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Abetting UAE-India Alliance

UIBC NEWSLETTER

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

ADNOC GAS SIGNS 14-YEAR LNG SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH INDIAN OIL CORPORATION



USD7-9 billion LNG supply agreement covers delivery of 1.2 MTPA sourced from the Das Island liquefaction facility, with first deliveries starting from 2026.

Agreement strengthens ADNOC Gas' longstanding partnership with India's largest integrated and diversified energy company and reinforces its role as a reliable supplier of lower-carbon gas.

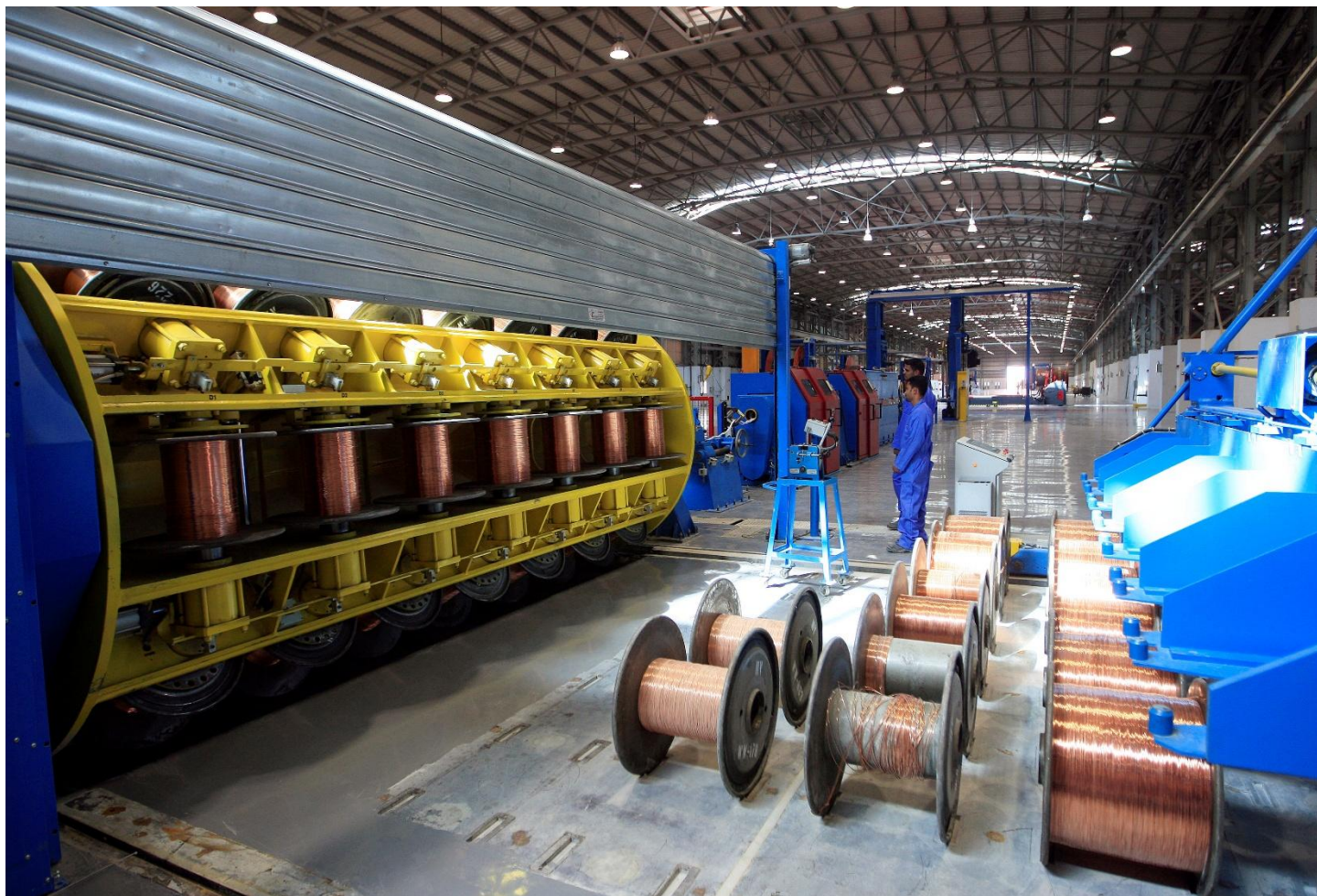
ADNOC Gas plc and its subsidiaries (together referred to as “ADNOC Gas” or the “Company”) (ADX symbol: ADNOCGAS / ISIN: AEE01195A234), a world-class integrated gas processing company, announced a 14-year sales and purchase agreement (SPA) with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Indian Oil) for the export of up to 1.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to India's largest integrated and diversified energy company.

