



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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## Navi Mumbai's \$2.1b airport to become operational in May

**MUMBAI:** Adani Group's new \$2.1 billion airport, in line with infrastructure marvels in Dubai, London and Singapore, is set to become operational from May onwards.

The world-class airport is expected to reduce aviation bottlenecks and create an international transit hub. An aero city will also be built around the new airport coming up in Navi Mumbai, about 22 miles from



An aerial view of the Navi Mumbai airport.

Mumbai's congested existing aerodrome.

India's low-cost carriers will be the first to shift part of their oper-

ations to this brand new airport. Tata Group's low-cost carrier, Air India Express, and others including SpiceJet and

Akasa are in talks to shift their operations to this new commercial airport.

According to the report, the newly built airport replicates a lotus flower and can handle 20 million passengers annually. In case of high demand, the airport will be ramped up to handle 90 million passengers in the coming years.

However, lack of high-speed transportation fa-

(Cont. on page-2)

## Port Blair flights

**BHUBANESWAR:**

Direct flight services from Bhubaneswar to Ghaziabad and Port Blair will commence on March 30, Odisha Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said. "Aviation Bonanza for Bhubaneswar! Sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi as new flights to Ghaziabad (Hindon) and Port Blair take off shortly under the new destination policy—boosting tourism, trade and seamless connectivity," the CMO posted on X.

## India's billionaire count hits 191

**NEW DELHI:** Number of Indian high net-worth individuals (HNWIs), those having assets more than US\$10 million, rose six per cent last year to 85,698.

Global property consultant Knight Frank released its "The Wealth Report 2025", which estimated the HNIW population in India at 85,698 in 2024, as against 80,686 in the preceding year.

The number is expected to rise to 93,753

by 2028, reflecting India's expanding wealth landscape, the consultant said. The increasing trend of HNIW population highlights the country's strong long-term economic growth, increasing investment opportunities, and evolving luxury market, positioning India as a key player in global wealth creation.

India's billionaire population has also seen a strong year-on-year

(Cont. on page-7)

## GCC workforce touches 31.8m

**MUSCAT:** The total labour force in Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries has reached 31.8 million workers, accounting for 54.2pc of the region's total population, according to data from the Statistical Centre for the Co-operation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat).

Men dominate the workforce, making up 78.7pc, while women account for 17.6pc. The number of employed GCC nationals stands at 5.6 million, representing

23.4pc of the total workforce, with men comprising 60pc and women 40pc.

Since 2011, the number of working women in the GCC has increased by six lakh.

The public sector remains the largest employer of GCC nationals, with 83.5pc of them working in government jobs, compared with just 14.2pc in the private sector. Most citizens are employed in the services sector, particularly in public administration.

To address workforce

imbalances, GCC nations have introduced policies such as the GCC Common Market and the Comprehensive Development Strategy, aiming to increase the participation of national workers in industry and other key sectors. The region's population strategy also focuses on enhancing women's role in development and boosting youth employment. Additionally, economic diversification efforts are driving the creation of green and sustainable jobs to align with global labour market trends.

## Saudi expands India outreach with SATTE presence, mega tourism initiatives

**RIYADH:** The Saudi Tourism Authority (STA) started the year with a presence at South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange (SATTE) in New Delhi, reinforcing Saudi's position as one of the world's fastest-growing tourism destinations. At this prestigious travel trade event, Saudi showcased its world-class tourism offerings from rich cultural heritage and

iconic destinations to diverse landscapes and exceptional experiences.

The Saudi delegation, which included 14 stakeholders from DMOs, DMCs and airline partners, played a key role in reinforcing the Saudi's appeal to Indian travellers.

To further strengthen ties with the Indian travel trade, the Saudi delegation also hosted networking events in

Bengaluru and Mumbai, engaging over 200 members of travel trade associations and OTAs. These events provided an opportunity to delve deeper into Saudi's major tourism initiatives and explore significant growth opportunities in the region. Activating mega initiatives in India.

Saudi launched a series of key initiatives across MICE, destination weddings, and

Group Inclusive Tours (GIT), positioning itself as a prime destination for large-scale conferences, corporate retreats, and exclusive events. A recent GIT familiarisation trip allowed leading Indian travel professionals to experience Saudi's rich culture, warm hospitality and stunning landscapes firsthand.

With world-class venues, luxurious accommodations and

bespoke experiences, Saudi offers the perfect setting for Indian travellers looking to host their special occasions, whether for grand weddings or intimate celebrations.

