



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY
प्रकाशन और जनसंपर्क कार्यालय
Publications and Public Relations Office
पवई, मुंबई - 400076, महाराष्ट्र, भारत
Powai, Mumbai – 400076, Maharashtra, India
दूरभाष: (+91-22) 25767026-27 | वेबसाइट: www.iitb.ac.in
Ph: 022-25767026-27 | web: <http://www.iitb.ac.in>

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UAE Deepens Innovation Ties with India Through High-Impact MoU at Mumbai Start-up Event

Mumbai | July 10, 2025: The UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC), in collaboration with the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in India, hosted an exclusive Start-up Sundowner at the St. Regis Mumbai. The event spotlighted the opportunities for Indian founders and start-ups to participate in the newly launched UAE-India CEPA Start-up Series, a high-impact platform designed to fast-track cross-border growth, collaboration, and market access.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Abdulnasser Alshaali, PhD, the UAE Ambassador to India, reaffirmed the UAE's vision for fostering dynamic, innovation-led collaboration between the two nations. He emphasised that India's entrepreneurial energy as a vital force in the bilateral partnership.

A highlight of the evening was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the UAE-India CEPA Council and the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), the technology business incubator of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). The MoU formalises a partnership to identify and support high-potential start-ups from the SINE ecosystem and alumni network for participation in the Start-up Series.

Following the signing, Mr. Ahmed Aljneibi, Director of the UAE-India CEPA Council, delivered an insightful overview of the Start-up Series, detailing the platform's strategic design to support Indian start-ups in scaling into the UAE. "The Start-up Series is a another step forward in transforming the UAE-India partnership into a launchpad for next-generation entrepreneurship and cross-border innovation," Mr. Aljneibi said.

Guests were then introduced to the official trailer for the UAE-India Start-up Series, which outlined the initiative's vision, opportunities, and roadmap. The video spotlighted the upcoming flagship pitch event in New Delhi, where selected ventures will gain access to an exclusive UAE soft-landing package, including incubation, licensing, mentorship, and investor exposure.

The Start-up Series builds on the strong economic momentum between the UAE and India, offering a new platform for start-up-led collaboration. In FY 2023-24, bilateral trade reached USD 83.64 billion, marking a nearly 15% year-on-year increase since

Media Contact:

Mrs Falguni Banerjee Naha, Public Relations Officer, IIT Bombay Ph. No. 022-25767025/ 4027 |
Email: pro@iitb.ac.in



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the CEPA came into effect. India's non-oil exports to the UAE surged by over 20%, while UAE foreign direct investment (FDI) into India tripled, rising from USD 1.03 billion in FY 2021-22 to USD 3.35 billion in FY 2022-23, making the UAE India's fourth-largest investor.

The event was featured live across the UAE-India CEPA Council's social media handles. A post-produced video and event gallery will be published soon on LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

Start-ups can now apply through the official microsite. The application window will remain open until 31 July 2025.

🔗 **Apply now at:** <https://start-upseries.cepacouncil.com/>

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:
Email: info@cepacouncil.com

About the UAE-India CEPA Council

The UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) is a dedicated bilateral platform established to advance trade, investment, and innovation under the UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. It facilitates strategic collaborations between businesses, governments, and institutions across both countries to unlock shared economic opportunities.

Follow the UAE-India CEPA Council on:

- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/uae-india-cepacouncil/>
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- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@UAE-IndiaCEPACouncil>

About IIT Bombay

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, set up in 1958 as the second IIT, is recognised worldwide as a leader in the field of science and engineering education and research. The Institute was granted the status of 'Institution of

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Eminence' by the Ministry of Education (the then Ministry of Human Resources Development) on July 9, 2018. IIT Bombay is reputed for the quality of its faculty, cutting edge research, industry relations and the outstanding calibre of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Institute has 17 academic departments, 35 other academic entities (Centres/ Programmes/ Academic facilities/ Hubs/ Externally funded centres and Labs) and three schools. Over the last six decades, more than 75,000 engineers and scientists have graduated from the Institute. It is served by 751 faculty members and about 150 visiting and part-time faculty considered not only amongst the best within the country but also highly recognised in the world for achievements in the field of education and research. On June 4, 2024, IIT Bombay was ranked 1st in India and 118th in the world in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2025. On March 12, 2025, IIT Bombay was ranked 28th in Engineering and Technology in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject for 2025.

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