This agreement converts the previous Heads of Agreement between the parties into an SPA, with first deliveries to begin in 2026. The agreement, signed by ADNOC Gas and Indian Oil, is valued in the range of USD7 billion to USD9 billion over its 14-year term, and signifies a major step forward in the partnership between the two industry leaders.

Ms Fatema Al Nuaimi, ADNOC Gas, CEO, said: "This agreement strengthens our long-standing partnership with Indian Oil and is a testament to the dynamic and robust energy ties between the UAE and India. As a reliable and responsible supplier of lower-carbon gas, ADNOC Gas looks forward to supporting India's plans to make gas 15% of its primary energy basket by 2030."

The agreement builds on ADNOC Gas' strategy to expand its customer base, following a series of LNG agreements signed over the past two years. These deals range from 0.4 MTPA to 1.2 MTPA. They are for periods ranging up to 14 years and reinforce its position as a leading supplier of reliable, lower-carbon LNG to key growth markets in Asia, such as India. [READ MORE](#)

UAE-BASED DUCAB METALS BUSINESS AIMS TO DOUBLE EXPORT TO INDIA IN 2025 UNDER CEPA



UAE-headquartered metal manufacturer Ducab Metals Business is doubling down on India—one of its fastest-growing markets. Currently contributing 25 per cent of its global exports, India is central to the company's expansion strategy, with plans to scale it up under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2025.

Ducab Metals Business said it achieved a 12 per cent revenue growth in 2024 globally, with projections indicating a 15 per cent increase in 2025. In terms of volume, *the company* said that it recorded a four per cent growth in 2024 globally, with an estimated 21 per cent surge in 2025, driven by expanding market demand and strategic business initiatives.

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed on February 18, 2022, and it came into effect on May 1, 2022. India and UAE target USD 100 billion in non-oil trade by 2030.

Ducab Metals Business asserts that it is the only company in the MENA (Middle East-North Africa) region producing both copper and aluminium, making it a key partner for India's energy, automotive, packaging, and healthcare industries.

Commenting on India business, Mr Mohamed Al Ahmedi, CEO, Ducab Metals Business, said:
"India is a powerhouse of industrial growth, and DMB is committed to being a key enabler of this progress. With rapid infrastructure expansion, increasing demand for sustainable materials, and a thriving manufacturing sector, India presents a tremendous opportunity for us to not just grow, but to innovate and contribute to the country's economic success."

The company is confident about its India business, which is further reinforced by its recent strategic acquisition of GIC Magnet, a UAE-based manufacturer. [READ MORE](#)

JAFZA INKS PACT WITH INDIA'S HALDIRAM'S TO OPEN SAFFRON PROCESSING FACILITY IN UAE



Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) has inked a pact with Indian food brand Haldiram's to set up one of the largest saffron processing facilities in the GCC, the companies announced on 21 February 2025. Jafza and Haldiram's signed the agreement on the sidelines of Gulfood in Dubai. The facility, set to start operations in March 2025, will be managed by Kesar Expert and Packers - a specialist in processing high-quality saffron with 22 years of experience in India.

"It will also secure globally recognised European BRCGS certification to guarantee the quality and purity of its saffron," *it said*. Initially, the hub will process 30 metric tonnes of saffron, with plans to scale up to 100 metric tonnes over the next five years by leveraging the UAE-India CEPA.

The parties also discussed other avenues for future collaboration, including expanding Haldiram's presence in Dubai and further investing in food processing and distribution facilities. [READ MORE](#)

UAE-INDIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION



→ The bilateral trade between the UAE and India trade stands at USD 85 billion as of 2022. The UAE is India's third-largest trading partner for the year 2022-23. India is the UAE's second largest trading partner. In February 2022, India became the first country with which the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Bilateral trade has increased by approximately 15% since the entry into force of the CEPA on 1 May 2022.

