and ways to develop them in a way that enhances their common interests and achieves the aspirations of their peoples for progress and prosperity.

During the call, the two leaders positively assessed the continued progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas under the UAE-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). His Highness and PM Modi emphasized the importance they attach to the strength and richness of the bilateral relationship and explored ways for consolidating the strategic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Shri Modi appreciated UAE's support for the Indian community during the Covid-19 pandemic and also conveyed best wishes for Expo 2020 to be held in Dubai.

Both leaders exchanged views regarding recent issues of mutual interest and the latest developments in the region. They agreed that there is no place for terrorism and extremism in the world and stressed the importance of international community standing together against such forces.

H.H. Sheikh Al Nahyan and PM Modi also agreed to maintain close consultations and cooperation for further strengthening the UAE-India partnership in the post COVID world. In this context, they discussed the opportunities for further diversifying trade and investment links.

Meeting of H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry & Adv. Technology and MD & CEO ADNOC Group with Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & CC and Labour & Employment, Gol



H.E. Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and MD & CEO ADNOC Group held a virtual meeting with Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change; and Labour & Employment, Gol on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to discuss issues relating to COP 26, renewable energy and other related matters.

During the high-level interaction, Shri Bhupender Yadav stated that renewable energy and energy efficiency are among the key pillars of Indian climate change strategies and the Government has been working to ensure that renewable energy, particularly solar, becomes cheaper than energy from fossil fuels. The Minister further mentioned that India has already installed about 151GW of non-fossil fuel installed capacity with 39% of the total capacity installed and going ahead, India has declared an aspirational target of installing 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030.

In his remarks, Shri Yadav also mentioned about India's Hydrogen Energy Mission, global initiatives such as International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and leadership group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) and underlined the need for prioritizing the concerns of developing countries, particularly in areas of implementation support including finance and technology.

For his part, H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber reiterated that the UAE attaches great value to its bilateral partnership with India in all areas including combating climate change. His Excellency sought India's support for the UAE's joint Initiative on Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM-C) along with US and UK to be launched at 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) summit scheduled to be held in Glasgow later this year.

## Visit of H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Foreign Trade to India

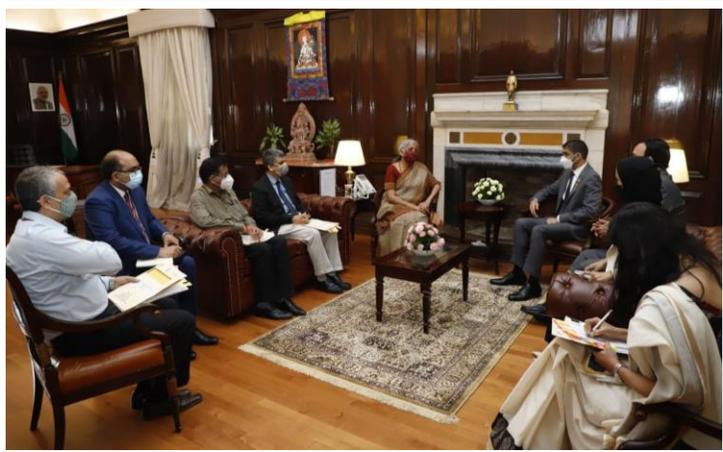


A high-level delegation led by H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Foreign Trade visited India from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to hold talks aimed at improving bilateral economic relations, including expanding the existing trade and investment relationship between the UAE and India.

During the visit, H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi along with Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Gol formally launched negotiations on the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and outlined how the two nations can accelerate bilateral trade, investment and economic opportunity.

H.E. Dr. Thani called on Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Gol to discuss regarding wide ranging matters of mutual interest and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between both countries which is driving the multifaceted bilateral relations. The two leaders also explored how the CEPA can expand on the strength and depth of the economic and commercial engagement between the UAE and India. The meeting was also attended by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India and several senior officials from both sides.

The UAE Minister and his accompanying delegation had a courtesy meeting with Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Gol. In the meeting, H.E. Dr. Thani outlined the importance of the aviation sector for both the countries and highlighted the potential for greater connectivity between the UAE and India, which can have a multiplier effect for trade and tourism. Both sides discussed matters related to bilateral agreements and the potential for increasing seat capacity for UAE carriers flying from India during the Dubai Expo, as well as expanding the number of airports offering direct services to the UAE.