Saudi is also fast becoming a global hub for major sporting events. Since 2018, Saudi hosted over 100 international sporting events, including major boxing fights

(Cont. on page-7)



## New passport rules

In a welcome change, the union government has tweaked passport rules, saying birth certificates issued by appropriate authorities will be the only proof of date of birth for passport applicants born on or after Oct 1, 2023. The new rule will come into effect after the amendment is published in the official Gazette. Under the new passport rules, birth certificates issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths, the Municipal Corporation or any other authority empowered under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, will be accepted as proof of date of birth for persons born on or after Oct 1, 2023. Nevertheless, the new rules do not apply for individuals born before Oct 1, 2023. These people can submit their birth certificate, transfer or school leaving or matriculation certificate issued by a recognised educational institution or last school attended or PAN card. Individuals can also submit other documents like driving licence or a copy of an extract of the service record of the applicant.



To protect the identity of the person, the passport holder's address as well as his/her parents' name will not be printed on the document-- immigration officials are required to access the residential data by scanning a barcode. This rule has been set in place to benefit children of single parents or estranged families.

True, over the past few years, the government has had amended a number of passport rules to streamline, standardise and simplify the whole procedure with uniformity. Unfortunately, these have not worked properly. Thanks to the Passport Seva Kendras, which do the processing work for passport (printing and issuing of the passport are still done by the respective passport office only) are doing a wonderful work in speeding up the issuance of passport. TCS is doing this in Mumbai while notified post offices are also allowed to process passport.

The government has also issued new colour coded passport for various individuals. Diplomatic passport holders receive a red passport, government officials receive white, while others get a blue passport under the new passport rules.

Does this affect Indian passport applicants abroad, say in the UAE? According to Indian mission in Dubai, it is accepting applications for new passports only for Indian children born in the UAE. Passport renewal is offered to Indian expats who are UAE residents, not just visitors. Hence, the latest change in passport application rule is applicable to the new passport applications for Indian children abroad.

Indian parents of babies born in the UAE are already required to submit the birth certificates of the children as the proof of date of birth when they apply for a newborn's passport at any centre of the outsourced service provider. Birth certificate of a child born in the UAE has to be attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in the UAE. That means, the parents are required to get the original birth certificate from the relevant health authorities in the UAE, based on the birth notification from the hospital where the child was born, and get it attested by the MOFA.

There are still grey areas in the new amendment and it will take time to rectify them. So far so good.

### LIPSYNCH

"But I know that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

# Trump targets India with reciprocal taxes

WASHINGTON: In what is expected to upset New Delhi after Prime Minister Modi's recent successful visit to Washington, US President Trump targeted India and other countries on import duties and announced reciprocal tariffs from April 2.

In a speech to a joint session of Congress, he specifically mentioned Indian tariffs on automobile imports, saying: "India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100pc".

The US President said the reciprocal tax will kick in on April 2. He said that the US has been ripped off for decades by nearly every country on earth and vowed not to "let that happen any longer."

"Under the Trump administration, you will pay a tariff and in some cases a rather large one. Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those oth-

er countries. On average, the EU, China, Brazil, India, Mexico and Canada have you heard of them and countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them. It's very unfair. India charges us auto tariffs

that's what happens, this is happening by friend and foe," he said.

Stressing that the system is "not fair to the US", Trump said: "This system is not fair to the US and never was. And so on April 2nd, I wanted to make it April 1st,



Donald Trump

higher than 100pc," the American leader said.

"China's average tariff on our products is twice what we charge them. And South Korea's average tariff is four times higher. Think of that four times higher and we give so much help militarily and in many other ways to South Korea. But

but I didn't want to be accused of April Fool's Day. That's not — this one day was — cost us a lot of money. But we're going to do it in April. I'm a very superstitious person. April 2nd, reciprocal tariffs kick in. And whatever they tariff us, other countries, we will tariff them."

## Indians win \$1m Dubai Duty Free prize

DUBAI: A group of Indian colleagues collectively won \$1 million in the latest Dubai Duty Free Millennium Millionaire and Finest Surprise draw.

Prasad Sivadasan, a

## Surge in Service sector

MUMBAI: India's services sector recorded a sharp surge in Feb, buoyed by robust domestic and international demand that accelerated output and propelled significant job growth, according to a private survey.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity index rose notably from Jan's 26-month low of 56.5 to 59.0 in February, signalling a strong rate of expansion.

45-year-old Indian national based in Dubai, became a US\$1 million winner in Millennium Millionaire Series 492 with ticket number 3793 which he purchased online on Feb 19.

A resident of Dubai for 20 years now, Sivadasan shared the cost of the ticket with his nine colleagues, who have been participating in the Dubai Duty Free promotion for about eight years, alternating the name on the ticket for each series whenever they purchase.

