



UIBC

Abetting UAE-India Alliance

UIBC NEWSLETTER

MAR-APR 2025



WWW.UIBC.ORG

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CROWN PRINCE AL MAKTOUM'S INDIA VISIT: IIM-AHMEDABAD, IIFT TO SET UP CAMPUSES IN DUBAI | KEY UPDATES



During Dubai Crown Prince H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's visit to India on April 8, 2025, both nations took key steps to strengthen their ties, including plans to establish ship-repair clusters in Kochi and Vadinar and to set up a campus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, in Dubai.

HERE ARE THE TOP TEN UPDATES:

1. The **first overseas campus of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) will be set up in Dubai** and that land will be allocated for the construction of an India-UAE friendship hospital in the Gulf city, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The MEA agreed to commence the construction work of Bharat Mart and the launch of a 3-D rendering of the Bharat Mart complex.
2. In his meeting with Shri Modi, the Dubai Crown Prince **presented the prime minister a replica of his grandfather Sheikh Rashid's Bisht** (traditional embroidered cloak worn over the Qandura by Arab men) symbolising the historic and generational political friendship between the two countries.
3. Both leaders also discussed avenues to strengthen the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and strong cultural and people-to-people ties. The Crown Prince, who is also the deputy prime minister

and defence minister of the UAE, arrived in the national capital on 08 April 2025 on a two-day India visit. In the evening, he travelled to Mumbai.

4. PM Shri Modi hosted a working lunch for the Crown Prince at his residence in Lok Kalyan Marg. In a social media post, Shri Modi Ji said Dubai has played a key role in advancing the India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership. "Glad to meet H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai. Dubai has played a key role in advancing the **India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**," Modi said. "This special visit reaffirms our deep-rooted friendship and paves the way for even stronger collaboration in the future," he said.

5. In the meeting between Shri Rajnath Singh and H.H. Al Maktoum, the two sides discussed ways to further **strengthen the strategic defence and security partnership** between the two countries. After his meeting, Shri Rajnath Singh said India is eager to work closely with the Gulf nation in the defence sector including in co-production and co-development projects.

6. Both India and the UAE are committed to work towards peace and prosperity in the region, he said. The defence ministry said Shri Rajnath Singh and Al Maktoum were convinced that close collaboration between the defence industries should be an integral part of the bilateral cooperation.

7. In his meeting with the Crown Prince, Shri Jaishankar highlighted the tremendous deepening and widening of the relationship across sectors between the two countries in recent years. The Crown Prince **presented an original newspaper coverage of the successful effort of his father**, the Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in saving passengers on board Indian Airlines Flight 421 in August 1984.

8. The visiting leader also **met Shri Piyush Goyal during a high-level business meeting in Mumbai. They discussed the contribution of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in the rapid growth of bilateral trade**, the MEA said.