In another meeting, H.E. Dr. Thani and his accompanying delegation had also met Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, GoI. During the meeting, both sides discussed regarding mutually beneficial opportunities in the areas of IoT, blockchain technology and artificial intelligence and about collaboration in IT, UPI, 5G Tech, and Railways projects. The possibilities of how the CEPA can create new opportunities in the ICT and telecommunications industries were also discussed in the meeting. The talks brought forward the possibilities of knowledge transfer, 5G capabilities and greater foreign direct investment.

During the visit, H.E. Dr. Thani attended a Business Roundtable with Indian CEO's of leading companies and interacted with them to explore investment opportunities and mutual synergies. The roundtable touched on mutual economic and trade relations between the UAE and India as well as means of boosting cooperation between the two nations, especially in economic, investment and commercial fields. The meeting was also attended by H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India.

The UAE Minister along with his accompanying delegation also visited GMR Group Corporate Office, Emaar India Office and India Digital Hub of Majid Al Futtaim.



## Launch of Negotiations for the UAE – India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)



H.E. Dr. Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Cabinet Member and Minister of State for Foreign Trade and Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, GoI have formally launched negotiations on the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to enhance ties, deepen economic and investment opportunities, and mark a new phase of strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The first round of CEPA negotiations was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in New Delhi in the presence of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India; Mr B.V.R Subrahmanyam, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI; Mr DJ Narain, Director General, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GoI; and senior officials from both sides.

H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi and Shri Piyush Goyal emphasized that trading routes have existed between both nations for centuries and the CEPA builds on these historic ties by laying the foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership that creates new jobs, promotes foreign direct investment, empowers entrepreneurs, attracts talent and accelerates knowledge-driven economies. A new strategic economic agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods to USD 100 billion within five years of the signed agreement and increase trade in services to USD 15 billion.

During the meeting, H.E. Dr. Thani highlighted that this agreement would strengthen the already close ties between the two nations and the UAE is unwavering in its commitment to its strategic multi-lateral relationship with India. His Excellency further added, "We look forward to explore further opportunities to expand our partnership and to collaborate on new, broader, opportunities that will further strengthen and deepen the rich and long-standing strategic relationship between our two countries." He also thanked the Indian Government for the support during the pandemic, which included keeping supply chains open.

For his part, Shri Piyush Goyal hailed the steadily growing cooperation ties across all fronts and vowed to elevate the economic partnership to whole new level. He conveyed India's best wishes for the success of Expo 2020 Dubai and expressed confidence that India's participation will help boost bilateral trade and investment in both directions. Hon'ble Minister confirmed regarding his participation and co-chairing the ninth meeting of UAE-India High Level Joint Task Force on Investments with H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of the Abu Dhabi Executive Council. The Indian Minister also expressed his appreciation to the UAE for the continued support during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for supplying liquid medical oxygen and medicines.

Looking to build on the progress made by both countries under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership signed in 2017, both Ministers expressed their desire to reach a mutually beneficial economic deal and strong commitment towards an early conclusion of CEPA negotiations by December 2021 and sign a formal agreement in March 2022 after the completion of internal legal procedures and ratification. The two sides emphasized that concluding CEPA negotiations quickly and constructively will further strengthen the deep trade and economic ties between the UAE and India.

Reaffirming their commitment to working together, both Ministers agreed to strengthen the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system embodied by the World Trade Organization. They also agreed to strengthen UAE-India ties to accelerate both the economies and work towards exploring areas of cooperation for broader engagement in social & economic sphere.

## Meeting of H.E. Saqr Ghobash, Speaker, UAE Federal National Council (FNC) with Mr Om Birla, Speaker, Parliament of India



H.E. Saqr Ghobash, Speaker, UAE Federal National Council (FNC) had a meeting with Mr Om Birla, Speaker, Parliament of India on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021. During the meeting, both sides talked about the overall cooperation between the two nations and discussed ways of enhancing the parliamentary cooperation between the UAE and India to achieve the visions of their leaderships, underscoring their profound friendship.

In the meeting, the two dignitaries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to form a parliamentary friendship committee, to exchange parliamentary expertise and knowledge, as well as views and political opinions on various parliamentary activities between the UAE Federal National Council and the Parliament of India.