Sivadasan is a father of two and works as system engineer for Seven Seas Technologies in Bur Dubai. "I am very thankful to Dubai Duty Free. We are so happy with this news!" he said.

Sivadasan who hails from Kerala is the 246th Indian national to have

won \$1 million in the Millennium Millionaire promotion since 1999, with Indian nationals being the biggest buyers of

## Navi Mumbai's \$2.1b airport...

(Cont. from page-1) cities is one of the major challenges for the Adani Group to lure the fliers in shifting their operations to the new airport. The metro line planned to link two airports is not going to be built any time soon.

The executives mentioned that the airlines are planning incentives around the airport fees. Incentives are usually beneficial for the airlines as they can offer attractive travel fees to the passengers who otherwise think twice to travel to the new airport in Navi Mumbai.

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British Pound	112.61	111.41
Euro	94.71	92.99
Japanese Yen	0.59	0.58
Swiss Franc (CHF)	98.26	96.4
Canadian Dollar	61.23	60.04
Australian Dollar	55.68	54.6
Norwegian Krone	8.04	7.88
Swedish Krona	8.61	8.45
New Zealand Dollar	50.2	49.34
Hong Kong Dollar	11.28	11.07
Kuwaiti Dinar	283.81	277.2
Singapore Dollar	65.87	64.56
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.39	22.95
United Arab Emirates	23.88	23.42

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**PROJECT ENGINEERS - E & I / MECHANICAL**  
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**JUNIOR MECHANICAL ENGINEERS**  
B E / B Tech / Diploma in Engineering with 2+ years' experience in supervising the Mechanical / Piping / Maintenance Works team and ensures adherence to HSE & Quality standards and collaborates with project engineers and other disciplines.

**JUNIOR ENGINEERS - E & I**  
B E / B Tech / Diploma in Engineering with 2+ years' experience in supervising the Mechanical / Piping / Maintenance Works team and ensures adherence to HSE & Quality standards and collaborates with project engineers and other disciplines.

**HSE SUPERVISORS**  
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# GULF FAQs

## Can banks file case against credit card defaulters ?

What are the legal options open to me if I am unable to pay off credit card bills? I am in a dire situation and can't afford to pay bank card dues. What kind of action can the bank take?

In the UAE, a credit card facility provided by a lender to a borrower may come under the provisions of rules and regulations governing the terms and conditions of a personal loan.

While a credit card facility is granted to a borrower, a lender may collect cheque(s) as security against the sanctioned limit of a credit card. This is in addition to a signed loan agreement or application form which contains the terms and conditions governing the issuance of a credit card to an applicant.

Any individual who fails to pay three consecutive monthly bills

on credit card or six non-consecutive monthly bills of credit card may be considered as an event of default.

This is under Article 4(4) of the Personal Loan Agreement format of Notice No.

3692/2012 of Central Bank of the UAE about General Terms and Conditions and Loan Agreements

texts drafted and approved by Emirates Bank Association, which states: "The loan elapses

and all the instalments, interests and any other fees and expenses become due and payable immediately

without having to give any notification or any court ruling and without prejudice to any other rights of the bank

according to this agreement or in accordance with the law – in the event that the borrower failed to pay three consecutive instalments or six non-consecutive instalments of the month-

ly instalments without the approval of the bank."

In case of a default, a lender may choose to deposit your security cheque(s) for collection (if any). Should the said security cheques be dis-

honoured due to insufficiency of funds, a lender may file an execution case against you. This is in accordance with provisions of Federal Decree-Law No. 50 of 2022 Issuing the Commercial

Transactions Law.

Furthermore, a lender may approach the relevant court which has jurisdiction if the outstanding amount is more than Dh10,000 and request the imposition of a travel ban on you in accordance with provisions of Article 324 and Article 325 of the Federal Decree Law no. 42 of 2022 on Civil Procedures Law.

Additionally, a lender may have the option of filing a payment order case or a civil case

relief in terms of settling these dues in instalments and seek a waiver from payment of penal interest before they proceed ahead to file legal action against you.

The issuing bank or financial institution reserves the right to accept or reject this request. You may also consider declaring yourself insolvent as per the provisions of UAE Insolvency Law which is applicable to the individuals in the UAE.

It may be prudent for you to approach the issuing bank or financial institution, present your case if there is any strong reason due to which you are unable to pay, and seek

relief in terms of settling these dues in instalments and seek a waiver from payment of penal interest before they proceed ahead to file legal action against you.