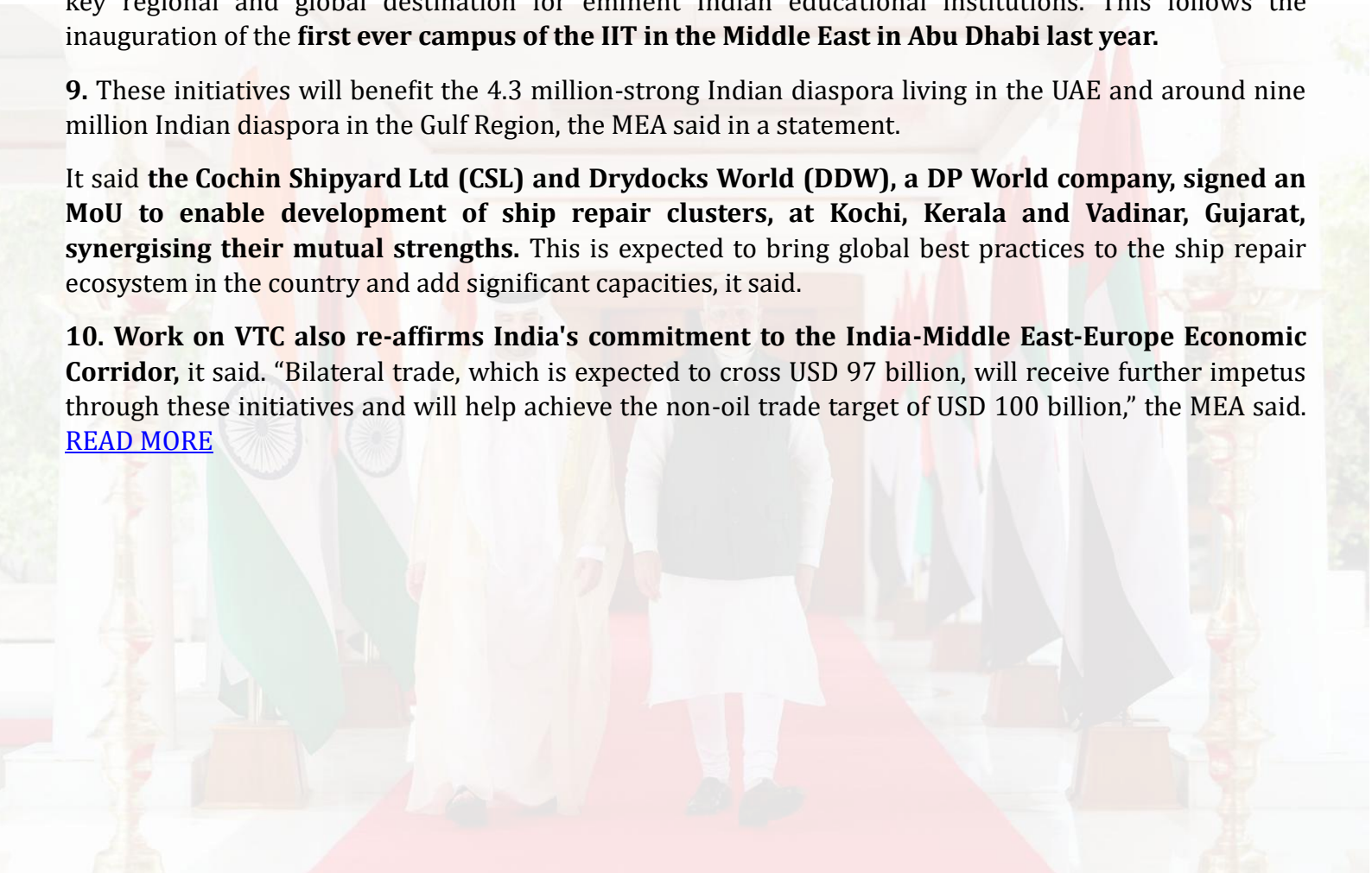
The MEA said the proposed overseas campus of the IIM-Ahmedabad and IIFT in Dubai will further strengthen the educational cooperation between the two countries and positions Dubai and the UAE as a key regional and global destination for eminent Indian educational institutions. This follows the inauguration of the **first ever campus of the IIT in the Middle East in Abu Dhabi last year**.

9. These initiatives will benefit the 4.3 million-strong Indian diaspora living in the UAE and around nine million Indian diaspora in the Gulf Region, the MEA said in a statement.

It said **the Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and Drydocks World (DDW), a DP World company, signed an MoU to enable development of ship repair clusters, at Kochi, Kerala and Vadinar, Gujarat, synergising their mutual strengths**. This is expected to bring global best practices to the ship repair ecosystem in the country and add significant capacities, it said.

10. **Work on VTC also re-affirms India's commitment to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**, it said. "Bilateral trade, which is expected to cross USD 97 billion, will receive further impetus through these initiatives and will help achieve the non-oil trade target of USD 100 billion," the MEA said.

[READ MORE](#)



VISIT OF THE CROWN PRINCE OF DUBAI TO MUMBAI

Coinciding with the Crown Prince of Dubai's visit, members of the UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) participated in the engagement



April 8, 2025: His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai accompanied by several ministers, senior government officials, and business leaders with India's Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal in Mumbai.