H.E. Saqr Ghobash invited Mr Om Birla to visit the UAE and the Expo 2020 Dubai and further highlighted that the partnership, cooperation and friendship between both countries have witnessed significant growth. He further reaffirmed that the bilateral strategic partnership between both nations has been manifested through regular exchange between the leadership and officials on both sides.

Moreover, the UAE and India have successful development models supported by wise and balanced regional and international policies, to maintain peace, security, stability and development in the region and the Asian continent. Both sides have made active contributions to addressing many key challenges and are keen on finding fair solutions to the crisis facing the Middle East and the rest of the world, he further added.

Mr Om Birla lauded UAE's excellence in applying the principles of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, as over two million Indians live in the country in security and stability with the freedom to practice their religious rituals, making the UAE among the best countries in ensuring the rights of residents and promoting the culture of coexistence, peace and tolerance.

Reiterating that India's relationship with the UAE is traditionally warm and cordial, Mr Birla mentioned that both the countries need to engage more purposely in diverse areas of mutual interest, more prominently in the fields of healthcare, education, tourism, infrastructure and heritage management.

Recalling that the UAE and India enjoys robust economic relations through the centuries, both dignitaries called upon to further tap the potential of bilateral trade and shared their interest in promoting parliamentary exchanges between the two nations. H.E. Saqr Ghobash proposed to build coaching infrastructure in the UAE on the lines of Kota and sought assistance from Mr Birla in the same regard.

The meeting culminated on a positive note and was also attended by senior officials from UAE Federal National Council (FNC) and Indian side.



**September 2021:** H.E. Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India had a meeting with Shri Buggana Rajendranath Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Planning, & Legislative Affairs, Government of Andhra Pradesh to discuss various matters of mutual interest aimed at enhancing the UAE-Andhra Pradesh partnership in trade, commerce, investment & finance.

During the meeting, H.E. Dr. Albanna highlighted that UAE enjoys very strong economic relations with Andhra Pradesh having considerable investments in the state.

Shri Reddy conveyed Andhra Pradesh's interest in expanding partnership with the UAE in various new areas of development and strengthening its friendly relationship in wake of strong overall UAE-India relations.

The meeting culminated on a positive note with both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.



A delegation from the Government of Gujarat had a meeting with Sharaf Group officials including Mr Ibrahim Sharaf, Chairman, Sharaf Group; Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Sharafuddin Sharaf, Chairman, UIBC & Vice Chairman, Sharaf Group and Mr Shyam Kapur, Vice President & Chairman, Sharaf Group on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to discuss business opportunities for both sides.

During the meeting, the delegation members highlighted investment opportunities and encouraged Sharaf Group to make further investments in the state.

The Sharaf Group officials shared the details relating to the current investments made by the company and its expansion plan for the Indian market and conveyed Sharaf's Group commitment to enhance investments in the State.

The talks were held in friendly and cooperative manner, with both sides expressing the common desire to bolster the bilateral relationship between the UAE & India through different means & platforms.



**September 2021:** Mr Abdulla Albasha Alnoaimi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India had a meeting with Mr Bhuvnesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India to discuss prospects for cooperation between the two nations.

During the meeting, Mr Abdulla Alnoaimi and Mr Kumar appreciated the positive developments witnessed between both the countries and reiterated about the growth potential in the fields of Electronics and IT. They discussed means of enhancing bilateral relations and further agreed to hold such meetings regularly that strive to nourish the ties between the UAE and India.



Mr Abdulla Albasha Alnoaimi, Commercial Attache of UAE to India had a courtesy meeting with Mr Kashi Nath Jha, Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Gol on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

During the meeting, both sides discussed about the issues of common interest between the two countries. The two dignitaries expressed satisfaction and praised the constant significant steps taken by both the Governments to strengthen the bilateral relation between the UAE and India.

The meeting culminated on a positive note with both sides agreeing to hold such meetings regularly and expressed their desire to intensify the bilateral relations in the mutually identified areas.

## Sector in Focus

India's power sector is one of the most diversified in the world. Sources of power generation range from conventional sources such as coal, lignite, natural gas, oil, hydro and nuclear power to viable non-conventional sources such as wind, solar, and agricultural and domestic waste. Electricity demand in the country has increased rapidly and is expected to rise further in the years to come. In order to meet the increasing demand for electricity in the country, massive addition to the installed generating capacity is required.

