



Rising tide of student migration abroad

By **HANEENA NAJEEB**

With the world's largest youth population, India stands at a crucial juncture where its demographic dividend can either propel the nation's growth or contribute to an accelerating brain drain. However, it is now experiencing a second phase of migration. This phase of brain drain involves a resourceful, youthful, and eligible workforce seeking opportunities to settle in other nations.

Studies have shown that youth migration follows a steady trend and could reach 7.5 million by 2025. In 2023 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that among the top 1,000 Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) scorers, 36pc migrated abroad, while for the top 100 scorers, the rate was 62pc, primarily to the United States for graduate studies.

Additionally, since 2014, approximately 23,000 millionaires have left India, with nearly 7,000 emigrating since

2019, representing about two per cent of India's high-net-worth individuals at that time. These statistics are alarming and raise concerns about India's future. Factors such as the Indian education system, social life, political landscape and religious circumstances contribute to this brain drain.

In earlier decades, migration was primarily driven by prolonged poverty, unemployment and the pursuit of a better standard of living. However, today, the definition of the standard of living has evolved. Youngsters choose to go abroad for better exposure and enhanced life prospects. The rote-learning system in Indian education, where the majority of students pass examinations without

gaining true expertise, is a major factor. As a result, students seek better opportunities abroad, including superior infrastructure, diverse peer groups and higher salary packages. Developed countries offer a "learning by doing" approach,

which reduces the experience gap and enhances performance in respective fields.

Freedom abroad?

Limitations within India's social framework, where a "perceived freedom" outside the country also attracts youngsters to migrate. Issues such as body shaming, gender disparity, moral policing and societal intrusion into personal life are believed to be less prevalent in other countries.

From a social perspective, youth migration is also seen as a status symbol. The social pressure to send one's child abroad has developed into a chain reaction among parents, as it is perceived to elevate their social standing. The availability of bank loans, where students are considered the major investment for families, further fuels this trend. Unlike in the past, where youth primarily focused on securing employment, education is now prioritised.

Additionally, career opportunities have (Cont. on page-7)

S. Africa eyes direct flights to India with key visa reforms

BENGALURU: The South African Tourism Board is making an aggressive push into the Indian travel industry. The country has unveiled groundbreaking strategies at its highly anticipated 2025 India Roadshow. Set to take place from March 18 to 20 across Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai, the event marks a pivotal moment in the deepening tourism and trade ties between the two nations.

Psychological benefits of Ramadan fasting

When Ramadan fasting is done the way it is due, it opens up an array of physical health benefits and unleashes a tremendous realm of psychological and mental health benefits. Without further ado, let's roll in with a concise background.

The word Ramadan is derived from the Arabic root word "ramidha" or "ar-ramad", which means intense scorching heat or sunbaked dryness.

When a person abstains

from food and drinks during Ramadan, the heat produced by hunger and thirst dries away the sins, and the very heat reshapes and molds behaviours and mindsets, eventually transforming one's virtues and values towards betterment.

As a part of faith during Ramadan fasting, one is not allowed to indulge in sinful activities such as gossiping, backbiting, lying, throwing tantrums, get-

travellers experience the Rainbow Nation.

The growing Indian outbound travel sector has positioned India as one of South Africa's most critical source markets. This event signals major opportunities for trade partners, travel agents, and tourism operators.

India has long been a key growth driver for South African tourism, ranking among its top priority source markets. The 2024 roadshow resulted in 12,000+ trade meetings and over 1.6 lakh immediate leads. This demonstrates India's soaring demand for South African travel experiences.

In 2024, South Africa welcomed 75,541 Indian tourists, marking a 79pc recovery from pre-pandemic levels. This resurgence has fuelled ambitious goals for 2025, with South African Tourism targeting a 16pc increase in Indian arrivals.

Dr Swaika meets Kuwait FM



India's Ambassador to Kuwait HE Dr Adarsh-Swaika called on HE Noura Sulaiman Al-Fassam, Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment of Kuwait and had discussion pertaining to bilateral investment co-operation in different sectors.

(Cont. on page-2)

Psychological benefits of Ramadan fasting

(Cont. from page-1)

ting angry, hurling abuses or misbehaving with others. When a person is hungry, it becomes a greater test to stay patient without losing your cool. Eventually, it helps in developing an attitude on how to deal with the negative minds wisely, improvising the behavioural patterns and outcomes.

Likewise, refraining from food and drinks shifts the brain's focus from digestion toward other bodily functions, assisting in developing better cognition and focus. Also, when gut health improves by holding the process of digestion for a while, brain health and mental health improve as they are closely linked. No wonder that during stress, emotional eating behaviours are a common observation, and fasting tremendously helps to curb this behaviour.