→ The UAE stood as India's fourth largest supplier of crude oil in FY 2022-23, with the UAE's crude oil export to India valued at USD 16.84 billion.

→ The UAE is the fourth largest investor in India in terms of FDI. Prominent UAE companies such as Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), Mubadala, ADQ, IHC, DP World, Emaar Properties, Sharaf Group, TAQA, Borouge, ADNOC, Ducab, Emirates NBD, First Abu Dhabi Bank, Mashreq have invested significantly in various sectors of the Indian economy. [READ MORE](#)

INVEST KERALA

UAE MINISTER UNDERSCORES STRONGER INDIA-UAE TIES, KEEN ON KERALA'S GROWTH SECTORS



Recalling the historical ties between India and the UAE, *H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, UAE Minister of Economy* said on 21 February 2025 that the economic partnership between the two nations has witnessed remarkable growth over the years.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS), H.E. Al Marri emphasised that India is the UAE's second-largest trading partner. The Minister said that the UAE is eager to collaborate with Kerala in key sectors such as food processing, tourism, technology, healthcare, and space.

Leading a 22-member delegation to the event, Al Marri also praised the talent and skilled workforce from Kerala. Referring to the state's technology, education, talent, and skills, he said, "Kerala is actually boosting talent". The strategic location, skilled workforce and investment-

friendly policies help Kerala in global collaboration, H.E. Al Marri added. [READ MORE](#)

UAE-BASED SHARAF GROUP TO INVEST ₹5,000 CRORE IN KERALA



The UAE-based Sharaf Group announced on February 22, 2025, that the shipping and logistics giant will invest ₹5,000 crore in Kerala. *Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Sharfuddin Sharaf, Vice-Chairman of the group, expressed optimism that the fresh investments will help energise the sector.*

The UAE group is expected to invest in two locations in Kerala in logistics and shipping. However, the locations of the investments were not divulged.

He praised the Kerala government for the efficient way in which the Invest Kerala Global Summit is being organised here. He said that the Sharaf group has been involved with India over the last more than 20 years in logistics, shipping and railways. The company has a presence in seven major cities. [READ MORE](#)

WITH ₹5,000 CRORE INVESTMENT IN VARIOUS PROJECTS, LULU PLANS TO ADD 15,000 JOBS



The Lulu Group International (LGI) will invest Rs. 5,000 crores over the next four to five years in various projects in Kerala which are expected to generate nearly 15,000 job opportunities.

“The investment will mainly be in food processing, the Global City project and IT parks. The exact breakup is being worked out,” Mr M. A. Ashraf Ali, Executive Director of LGI, announced on the sidelines of the Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS).

Discussions in this regard have been held with Industries Minister Shri P. Rajeev. While the proposed food-processing zone will come up on 20 acres in Kalamassery, the group will invest in IT and fintech infrastructure in the Global City

project, proposed by the state government in Kochi.

“The food-processing zone will have extensive cold-storage facilities. Vegetables and fruits will be collected from across the state and even parts of Tamil Nadu and moved to Kochi airport. Value-added products will also be part of the project with 100% export orientation,” he said. [READ MORE](#)

UIBC PRESENCE AT INVEST KERALA



(L - R)

Mr. Muhammad Siraj & Ms. Shaina
Executive Directors
AMWAJ Group of Companies;

Mr Mukesh Kalra
Head - Business Development
UIBC



(L - R)

Mr. G. V. Prasad
General Manager (Production)
Fair Exports India Pvt. Ltd. (Lulu Group India);

Mr Mukesh Kalra
Head - Business Development
UIBC

ADVANTAGE ASSAM 2.0

ASSAM SECURES AROUND ₹5 LAKH CRORE INVESTMENTS AT ADVANTAGE ASSAM 2.0 SUMMIT



The Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit 2025 concluded with investment commitments totalling ₹4.91 lakh crore, announced by major conglomerates such as **Reliance, Adani, Vedanta, and Tata Group**, according to **Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma**. **Chief Secretary Dr. Ravi Kota confirmed that the state government signed 270 agreements worth ₹2.75 lakh crore with various companies, marking a major milestone in Assam's industrial growth.**

The summit witnessed a surge of investment proposals, with the state government receiving ₹6-7 lakh crore worth of proposals. **However, Shri Sarma emphasised that only actionable investments for the next three to four years were approved after due scrutiny.** He termed the event a “defining moment” for Assam, underscoring the state’s focus on quality over quantity in investment decisions.