In May 2018, India ranked fourth in the Asia Pacific region out of 25 nations on an index that measured their overall power. India was ranked fourth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fifth in renewable power installed capacity as of 2018. India ranked sixth in the list of countries to make significant investments in clean energy at USD 90 billion. India is the only country among the G20 nations that is on track to achieve the targets under the Paris Agreement.

Indian power sector is undergoing a significant change that has redefined the industry outlook. Sustained economic growth continues to drive electricity demand in India. The Government of India's focus on attaining 'Power for all' has accelerated capacity addition in the country. At the same time, the competitive intensity is increasing at both the market and supply sides (fuel, logistics, finances, and manpower).

## Investment Scenario

- ❖ On September 29, 2021, NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (REL), a 100% subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, signed its first green term loan agreement with Bank of India for Rs. 500 crore (US\$ 67.28 million) at a competitive rate and a tenor of 15 years for its 470 MW solar projects in Rajasthan and 200 MW solar projects in Gujarat.
- ❖ In September 2021, Adani Group announced to invest US\$ 20 billion over the next 10 years in renewable energy generation and component manufacturing.
- ❖ In July 2021, National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), NTPC's fully owned subsidiary, has invited a domestic tender to build India's first green hydrogen fueling station in Leh, Ladakh.
- ❖ In July 2021, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) received a large contract from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) for the supply of 12 steam generators of India's highest rated indigenously-developed 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR) worth Rs. 1,405 crore (US\$ 189.20 million).
- ❖ In July 2021, NTPC announced that it would invest Rs. 2-2.5 crore (US\$ 0.27-0.34 million) over the next 10 years to expand renewable capacity.
- ❖ In July 2021, the company invited bids for an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) package, with land development for 500 MW of grid-connected solar projects anywhere in India.
- ❖ In June 2021, NHPC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bihar State Hydro-Electric Power Corporation Limited (BSHPCL) to execute Dagmara HE Project (130.1 MW). in the state.
- ❖ In June 2021, the NTPC floated a global tender for setting up a 1,000-megawatt hour (MWh) grid-scale battery storage system. The plan involves designing, building and operating such a system and also offers a co-investment partnership.
- ❖ In April 2021, GE Renewable Energy announced to supply 42 units of 2.7-132 onshore wind turbines, totaling 110 MW for onshore wind hybrid projects to CleanMax.

## Road Ahead

The Government of India has released its roadmap to achieve 227 GW capacity in renewable energy (including 114 GW of solar power and 67 GW of wind power) by 2022. The Union Government of India is preparing a 'rent a roof' policy for supporting its target of generating 40 gigawatts (GW) of power through solar rooftop projects by 2022. Coal-based power-generation capacity in India, which currently stands at 201.99 GW, is expected to witness total installed capacity addition of 47.86 GW by 2022.

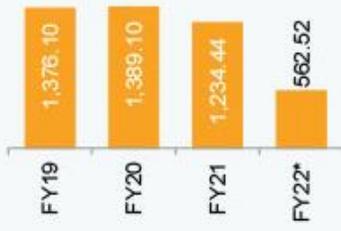


# Power

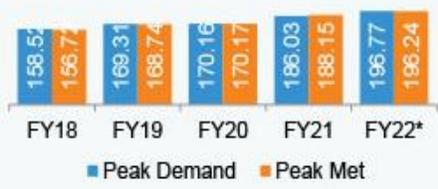


## MARKET SIZE

Electricity Generation in India<sup>A</sup> (in BU)



Power Supply Position (GW)

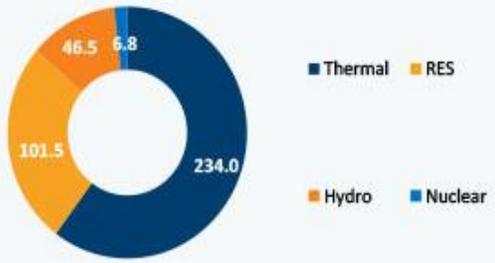


Note: GW – Gigawatt, BU- Billion Unit, \* - Until July 2021 <sup>A</sup>Including renewable sources



## SECTOR COMPOSITION

Installed Capacity for Different Sources of Power – FY22\* (GW)