A study published in Springer Open examined the effect of Ramadan fasting on depression, anxiety and stress levels in diabetic patients, including 100 fasting patients and 50 non-fasting patients. They applied the depression anxiety stress scale (DASS) before and after Ramadan and reported a statistically significant improvement in depression, anxiety and stress levels in the fasting



group after Ramadan.

The whole purpose of Ramadan is to garner strength and courage to attain a better vision for life. Developing a kind and humble attitude when others around you are insensitive and cruel. Not returning the toxicity with the same negative energy or absorbing that energy into yourself but learning to play your role wisely and smartly without becoming selfish or letting that negativity affect you in the least.

The whole ongoing hue and cry about mental crisis in the world is regarding behaviours in relationships personally or professionally. When you are God conscious and self-aware, you become empathetic towards others, more emotionally resilient, and much giving to others without expecting anything in return. This personal discipline and self-control achieved through giving up on everyday momentary pleasures magnificently heals your mind and soul.

When a person works

on his spirituality and connects with his Creator, seeks his forgiveness, and makes amends with the concerning people in his life, he releases his emotional burden of self-blaming, self-doubts, and insecurities. When he learns to count his blessings and develops gratification for life and whatever is bestowed, the anxieties and depressions seem to melt down, and a fresh vibe kindles.

Ultimately, mental clarity develops leading strongly to wise decision-making skills, laying off the unnecessary drama, and work efficiently on the goals and tasks that you envision. Your brain is no longer foggy, and you regain your attention and are able to define and set priorities for life.

Moreover, if you analyse the fasting days, you develop healthy waking, sleeping, and eating habits that are scientifically proven and form a core foundation for a sane and sound psychological and mental health and well-being.

UAE's new degree verification process

ABU DHABI: The UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has announced revisions to its policies regarding the recognition of foreign university degrees.

Under the new regulations, the ministry will grant conditional recognition to degrees obtained through distance learning, open education, online education and correspondence education, provided they meet specific criteria set by a dedicated ministerial committee.

Additionally, the ministry has clarified that vocational certificates, training programme certificates and degrees obtained through specialised programmes catering to specific student demographics will not be recognised.

A statement released by the ministry emphasised the importance of

compliance with these new regulations for students who have obtained their degrees through non-traditional study modes.

Verification

To streamline the recognition process, the ministry has appointed two external agencies—Dataflow and QuadraBay—as authorised partners for degree verification and equivalency certification. These agencies, recognised by the UAE's educational authorities, play a crucial role in verifying qualifications before they undergo the official recognition process.

The recognition process consists of two stages: Verification of degree authenticity: Applicants must first verify their qualifications through one of the ministry's authorised verification partners, Dataflow or QuadraBay.

GST rates to be cut

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates would be reduced further as the process of



rationalising tax slabs is nearing completion.

She mentioned that the revenue neutral rate (RNR), which was 15.8pc when GST was introduced in July 2017, has

now come down to 11.4pc in 2023 and will decrease further. Speaking at a media event in the national capital, Sitharaman said that the work on

simplifying GST slabs is almost finished. The GST Council, which is led by the finance minister and includes state finance ministers, is expected to take a final decision soon.

Kerala man killed in Jordan was victim of job racket

KOCHI: A man from Kerala identified as Thomas Gabriel Perera was shot dead by Jordanian soldiers while attempting to cross into Israel illegally.

As per a report by BBC, Perera's family revealed that he travelled to Jordan on a visitor visa on Feb 10, lured by a fraudulent job offer promising him a monthly salary of Rs 3.5 lakh. Perera was also accompanied by his

brother-in-law Edison Charlas, when the incident took place.

What Did the Fraudsters Promise Perera? According to the report, Perera and Charlas paid an agent Rs 2.1 lakh before leaving India and an additional Rs 52,289 (\$600) after arriving in Jordan. Upon reaching Amman, they were informed that no jobs were available.

The agent later in-



Thomas Gabriel Perera formed the two Indian men that Israel had ample job opportunities and

advised them to attempt to enter the country illegally. On Feb 10, while trying to cross the border, they were fired upon by Jordanian soldiers. Perera was fatally shot and died on the spot, while Charlas sustained injuries but survived. After receiving medical treatment, Charlas was eventually repatriated to India.

Shortly after the incident, the Indian embassy

in Jordan took to X to release an official statement condemning Perera's death.

"The embassy has learnt of the sad demise of an Indian national in unfortunate circumstances. The embassy is in touch with the family of the deceased and is working closely with Jordanian authorities for transportation of mortal remains of the deceased," the tweet read.

