

# **UIBC NEWSLETTER**

## **AUGUST 2025**

# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

## HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED SIGNS A 10-YEAR LNG PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH ADNOC GAS



Agreement strengthens HPCL's position as a dominant and reliable Natural Gas supplier in growing Indian Gas Market.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), one of India's largest integrated oil refining and marketing company, has signed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) with Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (ALNG) a subsidiary of ADNOC Gas for procurement of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for a 10-year term. ADNOC Gas is a world-class, large-scale integrated gas processing and sales company operating across the gas value chain.

Under the terms of HOA, HPCL will receive LNG at the recently commissioned Chhara LNG Terminal, Gujarat to meet the demand of its refineries, City Gas Distribution Network and for marketing to downstream customers. This initiative further enables HPCL in building a diverse portfolio encompassing long and short-term LNG contracts to secure LNG and serve customers at competitive prices.

The supply under this agreement marks a significant milestone in India's energy security and HPCL's commitment to cleaner energy transition. This strategic partnership underlines India's commitment towards increasing the share of gas in its energy basket. Such long-term LNG agreements play a vital role in ensuring reliability, affordability and supply security amidst a highly volatile global energy landscape.

### **ABOUT HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED:**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) operates two oil refineries on India's East and West Coasts and holds stakes in HMEL and MRPL joint venture refineries. A greenfield Joint Venture refinery in Rajasthan is under construction. HPCL has a vast marketing network that includes 23,901 retail outlets, 6,384 LPG distributorships, an LPG import facility, 55 LPG bottling plants, 57 aviation fuel stations, and approximately 5,132 km of pipeline network.

The company, along with the joint ventures and subsidiary companies, has developed a robust infrastructure setup, including a 5 MTPA LNG storage and regasification terminal at Chhara (Gujarat), an LPG import facility at Visakhapatnam, and authorization to develop CGD networks in 25 geographical areas, etc., to meet the growing energy needs of the nation. [READ MORE](#)

# UNION MINISTER SHRI ASHWINI VAISHNAW INAUGURATES INDIA'S FIRST TEMPERED GLASS MANUFACTURING FACILITY FOR MOBILE DEVICES AT NOIDA



Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw on August 30, 2025, inaugurated India's first Tempered Glass Manufacturing Facility for Mobile Devices at Noida. The facility has been set up by Optimus Electronics in collaboration with Corning Incorporated, USA, and will produce high-quality tempered glass under the globally recognised brand **"Engineered by Corning"**. The products will be supplied to both domestic and international markets.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that tempered glass is an important accessory for mobile phones, and its indigenous manufacturing is a major step forward in the success of Make in India and the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He added that step by step, India will manufacture each and every component used in mobile phones, including chips, cover glasses, laptop and server components, thereby positioning the country as a global player in electronics manufacturing. The Minister also informed that a Made in India chip is expected to roll out soon, marking another milestone in the country's journey towards self-reliance.



Shri Vaishnaw underlined that in the past 11 years, electronics manufacturing in India has grown six times to reach a production value of ₹11.5 lakh crore, with exports of over ₹3 lakh crore and direct and indirect employment for 2.5 million people. He said that the overall electronics ecosystem in the country is developing rapidly, and value addition is being enhanced step by step.

The Minister also highlighted that India's design strength is its biggest strength, and the government will continue to boost research and development capabilities. Citing examples, he said that an IIT Madras-incubated startup has designed India's first microcontroller, which will soon be deployed in Indian products. In the Railways sector, Indian manufacturers are already exporting equipment of the highest global quality standards to European countries. [READ MORE](#)

# KOTAK INTERNATIONAL SECURES UAE LICENCE TO SELL FUNDS DIRECTLY TO RETAIL INVESTORS



**K**otak International, the global arm of Kotak Mahindra Bank, on August 18, 2025, said it has secured a licence from the United Arab Emirates' Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) to directly sell investment funds and portfolios to onshore retail investors. This makes Kotak the first Indian financial services firm to receive such approval in the UAE.

The licence allows Kotak to move beyond high-net-worth clientele and approach everyday retail investors, a shift the company said would significantly expand its market scope. Mr. Shyam Kumar, president of Kotak International, told Reuters that India's demographic advantage and diversified economy made it a compelling investment destination. "India has got a story which is extremely wide and diversified. You have a very young working population, which makes it very strong and resilient in terms of economic growth," he said.

## **INDIA-FOCUSED RETAIL FUNDS PLANNED**

Kotak International plans to introduce its first India-focused retail funds in the UAE by the final quarter of 2025. The funds will be accessible with a minimum investment of around USD 500, according to the company.

The UAE's absence of personal income and capital gains tax on fund returns is seen as a major draw for investors. Kotak has earlier worked with UAE-based investors through wealth managers and insurance platforms, but the new licence allows direct retail participation. "It really expands the scope," Mr. Kumar noted.