Note: GW – Gigawatt, \* - Until August 2021



## KEY TRENDS

Installed Electricity Generation Capacity (GW)



Per-Capita Electricity Consumption (KWh)



Note: GW – Gigawatt, KWh- Kilo Watt hour, \* Until August 2021, P- Provisional



## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



**Saubhagya Scheme**



**UJALA Scheme**



**Ujwal Discoms Assurance Yojana (UDAY)**



## ADVANTAGE INDIA

- **Growing demand:** India ranked sixth in the list of countries to make significant investment in clean energy by allotting US\$ 90 billion in between 2010-H22019.
- **Higher investments:** As per the National Infrastructure Pipeline 2019-25, energy sector projects accounted for the highest share (24%) out of the total expected capital expenditure of Rs. 111 lakh crore (US\$ 1.4 trillion). Total FDI inflow in the power sector reached US\$ 15.36 billion between April 2000 and June 2021.
- **Policy support:** Electrification in the country is increasing with support from schemes like Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), and Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS).
- **Attractive opportunities:** Under the Union Budget 2021-22, the government allocated Rs. 305,984 crore (US\$ 42 billion) for a revamped, reforms-based and result-linked new power distribution sector scheme over the next five years.

Source: <https://www.ibef.org/>

## Monthly News Wrap (September 2021)

### Sharjah Chamber discusses business opportunities with India



A meeting was held between H.E. Mohammed Ahmed Amin Al Awadi, Director General, Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr K. Kalimutu, Consul (Economic, Trade and Commerce), Indian Consulate General in Dubai to discuss the joint economic relations between both sides and ways to enhance the role of the industrial and commercial sectors in light of the fruitful and constructive cooperation. The meeting also exchanged views on how to benefit from the expertise of each side, contributing to the establishment of Joint investment projects and expanding the horizons of communication between the business communities in Sharjah and India in different vital sectors.

### Ajman Chamber discusses commercial cooperation with India



H.E. Salem Al Suwaidi, Director-General, Ajman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, had met Mr K. Kalimutu, Consul (Economic, Trade and Commerce), Indian Consulate General in Dubai and discussed ways of enhancing the commercial and economic cooperation between the UAE, specifically the emirate of Ajman, and India. During the meeting, which was held at the headquarters of the chamber both sides discussed the investment opportunities offered by Ajman, suitable ways of increasing trade and foreign investments, and how to encourage the private sector to enhance and diversify its investments.

### DP World inked MoU with Tamil Nadu Government for Rs 2,000-cr projects



World's leading port and terminal operator, the UAE-based DP World is investing around Rs 2,000 crore for establishing a slew of projects in Tamil Nadu. The company signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu Government for seeking the facilitation support required for the projects in the state. The projects include a container terminal, cold storage and seafood processing zone, free trade zone with an integrated rail siding, minor port in the Eastern Coast of Tamil Nadu, inland container depots (ICDs) in Erode, Karur and Tiruppur.

### India emerged as Dubai's second biggest trade partner



India has emerged as Dubai's second biggest trading partner after China with the overall volume touching AED 38.5 billion (USD 10.40 billion) in the first half of 2021 according to the official data released. As per the Dubai Government release, the Emirate's trade volume with China in H1 of 2021 was AED 86.7 billion (USD 23.41 billion), followed by India and the United States. Trade with India grew 74.5% year-on-year to AED 67.1 billion from AED 38.5 billion in H1 2020.

### India's Himalaya Wellness to build USD 32.7 million herbal pharma factory in Dubai



Indian skincare and wellness company Himalaya Wellness has signed an agreement to build AED 120 million (USD 32.7 million) herbal pharmaceutical plant in Dubai Industrial City. Commercial production is slated to start in the first quarter of 2024. The factory will be situated on a 760,000 sq. ft plot and is reported to be the first of three facilities that Himalaya will build in Dubai Industrial City. The herbal pharmaceutical facility will subsequently be followed by dedicated units for Personal care products and Functional foods.

### Indian banking tech start-up enters the UAE with Seed Group deal



Signzy, an Indian artificial intelligence start-up specializing in banking workflow automation, has partnered with Dubai-based investment company Seed Group to enter the UAE market and expand its operations in the wider Middle East. The agreement intends to accelerate the “digital transformation of businesses across the UAE” and bring innovative AI technologies in the region. With the support of Seed Group, Signzy aims to triple its growth in the region by the end of fiscal year 2022.