April 8, 2025, L-R: Mr. Mukesh Kalra, Head - Business Development, UIBC; Mr. Omar Khan, Head - Research & Data, Dubai Chambers, Dubai



April 8, 2025, L-R: Mr. Zubin Karkaria, Founder & CEO, VFS Global Group, Dubai; Mr. Mukesh Kalra, Head - Business Development, UIBC

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF UAE INAUGURATES DP WORLD'S NHAVA SHEVA BUSINESS PARK IN MUMBAI



His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defence of the UAE, inaugurated DP World's state-of-the-art Free Trade Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) – the Nhava Sheva Business Park (NSBP) – in Mumbai, India.

DP World has developed 3 world-leading Free Trade Warehousing Zones in India with an investment of over 200 million USD. Strategically located close to India's coasts, they offer advanced infrastructure, flexible warehousing, ease of regulations, and seamless value-added services, making operations simpler.

The inauguration marks a major milestone in strengthening the deep-rooted economic and cultural ties between India and the UAE. As a key enabler of global trade, DP World remains committed to developing world-class logistics infrastructure that enhances supply chain efficiency and accelerates India's trade ambitions on the global stage.

H.H. Sheikh Hamdan toured the facility accompanied by Group Chairman and CEO of DP World H.E. Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, along with Mr. Rizwan Soomar, CEO & Managing Director, North Africa and India Subcontinent, DP World; Mr. Abdulla Al Hashmi, Chief Operating Officer, Parks & Zones, DP World GCC; and Mr. Saeed Al Zari, Group Vice President - Government Affairs at DP World. Sheikh Hamdan was briefed about the various operations, value added services, customized services deployed to enhance the efficiency of the FTWZ.



