

**Embassy of India
Abu Dhabi**

PRESS RELEASE

New impetus to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)

A new impetus has been imparted today to the ambitious Transcontinental Connectivity Project - India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) launched during the G-20 Summit held in New Delhi in September 2023 with signatories including India, UAE, USA, EU, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, and Germany.

A delegation led by Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri T.K. Ramachandaran held substantive discussions with CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, H.E. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi. The delegation included Ambassador of India to UAE, H.E. Sunjay Sudhir, CMD, RITES Ltd Sh Rahul Mithal and Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) Sh Unmesh Wagh. Prior to the meeting, an interactive discussions was held with stakeholders, including Terminal Operators, Shipping Lines and Customs. A presentation was also made in this regard.

Earlier, Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface (MAITRI), was launched during the visit of His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India in September 2024. MAITRI is a platform which will integrate existing trade portals including National Logistics Portal- Marine (NLP-M), Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE), Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) with similar portals on the UAE side providing seamless and paperless connectivity. MAITRI will also support the Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC) which was also launched during the visit of His Highness Sheikh Khaled. VTC will not only be an integral part of IMEEC but will also help bilateral trade between India and the UAE which stands at over US\$ 85 billion.

Considerable work has already happened on MAITRI platform with Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPS&W) of India assigning the work of developing the platform to RITES and C-DAC, who are working closely with JNPA, Deendayal Port and other major ports of India. A workshop in this regard was held in Mumbai on 27th February with the participation of Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. The workshop also saw participation from Abu Dhabi Ports and DP World and other important stakeholders from the UAE side.

IMEEC signatories represent a large part of global GDP. IMEEC will provide an alternate supply route connecting India, Europe and the USA through countries of the Middle East. In addition to port and rail infrastructure, IMEEC is also envisaged to provide energy and digital connectivity. The work of laying the electrical grid between UAE and India for solar power is also underway. The two countries are also working on green hydrogen and public digital infrastructure.

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