## Monthly News Wrap (September 2021)

### India based Anarock to launch proptech solution platform in Middle East



Anarock, the India-based leading real estate services firm, which has a major presence in the GCC market, is set to expand its operations in the Middle East with the launch of Anacity, a smart community automation proptech solution for managing gated communities, apartments, and villas. A SaaS (software-as-a-service) product, Anacity is projected to help apartment management companies to significantly reduce costs and boost the scope and efficiency of their services. Operating out of its Dubai office, Anacity will expand across all major GCC and African markets, and later on to the UK, Europe and South-East Asia.

### Indian e-bike start-up to drive e-mobility across the UAE



The UAE's mega plans to promote green energy and healthy living has lured an India-based EV (electric vehicle) start-up to enter the Gulf country, with ambitious plans to develop and expand the e-bike market and also consider making it the regional base for its global expansion. EMotorad (EM), the Pune-based manufacturer of e-bikes, recently launched its first overseas operations in UAE and is also looking to attract investors from the region to fund its aggressive global growth plans.

### Indian healthtech start-up ShopDoc set for Middle East expansion



ShopDoc, an Indian healthtech start-up, which has developed a super-specialty hospital app for patient referrals and smart doctor deployment is set to enter the Middle East in its maiden foray into the international market, with the launch of three of its special services. ShopDoc services for the Gulf countries include MobeedCare Family Care, an on-demand patient care for the complete hospitalization needs of family members in India; U OK?, a virtual mental health support clinic offering one-on-one consultations at nominal fee for the Indian expatriate workforce; and FFounders, a customized diet and fitness programme for the expatriate Indian business community.

### UAE Ambassador expects high number of Indian visitors to Expo 2020 Dubai



The UAE Ambassador to India, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Banna, expressed confidence that 'there will be a strong number of visitors from India to Expo 2020 Dubai. Speaking at a media briefing to launch a major public awareness campaign about the world exposition opening in Dubai in a fortnight, Dr. Albanna said there has been a strong commitment from the leadership in India to the success of Expo 2020 Dubai. He attributed this to the "geographical proximity between the UAE and India, their closeness and the special relationship" enjoyed by the two countries.

### Expo 2020 Dubai good occasion for India to enhance trade, business relations: H.E. Pavan Kapoor



H.E. Pavan Kapoor, Indian Ambassador to the UAE reiterated that it is a good occasion for India to enhance trade and business relations not only with UAE but all nations as 190 nations are participating at Expo 2020. Talking about India's participation at Expo 2020 Dubai, His Excellency said, "It is very clear that by sheer dint of our proportion of the population, by our connections that we have here, we will be the largest participant at the Dubai Expo".

### India pavilion to showcase country's march to a USD 5T economy



The India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai is set to showcase a resurgent India's march to becoming a USD 5 trillion economy in the post-covid world, said Mr B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The Pavilion is a technology marvel will not only capture the vibrant Indian culture and its past but also the capabilities and opportunities that it presents as a global economic hub to the domestic as well as the foreign investors. The India pavilion will witness participation from various Indian states who will be displaying their culture, tradition and tremendous business opportunities along with the top corporate groups from India, and the public sector companies.

## Monthly News Wrap (September 2021)

### India Pavilion to showcase openness, never-ending business opportunities, unprecedented growth



The India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai is all set to display the emergence of a New India to the world. Coinciding with India's celebrations of Amrit Mahotsav, 75 years of Independence, Expo 2020 Dubai, starting October 1, will be a significant platform for India to showcase its vibrant culture and tremendous growth opportunities for the next six months. India's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai will primarily focus on presenting the unlimited opportunities for the global community to participate in the country's growth story, and benefit from it.

### India's reform of 100% FDI to woo GCC telcos



India's move for allowing 100% foreign direct investment in the telecom sector without government approval, is expected to woo overseas investors and corporates in droves, including some telecommunication giants from the GCC looking for expanding footprints across lucrative emerging markets. Among the potential global investors seeking to enter the second most populous nation are some of the leading Gulf-based telecom operators, including UAE's Etisalat and du, Saudi Telecom Company, Bahrain's Batelco, Omantel, Qatar's Ooredoo and Kuwait's ZAIN.