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Canadian Dollar	61.31	60.1
Australian Dollar	55.55	54.5
Norwegian Krone	8.1	7.95
Swedish Krona	8.72	8.55
New Zealand Dollar	50.19	49.34
Hong Kong Dollar	11.33	11.12
Kuwaiti Dinar	286.84	277.88
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Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.48	23.04
United Arab Emirates	23.98	23.52

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GULF FAQs

Do I have right to claim half of my husband's money after divorce?

I am a non-Muslim woman who got married to a non-Muslim man for five years. Now, I want divorce. Do I have to prove the harm before the court in order to get the divorce? Do I have the right to claim half of my husband's money in addition to part of the company shares he owns?



You do not have to prove the harm according to Article-7 of Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil Personal Status for Non-Muslims which confirms

that the spouses can request for divorce and be granted if either spouse expresses in court his/her desire to separate and terminate the marriage, without any need

to justify their reason, to demonstrate harm or to put the blame on the other party.

The Law No. 41 of 2022 did not specify the right for the divorced

woman to claim half of her husband's money in addition to part of the company shares he owns but the Federal Decree Law No. 41 of 2022 provides non-Muslim residents the option to follow the laws of their home country or select alternative personal status laws in effect in the UAE over the provisions of this Decree Law.

So, if your law grants you such right of half of his money and shares, then you may request to apply your law and the acceptance of the re-

quest is subject to the discretionary power of the judge taking into consideration that you have to prove the existence of your own law, its rules and to submit this law to the court after having it ratified by the relevant departments and embassies. The law of the UAE shall apply in case the existence of the governing foreign law cannot be established or its context cannot be delimited (according to Article 28 of the Civil Transactions Law).

What's legal course for job termination?

I have been working in a semi-governmental company for two years, and currently my services have been terminated without a cause. My question: What is the appropriate action to take against this company? Do I have the legal right to file a grievance to demand the cancellation of the decision to terminate the service or file a lawsuit to demand compensation or to return to work, knowing that my contract with the company expires in the month of 5/2025? Who is the competent authority to file a lawsuit?

You have to take into consideration that the semi-governmental company is treated like any normal company, not like a governmental company, which means that the Labour Law will be applied to it not the Human Resources Law and the Department of Dubai Legal Affairs does not have jurisdiction to receive

complaints against semi-government companies or establishments, as these are not subject to the Government Claims Law No. 3 of 1996 and its amendments.

If you want to file a claim, you should start with a complaint to the Labour Ministry, which will transfer the matter to the Labour Court in case the matter was not solved amicably. You cannot force the company to return you back to your work, but you have the right to claim whatever rights you feel you are entitled to and leave the matter to the court to decide on the matter.

As for arbitrary dismissal, the termination of the worker's service by the employer, as per Article-47 of the Labour Law, is considered unlawful if the termination of the worker's service is due to filing a serious complaint to the ministry or filing a lawsuit against the employer, whose validity is proven.

Lending money for interest is punishable offence in UAE

I want to lend someone a sum of money, with the expectation that he will return it after a year. What is the appropriate guarantee to be taken, as I was informed that taking a cheque is insufficient to guarantee the debt and does not guarantee my rights? Am I legally entitled to receive interest on this loan?

You may sign (or engage a surety to sign) an executive document in front of the notary public, which can be executed directly in front of the court or take any real guarantee on a movable, or immovable assets belongs to the borrower like the mortgage for any amounts or properties.

Regarding interest, you are not entitled to take it because interest between natural people is considered usury and a criminal act according to Article 458 of the Federal Law Decree No.



(31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties which states that (A penalty of imprisonment for a period not less than one year and a fine not less than Dh50,000 shall be imposed on any natural person who deals with another natural person by usury interest in any kind of civil or commercial transaction, whether such interest is express or latent.

Latent interest shall include any commission

or benefit stipulated by a creditor, if such a commission or benefit has no corresponding real legal benefit or service provided by the creditor as a consideration. A principal debt and latent interest may be proved by all means available. If the perpetrator takes advantage of the debtor's need, weakness or passion to commit the crime stipulated in this Article, this shall be considered an aggravating circumstance.

Holi Ke Din Dil Khil Jate Hain, Rango Mein Rang Mil Jate Hain Vrindavan all set to celebrate Holi

MATHURA: Holi, the festival of colours, is set to unfold a new and inspiring aura at Vrindavan this year. It is poised to etch its name in the Guinness World Records.

With the efforts of the UP government, over 2,000 widows are set to create a record by playing Holi together. In this regard, in collaboration with Vrindavan's social organisations, the UP Tourism Department will host the remarkable "Widows' Holi-2025", aiming to secure a Guinness World Record, officials here said.