STRATEGIC SECTORS DRIVING GROWTH

Hydrocarbon, mining, and new energy sectors attracted the highest investments, followed by agriculture and horticulture. Assam, which has historically been a dependent state, is now on a path to becoming a contributory economy, leveraging its rich natural resources and industrial potential.

Highlighting Assam’s economic transformation, Shri Sarma pointed out that before Independence, the state’s per capita income was 4% higher than

the national average. However, Partition disrupted trade links, increasing travel time for goods from eight hours to 48 hours. Subsequent decades of agitation and insurgency further slowed progress. The turning point came in 2014, Shri Sarma said, when economic and infrastructural policies under the Shri Narendra Modi-led government provided renewed momentum to Assam’s development. As a result, Assam recorded an impressive 19% growth rate in 2023, while the crime rate dropped by 66%, creating a stable and business-friendly environment.

MAJOR PROJECTS & INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tata’s semiconductor unit and NRL’s bio-refinery facility are among the landmark projects driving the state’s industrial expansion. Sarma also highlighted Assam’s potential to become India’s “concert capital”, leveraging its rich cultural landscape and growing hospitality sector.

Medical tourism is emerging as another high-growth sector, with Assam positioning itself as a key healthcare hub in the region. The state government is actively promoting investment opportunities in this field, attracting both domestic and international players. [READ MORE](#)

UIBC SHOWCASES OPPORTUNITIES AT ADVANTAGE ASSAM 2.0



(L to R): Mr. Manash Bhuyan, Managing Director & Co-Founder, Avgarde Systems Pvt. Ltd.; Mr Mukesh Kalra, Head - Business Development, UIBC

(Centre): Dr. Randhir Thakur
Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director
TATA Electronics Pvt. Ltd.



Assam, an Indian state (province), is located in the northeastern region of India. Its strategic location, serving as a gateway to Northeast India and Southeast Asia, makes it an attractive destination for trade and investment. The state boasts rich natural resources, including petroleum reserves, and is globally renowned for its tea production.

Emerging sectors such as semiconductors and green energy have further enhanced Assam's appeal, making it a hotspot for trade and investment.

A key milestone was the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit, held on February 25-26, 2025, in Guwahati, which secured significant investment commitments across diverse sectors. While Advantage Assam 2.0 focused on industries such as oil & gas, green energy, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and tourism,

the state also presents vast opportunities in the financial sector.

The Government of Assam, alongwith the central government, is committed to fostering a business-friendly environment. It is well known that the Government of India has keen focus on the development of Northeastern region and the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi, several Union Ministers including Dr. S. Jaishankar (External Affairs), Shri Piyush Goyal (Commerce & Industry), at Advantage Assam 2.0 further reinforced this commitment. The participation of over 60 delegations underscores the growing international interest in Assam's trade prospects.

We would be pleased to connect you with the Government of Assam if you are considering exploring or establishing a business in Assam

PRIME READ

INDIA-UAE PARTNERSHIP IN EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES: A COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS ANALYSIS

Article contributed by Mr. Saboor Mubarak, Founder & CEO, Microbyte Innovations



The India-UAE relationship has evolved significantly over the past decade, expanding beyond traditional trade to include emerging technologies like AI and blockchain. India's vast talent pool in software development and the UAE's drive to diversify its economy create a strong foundation for collaboration. This article explores key policy frameworks, collaborative ventures, and insights from Expand North Star 2024 and GITEX 2024, where Indian startups played a pivotal role.

INDIA-UAE ECONOMIC EVOLUTION

The partnership between India and the UAE is strengthened by India's growing base of AI researchers and engineers and the UAE's investment-friendly environment. India's Digital India initiative and the UAE's innovation hubs foster technological advancement. Indian startups benefit from the UAE's capital and global market access, while the UAE leverages India's R&D capabilities for cost-effective solutions.

