

Press Release

Day 2 of the Visit of the Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan to the United Arab Emirates

The Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan continued his 3-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates as he started the day by visiting Hub71 to understand the landscape for start-ups in Abu Dhabi. During the visit, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with entrepreneurs and talked about the success stories of a number of start-ups in India and explored ways to deepen collaboration between India and the UAE to utilise the synergy of this relationship to promote entrepreneurial activities in both countries. In recent years, India and the UAE have been collaborating closely in start-up ventures. Since India's first unicorn in 2011, India is now home to 110 startup unicorns, who are collectively valued at US\$ 347 Billion. This area holds huge promise for the future.

There are around 3.5 million Indians in the UAE who are the backbone of the historic India-UAE relationship. Among them, 65% are in the unskilled work space. To promote their interest and to further streamline their recruitment process, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with prominent employers, and recruitment agencies in the UAE to understand the ongoing collaboration in the fields of skill development and up-skilling, and explore avenues for further collaboration. Hon'ble Minister visited saw the skilling set up at EFS Facilities Services which is a regional leader in delivering integrated facilities management services across the Middle East, Africa, South Asia, and Turkey. He was briefed about the close cooperation between EFS and NSDC for setting up-skilling centers in India and joint accreditation of courses.

The Hon'ble Minister also met with His Excellency Mohammad Al Gergawi, the UAE Minister of Cabinet Affairs to review the cooperation in the fields of education and research. Both Ministers explored possibilities of bringing campuses of premier Indian institutes to Dubai so that the larger global community can benefit from the rich experience and expertise of those institutes and help in making Dubai a regional hub for education and learning.

At an event organised at the Indian Consulate in Dubai. Hon'ble Minister announced the setting up of a CBSE office in Dubai. This will be the first overseas office of CBSE and will cater to the requirements of over 200 CBSE affiliated schools in the GCC which enrol over half a million students. The event was joined by principals and management of CBSE schools in the UAE and joined virtually by principals and management of CBSE schools in other GCC countries. They expressed deep appreciation for this initiative.

The Hon'ble Minister also visited the under-construction BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi. He was received by Swami Brahmaviharidas who briefed the Hon'ble Minister about the ongoing work of the Mandir, the consistent and full support extended by the UAE leadership in making the Mandir a landmark place and befitting tribute to the people-to-people historical connection between India and the UAE. The Mandir is scheduled to be inaugurated in February next year.

The Hon'ble Minister also interacted with some of the prominent Indian professionals in Dubai and exchanged views on the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and ways to take this partnership to newer heights.

Abu Dhabi
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