

Five Indian Start-Ups Secure UAE Launch Through CEPA Council's Landmark Innovation Programme

New Delhi, 28 November 2025: The top five winners of the UAE-India CEPA Council's Start-Up Series have been announced, following the finale held on 24 and 25 November in New Delhi. The selected start-ups will now receive a fully sponsored soft landing in the United Arab Emirates, representing a major new opportunity for Indian founders to expand internationally. The finale brought together 20 of India's most promising young companies, selected from more than 10,000 applications received nationwide. The scale of participation reflects the strong and growing interest of Indian innovators in expanding into the UAE's fast-growing, globally connected innovation ecosystem.

The 20 finalists represented a diverse mix of sectors, including artificial intelligence, financial technology, climate and sustainability solutions, manufacturing and industrial technologies, health technology, agriculture, space technology, and next-generation mobility.

The shortlisted companies presented to a distinguished jury comprising H.E. Abdulnasser Alshaali, PhD, UAE Ambassador to the Republic of India; Ahmad Ali Alwan, Chief Executive Officer of Hub71; Arjun Vaidya, Co-Founder of V3 Ventures; and Utsav Soman, Founder of Offline, in coordination with a panel of experts drawn from the UAE-India CEPA Council, DP World, Emirates NBD, and First Abu Dhabi Bank.

Five winners were selected based on innovation, market traction, and readiness for international expansion:

- Bioreform, selected by RAKEZ, is a sustainable packaging start-up from Hyderabad that creates certified biodegradable and compostable alternatives to single-use plastics through a proprietary biopolymer blend.
- Data Sutram, selected by Emirates NBD, is a Kolkata-based regtech intelligence platform that blends more than 250 data sources to deliver real-time insights for fraud prevention, underwriting, and personalisation.
- DocketRun, selected by DP World, is a Hubballi-based industrial safety platform that uses edge AI and vision analytics to detect and prevent unsafe events before they occur.
- Endimension, selected by Hub71, is a Mumbai-based AI radiology company serving over 800 hospitals and diagnostic centers. Its platform accelerates and enhances the accuracy of X-ray, CT, and MRI analysis.
- SBNRI, selected by First Abu Dhabi Bank, is a Gurugram-based fintech platform that provides NRIs with a unified digital ecosystem to manage banking, investments, and taxation globally.

Each winning company will receive a comprehensive UAE soft landing package, including incubation, business establishment support, trade licence facilitation, and regulatory guidance.

Separately, Hub71 has further committed to offering each of the five winning companies with access to its Immersion Programme. The newly launched programme is designed to fast-track market entry for start-ups by combining a virtual onboarding to build market readiness with in-person sessions in Abu Dhabi. As part of its role, Hub71 will deliver curated knowledge sessions, provide mentorship, and connect the start-ups with the Abu Dhabi tech ecosystem.

H.E. Abdulnasser Alshaali, UAE Ambassador to India, remarked:

“The Start-Up Series was inspired by the remarkable innovation I witnessed across India’s start-up communities. As I travelled through different states and engaged with founders working in diverse sectors, the sheer scale of talent became undeniable. The strong response to this programme reflects the growing momentum in our economic and people-to-people ties.”

Ahmed Aljneibi, Director of the UAE-India CEPA Council, added:

“This is the first programme to take Indian start-ups from application to a fully-sponsored UAE landing within such a short period. The quality of the finalists speaks for itself, and the UAE is committed to helping these companies scale internationally.”

Ahmad Ali Alwan, Chief Executive Officer of Hub71, said:

“India’s depth of talent continues to impress, and we see growing interest from Indian founders looking to the UAE as a global gateway for growth. This was reflected in the shortlisted startups, all of whom demonstrated strong potential and clear relevance to the UAE market. For Hub71, Endimension distinguished itself through strong traction and a disciplined approach to applying advanced AI to radiology workflows. We are also pleased to welcome all finalists to Abu Dhabi for soft-landing support and to embed within the Hub71 ecosystem.”

Ramy Jallad, Group CEO of RAKEZ, commented:

“BioReform impressed us with a polymer technology that is biodegradable, heat-durable, food-safe, and significantly more affordable than existing alternatives. Its ability to scale customised products positions it well to support the UAE’s transition away from single-use plastics. We are pleased to back a company that aligns so strongly with Ras Al Khaimah’s sustainability ambitions.”

Hemant Kumar Ruia, Country Manager, India Subcontinent, DP World, noted:

“I had the opportunity to engage with some of India’s most ambitious founders during the Start-Up Series and witnessed innovation of real substance. DocketRun distinguished itself through clarity of vision, disciplined engineering, and a platform built for scale. Supporting its entry into the UAE innovation ecosystem reflected our shared commitment under the CEPA to encourage entrepreneurship and strengthen the start-up ecosystem that can in turn support the economy.”

Nimesh Karwanyun, Country CEO for India at First Abu Dhabi Bank, stated:

“The Start-Up Series enabled us to engage closely with founders who are shaping solutions for a rapidly evolving financial landscape. We were impressed by the teams’ deep knowledge of the region and strong product-market fit. FAB’s support reflects our commitment under CEPA to championing founders who demonstrate commercial discipline and the capability to scale globally.”

Together, the five winning start-ups stand at the threshold of a transformative new chapter. Their entry into the UAE’s dynamic innovation landscape marks the beginning of broader regional ambition and deeper collaboration between two of the world’s most energetic entrepreneurial ecosystems.

The UAE-India CEPA Council, launched in January 2024 during Vibrant Gujarat by Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister for Foreign Trade, and Shri Piyush Goyal, India’s Minister of Commerce and Industry, has adopted an agile, innovation-focused approach that has enabled it to translate bilateral ambition into concrete initiatives that strengthen engagement on both sides. The Start-Up Series embodies this approach by offering a dedicated platform that bridges the two countries’ innovation ecosystems and accelerates cross-border opportunities for emerging companies.