POLICY FOUNDATIONS AND AI VISIONS

India has laid a robust groundwork for AI and digital transformation through initiatives such as Digital India, which enhances digital infrastructure and promotes entrepreneurship. NITI Aayog's National Strategy for AI emphasizes AI applications in healthcare, education, and governance. Make in India, initially focused on manufacturing, now incorporates AI, drones, and blockchain, attracting global investors.

On the other hand, the UAE's approach to AI and emerging technologies is equally proactive. The establishment of the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence underscores the country's commitment to becoming a global leader in AI. The National AI Strategy 2031 integrates AI into multiple industries, including finance, healthcare, and tourism, positioning the UAE as a technology-driven economy.

The Dubai Future Foundation plays a key role in supporting AI, blockchain, and drone innovations through incubators, enabling seamless collaboration between Indian startups and UAE-based investors.

FOCUS SECTORS FOR COLLABORATION

Fintech and financial services are among the most promising areas for India-UAE collaboration. Indian remittance platforms and UAE banks work together to develop AI-driven fraud detection, blockchain-based trade finance, and digital identity verification solutions. This enhances financial inclusion and facilitates seamless cross-border transactions.

Healthcare and MedTech represent another significant area of cooperation. AI-powered telemedicine and predictive analytics developed in India are improving healthcare delivery in the UAE. Joint R&D in pharmaceuticals and hospital management systems is fostering greater efficiencies and innovation in medical research.

Drone technologies and smart infrastructure also present substantial opportunities. Indian drone startups are assisting the UAE in urban expansion, agricultural efficiency, and disaster management. The UAE's regulatory framework encourages large-scale drone deployment, accelerating technological advancements in this sector.



INSIGHTS FROM EXPAND NORTH STAR 2024

Expand North Star 2024 in Dubai showcased the growing synergy between Indian and UAE-based startups. Entrepreneurs from major Indian tech hubs presented AI chatbots, blockchain solutions, and data analytics tools. The UAE's regulatory ease in free zones like Dubai Internet City attracted many, easing market entry. Emirati sovereign wealth funds and venture capitalists engaged actively, drawn by India's cost-effective R&D and vast domestic user base. Government representatives discussed regulatory alignment to foster cross-border investments. Rapid partnerships emerged, with Indian firms signing MoUs with UAE-based financial institutions and logistics providers, reflecting both nations' commitment to leveraging technology for economic growth.

GITEX 2024: SPOTLIGHT ON INDIAN INNOVATIONS

GITEX 2024 further reinforced India-UAE tech collaboration, serving as a marketplace for investment deals. Indian startups made a strong impact with blockchain, AI, and drone technologies. Blockchain firms introduced decentralized finance solutions for cross-border transactions, attracting UAE fintech firms. AI-powered innovations in cybersecurity, retail analytics, and logistics gained investor interest, spurred by Dubai's AI-friendly policies. Indian drone startups showcased prototypes for last-mile delivery, firefighting, and logistics, drawing interest from UAE authorities eager to scale drone deployment. The event highlighted India's growing role in global technology solutions and the UAE's openness to cutting-edge innovations.

INVESTMENT LANDSCAPE

The India-UAE tech partnership thrives on capital availability and aligned investment goals. Sovereign wealth funds like Mubadala and ADIA are investing heavily in Indian AI, fintech, and drone startups, recognizing India's potential

as a massive domestic market and an export hub. Venture capital collaborations are accelerating, reducing risks and driving cross-border technology growth. Free zones such as Dubai Silicon Oasis and Abu Dhabi Global Market provide regulatory ease, tax incentives, and innovation-friendly environments, attracting Indian startups aiming for regional expansion.

CHALLENGES AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Despite the progress, regulatory alignment remains a challenge, especially as India's evolving data protection laws could impact cross-border AI governance. Ethical AI and privacy issues also need attention to ensure responsible technology deployment. With rising global investment in AI and deep-tech R&D, both nations must sustain innovation to stay competitive.

CONCLUSION: CHARTING A HIGH-TECH FUTURE

India-UAE collaboration in technology is poised for sustained growth, as evident from Expand North Star 2024 and GITEX 2024. Future opportunities include AI-driven climate tech, cybersecurity, and defense solutions. Strengthening skill development and cross-border research programs will further cement India and the UAE as global leaders in emerging technology and innovation.



A U T H O R

Mr. Saboor Mubarak
Founder & CEO
Microbyte Innovations



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

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