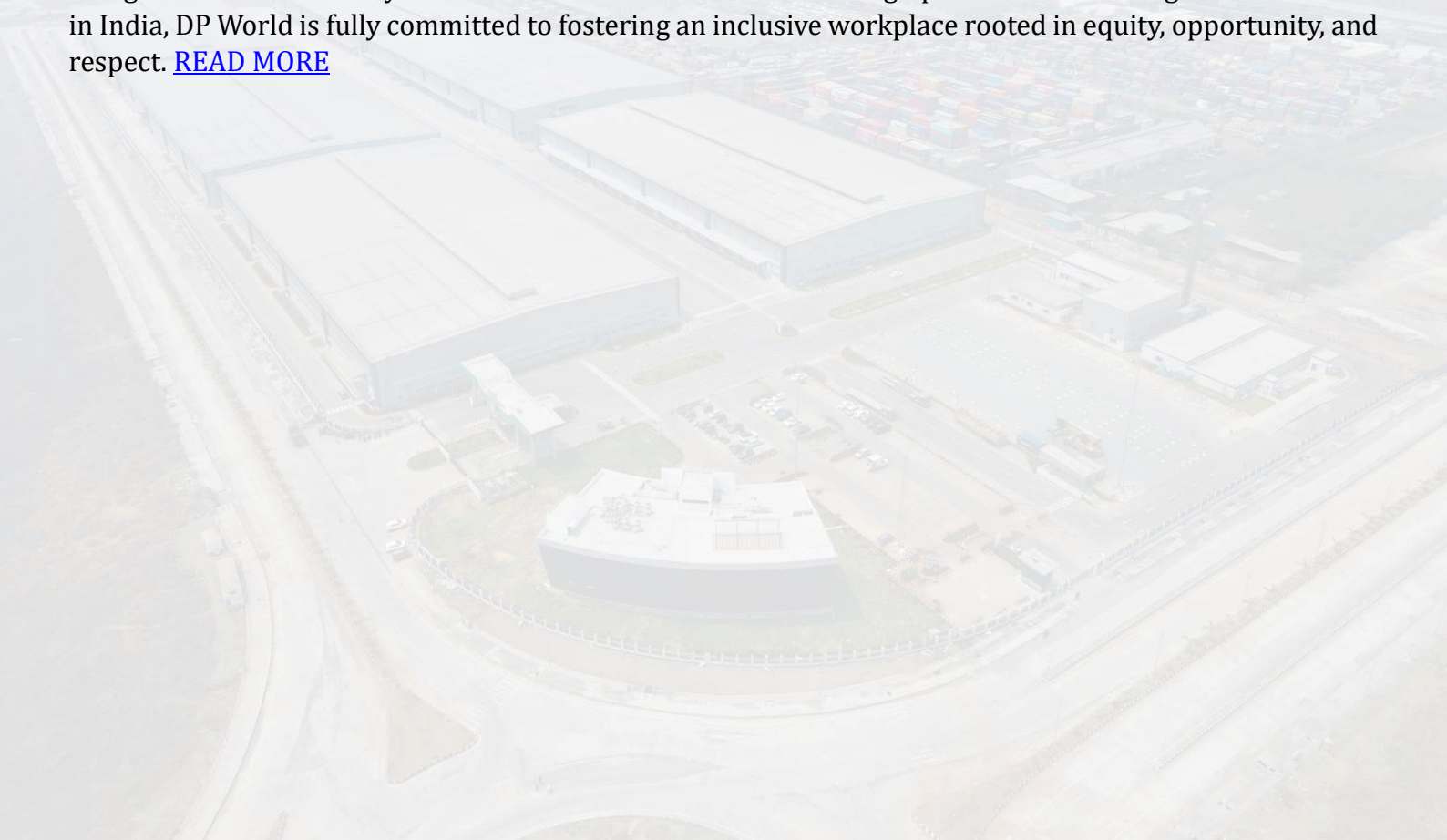
*Speaking at the inauguration, **H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, said, in a statement:** “The UAE and India share a long-standing and deep-rooted economic partnership. The establishment of world-class logistics infrastructure, such as the Nhava Sheva Business Park, not only strengthens the trade connectivity between our nations but also reinforces our shared vision for growth, innovation, and sustainability.”*

***H.E. Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World, said:** “DP World is committed to building infrastructure that powers global trade. Our investment in Nhava Sheva Business Park further strengthens our infrastructure network in India and will enable us to meet the evolving needs of our large and growing customer base in the country and in the region. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between the UAE and India is already accelerating bilateral trade, and the Free Trade Warehousing Zones network will ensure greater efficiency, sustainably, and scale.”*

The Nhava Sheva Business Park near Mumbai offers 1 million sq. ft. of warehousing space, with another one million in the planning stage. It offers specialized and temperature-controlled spaces, catering to diverse industry needs. As part of DP World’s global network of 12 Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs)—including the Integrated Chennai Business Park in Tamil Nadu and the Cochin Economic Zone in Kochi—the Nhava Sheva Business Park enhances India-UAE trade by reducing costs, improving efficiency, and boosting supply chain competitiveness.

These three Indian FTWZs are well integrated with DP World’s Jebel Ali Free Zone (JAFZA) facilitating seamless cargo movement and strengthening global trade connectivity for India and UAE.

Thirty-five of DP World’s women colleagues were leading the all-women shift at the warehouse during the inauguration of the facility Nhava Sheva. With women now making up over 14% of its logistics workforce in India, DP World is fully committed to fostering an inclusive workplace rooted in equity, opportunity, and respect. [READ MORE](#)



NEWS SNIPPETS



INDIA, SRI LANKA, UAE UNVEIL AMBITIOUS INITIATIVE FOR ENERGY COOPERATION

India, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates on April 5, 2025, firmed up an ambitious agreement to develop Trincomalee as an "energy hub" with a broader aim to help Colombo to achieve energy security and fuel its economic growth. The pact was signed following wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Shri Anura Kumara Dissanayake. To expand their energy ties, India and Sri Lanka also concluded a separate pact on electricity grid interconnection, a project that has been on the drawing board for some time. [READ MORE](#)



