

UAE-India CEPA Council and IIM Calcutta Innovation Park Forge Strategic Partnership to Accelerate Global Scale for Indian Start-ups

Kolkata, 26 July 2025: The UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC), in collaboration with IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP), undertook an interactive session as part of the UAE-India CEPA Start-up Series Roadshow, formalising a strategic partnership to assist Indian ventures to scale-up and expand into global markets, with a particular focus on the UAE's thriving innovation ecosystem.

The highlight of the event was the formal signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IIMCIP and the UICC. The partnership aims to facilitate a structured pathway for entrepreneurial talent at IIM Calcutta to engage with the UAE's ecosystem, unlocking new avenues for international growth.

Offering opening remarks, Mr. Ahmed Aljneibi, Director of the UICC, outlined the significance of the partnership. "IIM Calcutta Innovation Park has been instrumental in driving inclusive entrepreneurship and nurturing scalable models across eastern India. We are proud to welcome IIMCIP into the CEPA Start-up Series network. This partnership opens a powerful gateway for start-ups in this region to think globally and plug into the UAE's dynamic innovation economy," he said.

Dr. Subhrangshu Sanyal, CEO of IIMCIP, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, stating "This partnership with the UAE-India CEPA Council is a timely step toward expanding the global outlook of our entrepreneurs. At IIMCIP, we focus on building impact-driven ventures with strong fundamentals. The CEPA Start-up Series will offer our founders access to valuable mentorship, cross-border exposure, and soft-landing support in the UAE, a region known for backing bold and transformative ideas."

Attendees were presented with the official trailer for the UAE-India Start-up Series, providing a concise overview of the programme, its structure, and its roadmap for selected start-ups. This was followed by an interactive Q&A session with Mr. Aljneibi, who addressed questions from entrepreneurs and students, covering topics such as selection criteria, sector focus, and post-selection support mechanisms in the UAE.

The Kolkata edition of the Start-up Series Roadshow underscores the UAE-India CEPA Council's commitment to working with India's leading incubators and start-up ecosystems, ensuring that the opportunities unlocked by CEPA reach founders in every region.

Applications for the CEPA Start-Up Series are open until 31 July 2025.

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

For media inquiries or further information, please contact:

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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.

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About IIM Calcutta Innovation Park

IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) is a not-for-profit Section 8 company established under the aegis of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. With a mission to promote entrepreneurship and social impact, IIMCIP supports a diverse portfolio of start-ups through mentorship, funding access, corporate networks, and deep ecosystem integration. It has played a transformative role in scaling ventures across eastern and northeastern India.