

# India trade exhibition centre to come up in Sharjah

**KOCHI:** The first Indian Trade and Exhibition Centre to be set up outside the country is expected to come up in Sharjah.

Setting up such a centre would help boost trade between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, West Asia and the African region countries, K.V. Shamsudheen, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC), Sharjah, said. An MoU was signed in this regard by Sudesh Agarwal, Chairman of IBPC, and Ahammed Mohammed al Midfa on behalf of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the presence of Indian Consul General, Venu Rajamony, in Sharjah.

Speaking on the occasion, Sudesh Agarwal said that setting up such a centre was the result of constant interaction between IBPC, Assocham, Government of India and Government of Sharjah. The project finally took off only when IBPC offered to become the lead agency in setting up and managing the centre. The centre is expected to play a very important role in the Indo-UAE trade and investment relations.

The centre will hold regular exhibitions of Indian products and services, organise meetings and conferences for the Indian business and pro-

fessional community, lease of office and exhibition space to Government of India enterprises and Indian corporations, as well as provide all information about Indian business and services. The centre would have space for a permanent display of products and exhibitions, office space for lease, auditorium, restaurant and administrative offices.

The centre is to be built over an area of 20,000 sq ft having basement, ground and two floors with a total built-up area of about 50,000 sq ft. The project is scheduled to be completed within 18-24 months from now, a release issued here said.