INDIA ADVANCES IMEEC TRADE CORRIDOR WITH KEY UAE DISCUSSIONS

The ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) gained significant momentum following high-level discussions between Indian and UAE officials in Abu Dhabi, marking a major step forward for the transcontinental connectivity project. A delegation led by Mr T.K. Ramachandaran, Secretary of India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, held talks with Mr Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports. The Indian delegation included Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir and senior officials from RITES Ltd, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, and Deendayal Port Authority. [READ MORE](#)



UAE SET TO BECOME FIRST COUNTRY TO MAKE LAWS WITH AI

The UAE may become the first country to use artificial intelligence to create new laws and update the current legislation, according to Financial Times. The United Arab Emirates intends to use artificial intelligence to create new laws and update existing legislation. This is the most ambitious project of its kind in the world. According to UAE Prime Minister, His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the new system will make the lawmaking process faster and more accurate. [READ MORE](#)

SMALL ARMS FACTORY SET UP BY UAE'S CARACAL WITH MEGHA GROUP FIRM ICOMM OPENED

Caracal, a small arms manufacturer based in the United Arab Emirates, inaugurated a manufacturing facility in collaboration with ICOMM Tele, a group company of Megha Engineering & Infrastructures group (MEIL), in Hyderabad on April 21, 2025.



The development comes shortly after the visit of the Crown Prince of Dubai to India earlier in April 2025. Caracal had in the past competed in a tender to supply its CAR-816 rifles to the Indian Army but eventually lost out to SIG Sauer of the U.S. Located at ICOMM's integrated engineering facility, it will serve as a local manufacturing hub for a comprehensive portfolio of advanced weapons under a technology transfer agreement with Caracal, which is an entity of the technology and defence group EDGE. [READ MORE](#)

UTTARAKHAND SEEKS UAE INVESTMENT IN KEY SECTORS

UAE Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Majid Anekhelavi met Mr. Ajay Mishra, Resident Commissioner of Uttarakhand in New Delhi, on April 15, 2025. The meeting focused on potential areas of investment between Uttarakhand and the UAE, with a focus on economic cooperation in critical sectors. Mr. Ajay Mishra informed Mr. Anekhelavi that after successfully organising the Uttarakhand



Global Investors Summit 2023, the state has positioned itself as a new investment destination. [READ MORE](#)

SHARIEF BHAI LAUNCHES FIRST INTERNATIONAL OUTLET IN DUBAI, UAE

F&B company Curefoods announced the opening of the first Sharief Bhai outlet in Dubai, UAE, officially expanding the brand globally. Located in the iconic Burjuman Mall, Sharief Bhai is set to introduce Dubai's diverse community to authentic Dakhni



cuisine, bringing the brand's cherished flavours and rich heritage to a new audience.

Mr. Ankit Nagori, Founder, Curefoods, said "Dubai is an incredibly dynamic city with a cosmopolitan food culture, and we are thrilled to introduce the authentic taste of Dakhni cuisine to the UAE. Sharief Bhai's expansion to Dubai represents a major step forward in our journey to bring the heart of Indian flavours to the world. [READ MORE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT

DATE



[May 12-13, 2025](#)
Madinat Jumeirah
Dubai
UAE



[May 15-18, 2025](#)
Yashobhoomi Convention Centre
New Delhi
INDIA



[May 23-24, 2025](#)
Bharat Mandapam
New Delhi
INDIA



[July 24-25, 2025](#)
Hyatt Regency
New Delhi
INDIA



[September 25-28, 2025](#)
Bharat Mandapam
New Delhi
INDIA



UIBC

Abetting UAE-India Alliance

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

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

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

OUR MISSION

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

UAE-India Business Council (UIBC)

11th Floor, DP World, One Horizon Center
Golf Course Road, DLF Phase V, Sector- 43
Gurugram - 122002, Haryana, India

T: +91-124-4980185

E: office@uibc.org



[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)