### In a major boost to agricultural products exports, first consignment of Ladakh Apricot exported to Dubai



In a major boost to agricultural products, first commercial shipment of 150 kg Raktsey Karpo (the sweetest apricot) sourced from region of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh was exported to Dubai. The consignment of Apricot was transhipped from Leh, Ladakh to Mumbai prior to being exported to Dubai. APEDA has been working to establish an export value chain for Ladakh Apricot in association with an importer Group based in Dubai. The shipment was exported by APEDA registered Exporter from Mumbai.

### India's top diplomat predicts new era in migration to GCC



More Indians are expected to move to the UAE and Gulf region in the coming years, said Mr Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (Gulf, CPV & OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, GoI at LEADS 2021. The region has become more attractive for Indians after several agreements were signed with various GCC countries, he continued. He added that following the COVID-19 pandemic, migration and mobility had to adjust to the new normal. The senior official expressed satisfaction that through all this, Indian workers remained a preferred choice in the Gulf and Indians too found the GCC a "comfortable terrain."

### India announced freight subsidy for dairy product exports



A wider range of dairy products from India will soon be available to Gulf consumers, with the launch of a scheme by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to provide exporters with air freight assistance. Dairy products, which were previously excluded from the scheme, will now be eligible for assistance under the revised support programme and DGFT will notify the procedure for obtaining assistance under the revised scheme shortly. Simultaneously, "specified agricultural products" from India exported to Gulf markets will receive increased financial support in the form of freight assistance.

### Air India launched new weekly Indore-Dubai flights



Air India resumed its non-stop flight between Dubai and Indore on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 after a gap of 17-months because of the COVID-19 situation. A programme was organized at Devi Ahilyabai International Airport to mark the occasion, attended by Dr. Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai; H.E. Jamal Al Hai, Dy CEO - Dubai Airport and Mr M A Lengawi, Executive Director – DCAA. Hon'ble Minister for Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the event virtually.

## Major Upcoming Events

1 October 2021 - 31 March. 2022	 <b>Expo 2020</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
08-10 January. 2022	 <b>Indus Food</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
17-19 January. 2022	 <b>World Future Energy Summit</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
24-27 January. 2022	 <b>Arab Health</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
09-11 February. 2022	 <b>OTM Mumbai</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
13-17 February. 2022	 <b>Gulfood</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
16-18 February. 2022	 <b>SATTE</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
22-24 February. 2022	 <b>DUPHAT</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
22-25 February. 2022	 <b>Chemtech World Expo</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
08-12 March. 2022	 <b>AAHAR</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
10-13 March. 2022	 <b>Defence Expo</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
23-25 March. 2022	 <b>Convergence India Expo</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
23-25 March. 2022	 <b>Smart Cities India Expo</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
24-27 March. 2022	 <b>Wings India</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
29-30 March. 2022	 <b>World Government Summit</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
29-31 March. 2022	 <b>Annual Investment Meeting</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>
08-11 May. 2022	 <b>Arabian Travel Market</b> <a href="#">View Details</a>



## ABOUT US

UAE - India Business Council (UIBC) is the only Official Joint Business Chamber set up by both the Governments for promoting economic synergy between the UAE and India. UIBC was formally launched by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister for Foreign Affairs and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India during 11th Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on 3rd September 2015 in New Delhi.

UIBC aims to create an inclusive bilateral trade environment between UAE and India by linking businesses from both the countries, and supporting long-term commercial partnerships for developing strategic relationships between businesses and government officials from both the countries.

UIBC acts towards promoting investment promotion and business collaborations/ JVs between UAE and Indian businesses by organizing B2B networking meetings, policy forums and investment focused events, delegations, and other facilities required to succeed. It serves to provide a voice and visibility to the various stakeholders in UAE - India economic space and work towards promoting trade and investment, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship between the UAE and India.



## OUR MISSION

- To act as a catalyst engaged in exchange of ideas intended to promote the economic synergy between the UAE and India.
- To serve as the direct link between business and government leaders of both the countries
- To work towards providing the critical first 'home-away-from-home' with a network of Government, Policy Makers, Business Leaders and Industry contacts supported by highly skilled secretariat
- Providing a voice and visibility to the various stakeholders in UAE - India economic space
- To work towards promoting trade and investment, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship between the UAE and India



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