## **INDIAN DIASPORA AND WIDER MARKET**

Indian nationals, who make up nearly 35 per cent of the UAE's population, are already the largest expatriate community and a significant investment force. In Dubai real estate alone, Indians purchased properties worth over 35 billion dirham (USD 9.53 billion) last year, according to Aeon & Trisl. [READ MORE](#)

# TO BOOST UAE-INDIA TIES, SHERAA AND STARTUP MIDDLE EAST SIGN MOU TO LAUNCH INDIA STARTUP HUB IN SHARJAH



In a move to deepen ties between the UAE and India's startup ecosystems, the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (Sheraa) and Startup Middle East have signed a wide-ranging Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement lays the foundation for strategic, cross-border collaboration and includes the creation of a new India Startup Hub in Sharjah. This initiative is part of a larger effort to drive innovation, facilitate market entry, and link Indian entrepreneurs with Sharjah's rapidly growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO BRIDGE STARTUP ECOSYSTEMS**

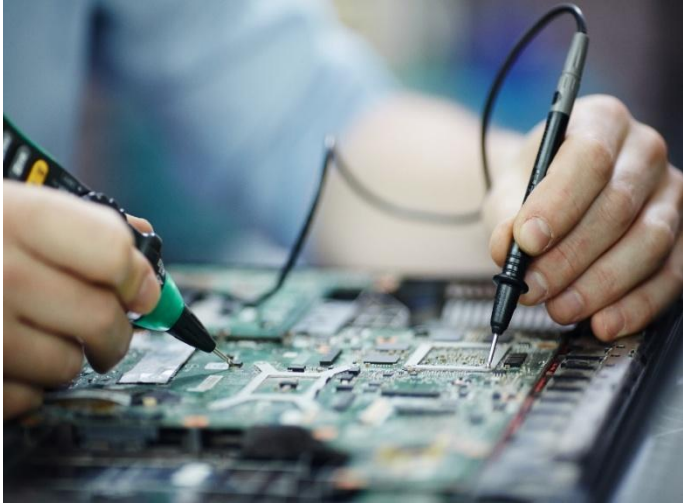
The MoU was formally signed on August 25, 2025, at Sheraa's headquarters in Sharjah. The signatories were Ms. Sara Abdulaziz Al Nuaimi, CEO of Sheraa, and Mr. Siby Sudhakaran, CEO of Startup Middle East. The signing was attended by Mr. Anoop Ambika, CEO of Kerala Startup Mission, along with various officials and representatives from Indian startup companies.

The agreement outlines a collaborative roadmap to enhance bilateral startup ties and prominently includes the launch of the Sharjah Centre of India Startup Hub (ISH), a dedicated platform designed to give Indian entrepreneurs direct access to Sharjah's innovation resources and opportunities.

This center will serve as a bridge connecting Indian startups with Sharjah's entrepreneurial infrastructure, including its five free zones, the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce, and IBPC Sharjah. The hub is described as a catalyst for enabling market expansion and innovation-led growth across both countries.

Mr. Siby Sudhakaran, CEO of Startup Middle East, described the new hub as "a landmark initiative inspired by the enduring vision of Expo 2020 Dubai designed to showcase the dynamism of the Indian startup ecosystem while opening doors to global opportunities." [READ MORE](#)

# NEWS SNIPPETS



## INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR LEAP: CABINET CLEARS 4 NEW PLANTS IN ODISHA, PUNJAB & ANDHRA PRADESH

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, on August 12, 2025, approved four new semiconductor manufacturing projects worth a cumulative ₹4,600 crore, expanding India's chip production capacity across Odisha, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. The decision brings the total number of approved projects under the India Semiconductor

Mission (ISM) to 10, with overall investments of about ₹1.60 lakh crore in six states. These latest units are expected to employ 2,034 skilled professionals directly, while catalyzing indirect job creation across the electronics manufacturing ecosystem. [READ MORE](#)



## DUBAI INTRODUCES 'ONE FREEZONE PASSPORT' TO UNIFY FREE ZONES UNDER ONE LICENCE

Dubai has introduced 'One Freezone Passport', a new scheme that allows companies licensed in one free zone to expand operations into other free zones across the Emirate without requiring an additional licence. Globally renowned luxury brand, Louis Vuitton, has

become the first corporate member under this scheme, as reported by *The Khaleej Times*. The programme, introduced by the Dubai Free Zones Council (DFZC), is introduced to streamline business expansion and reduce regulatory barriers. Louis Vuitton will now operate its warehouse in *Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza)* while setting up its corporate office at One Za'abeel, part of the DWTC Free Zone. *The entire process was completed in just five days.* [READ MORE](#)



## VVDN EXPANDS MANUFACTURING FOOTPRINT INTO THE UAE TO MEET GLOBAL DEMAND

VVDN Technologies, a global provider of software, product engineering and electronics manufacturing services & solutions, announced on August 19, 2025 that it is setting up a new manufacturing facility in the UAE as part of its global expansion strategy. The new facility, which is slated to be operational in 4

weeks, marks another significant milestone for VVDN. The new facility is strategically located to cater to customers across the United States, Europe, and MENA region. [READ MORE](#)

# UIBC ACTIVITIES



*(R - L)*

**Mr. Manu Raj Bhalla**, President, Warehousing Association of India

**Mr. Mukesh Kalra**, Head – Business Development, UIBC

*(R - L)*

**Mr. Mukesh Kalra**, Head – Business Development, UIBC

**Shri. Sagar R. Kadu**, Director – Logistics, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

**Ms. Priyanka Kumari**, Assistant Manager – Research & Consultancy, UIBC



*(R - L)*

**Mr. Mukesh Kalra**, Head – Business Development, UIBC

**Mr. Arun Kumar**, President, Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## EVENT

## DATE



[September 25-29, 2025](#)

India Expo Centre and Mart  
Greater Noida  
INDIA



[September 25-28, 2025](#)

Bharat Mandapam  
New Delhi  
INDIA



[October 30 - November 01, 2025](#)

India Expo Mart  
Greater Noida  
INDIA



[November 04-06, 2025](#)

Dubai World Trade Centre  
Dubai  
UAE



[November 19-21, 2025](#)

KTPO Convention Centre  
Bengaluru  
INDIA



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 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting on September 3, 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)

5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@uibc.org)



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