While the Holi of Mathura-Vrindavan is known worldwide, this time, it will transcend mere celebrations to em-



body a message of social harmony, cultural unity and transformative change. This year, Holi will fill the lives of widows with vibrant hues but also serve as a powerful message of societal transformation, making its mark in history and on the global stage.

Mathura MP Hema Malini usually comes

here to play Holi with the orphaned widows with her popular Sholay song "Holi Ke Din Dil Khil Jate Hain", written by celebrated poet Anand Bakshi. Her welfare scheme for the poor Mathura widows is well known in this part of the country.

Widows' Holi stands as a unique cultural festival.

Traditionally, widows in India were expected to renounce worldly pleasures, including festive celebrations like Holi. However, in Vrindavan – a city deeply connected to the divine love of Lord Krishna – this celebration has emerged as a symbol of revolutionary change. Widows' Holi challenges age-old taboos and has evolved from an inclusive initiative to an iconic event representing empowerment and equality.

Each year, thousands of widows from various ashrams in Vrindavan embrace Holi's vibrant colours, music and devotion. The event has gained national and international recognition as a symbol of social

change, dignity and joy. Building on this spirit, the Yogi government aims to link this celebration to a world record.

Officials said that the festival would feature traditional folk songs, dances, devotional music, and organic colors as part of the plan. The event will draw participation from international dignitaries, media and devotees. A dedicated team has already been formed to ensure the successful execution of this grand celebration. Officials from the Guinness World Records will be present to oversee and facilitate the certification process, ensuring that every aspect of the record attempt is smoothly managed.

Rising tide of student migration abroad

(Cont. from page-1)

shifted from traditional fields like medicine and engineering to more advanced domains such as data science, artificial intelligence and creative industries. The lack of seats in medical and engineering programmes in India has also driven students to seek opportunities abroad, where they can pursue the same courses at a lower cost.

The main concern is that once these individuals settle abroad, they are unlikely to return. The substantial remittances sent from overseas, which currently contribute to the nation's GDP, will eventually decline, preventing India from benefiting from their migration. India's demographic dividend, with an average age of 28, will be lost, leading to a significant setback for the country.

Brain drain is from an alternate perspective as brain circulation, where highly skilled academicians and technicians migrating abroad can

create social and professional networks to mobilise human capital, financial capital and skill sets.

This enables technology transfer, generates start-up ideas, fosters business collaborations and establishes cross-country linkages for opportunities. Additionally, it opens doors for entrepreneurship, investment in global markets and the exchange of innovative business ideas. This transformative scenario should be recognised by the government, which must create better opportunities to facilitate brain circulation. Accommodative spaces for free thinking and creativity should be expanded. Policies should focus on increasing the basic salary, especially in the healthcare sector, where medical professionals are still underpaid.

Brain drain

The migrating individuals contribute to the national exchequer through consistently growing inward remittances, which

bolster the economy and drive financial stability. However, the increasing trend of young migrants aspiring to permanently settle in these foreign lands, especially after pursuing higher education, poses long-term challenges for their home countries. This brain drain leads to a depletion of skilled human capital, stalling innovation, economic development, and social progress in the origin country. Therefore,

while the inflow of remittances provides short-term economic relief, the long-term socio-economic implications of youth migration necessitate strategic interventions to create more attractive opportunities domestically, encouraging talent retention and sustainable development. Greater emphasis should be placed on higher education and employment generation, as India's foundational system is

already strong. Additionally, social security should be reinforced with more inclusivity. Young minds are the foundation of a nation's growth. Today, global citizenship is gaining more acceptance over rigid economic and cultural boundaries. To truly harness India's demographic dividend, the focus must be on improving the quality of life and generating opportunities that encourage talent to thrive within the country.

Dubai, Abu Dhabi airports offer bag storage for less than Dh40

DUBAI: Did you know that travellers passing through Dubai and Abu Dhabi airports can conveniently and safely store their luggage for an affordable fee, with prices starting as low as Dh35?

According to airport authorities, this service benefits transit passengers, those exploring the city during a layover or travellers wanting to move around baggage-free before their flight.

Dubai International Airport (DXB), the world's busiest airport by international passenger traffic, offers luggage storage facilities across all three terminals. The service is available 24/7 and in all three terminals of the hub.

At Terminal-1, standard-sized luggage storage costs Dh40 for up to 12 hours, while larger or valuable luggage is charged at Dh50. The

storage facility is located at dnata Baggage Services, at the arrival level, near Boots Pharmacy and Etisalat.

Terminal-2's pricing is the same as Terminal 1—Dh40 for standard-sized luggage and Dh50 for larger or valuable items. dnata Baggage Services operates the facility. And in Terminal-3, the main passenger terminal for Emirates fliers, the offers are slightly lower.