The issuing bank or financial institution reserves the right to accept or reject this request. You may also consider declaring yourself insolvent as per the provisions of UAE Insolvency Law which is applicable to the individuals in the UAE.

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## Can employer ask for leave security money ?

I have been working as an office boy in a labour supply company since May 2009. Having severe knees and backbone pain, I asked the manager for a 30-day emergency leave. In turn, he asked me to provide a Dh1,000 security voucher to two persons working with us. Having refused and submitted my resignation, the manager asked me to pay Dh2,000 in compensation or rather stay till the end of my three-year visa period which is due to finish by June 2011. Though I have submitted my resignation, the company took no action. Is the employer legally entitled to ask Money from his employees against any emergency leave? Do I have to pay any compensation to the



employer for submitting my resignation before completing my three-year contract? How may I resign without paying any money to the company?

There is no provision in the labour law which entitles an employer to ask money from his employees against leave. But for claiming sick leave, you should have completed three months in the service after your probation period. Regarding your resigna-

tion, you have not mentioned the date of your resignation. If you have completed three months after your probation period you have the right to claim sick leave. Similarly you have also not mentioned whether your contract is limited or unlimited. If it is limited, you are required to complete three years of service and if it is unlimited, you are required to complete one year of service before submitting resignation. Since you have not completed one year in service, in any case the management of your company may ask for compensation for loss caused by your resignation. They may also impose a ban on you. Therefore, you may withdraw your resignation if the management permits so.

## Will visa be cancelled?

I joined a private security company here in Dec 2008. Due to the financial crunch, many of the staff, including me, are staying in the company accommodation without work or salary. We have not even signed any employment contract till the moment. Nonetheless, the company has no plans for us and refuses to give us no objection certificates or NOCs to join work with other companies. We are even being threatened to have our visas

cancelled. What to do?

You have not mentioned the status of your visa. In order to stamp the employment visa on your passport the procedures in the labour department including the signing of the labour contact have to be completed. To sort out your issues I do not see any way out except to file a complaint in the labour department. Therefore you may submit a written complaint explaining all your problems to the labour department and seek remedy.

# Tax officials can access your email, social media accounts from next year

**NEW DELHI:** When can tax officials access your digital information?

Under Section 132 of the existing Income Tax Act, 1961, tax officials can conduct searches and seizures if they have credible information that a person is concealing his income, assets or financial records with the intent to evade taxes.

Until now, they had the power to break open doors, safes or lockers to investigate if they suspected that undeclared



assets or financial records were hidden there, the report said. But from April 1, 2026, this right will also be extended to

the digital world. Now officials will also have the right to access computer systems and online accounts if they suspect

that information related to tax evasion is being hidden there, it added.

What does this mean for you? If tax officials suspect that you have not disclosed full information about your income or assets, they can investigate your emails, bank accounts, trading platforms and social media activities.

As financial transactions are becoming digital, the investigation process of tax officials is also becoming modern. This new law shows

that digital forensics will now play an important role in tax investigations. However,

it will be interesting to see if this change will be effective in curbing tax evasion or will it raise privacy concerns. For now, the best way is to file your tax returns correctly and disclose your income and investments. If you have significant investments or assets, it would be wise to consult a tax expert to avoid any hassles in the future.

## Kerala man shot dead while trying to sneak into Israel

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** A 47-year-old man from Thumba, on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram city, was shot dead on the Jordanian border while trying to sneak into Israel.

Thomas Gabriel Perera, a resident of Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, was reportedly shot in the head by Jordanian army while trying to enter Israel through Karkak district. His friend and relative, Edison, who was accompanying him on the arduous journey, sustained gunshot wounds to the leg. He was provided medical treatment by the Jordanian army and repatriated to India.

Thomas worked in Kuwait for a few years before returning home, where he dabbled in fishing and later as a driver to earn a living, family sources said.



**Thomas Gabriel Perera**

Thomas had financial issues, which forced him to take the decision to move to Israel.

“He and Edison travelled to Jordan on a tour-

ist visa with two other people. The group left for Jordan on a three-month tourist visa on Feb 5. Thomas was in touch with his wife Christeena till Feb 9. A communique from the Indian embassy in Amman said he was killed on Feb 10,” a relative said. Jordan shares a long border with Israel, which till recently was engaged in a war with Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Following several attempts by sympathisers of Palestinian outfits in Jordan to infiltrate Israel to carry out attacks, armies of the two countries have been maintaining high alert along the border.

## India's billionaire...

(Cont. from page-1) growth in 2024. “India is now home to 191 billionaires, of which 26 joined the ranks in just the last year, which was pegged at just seven in 2019,” the consultant said.

The combined wealth of Indian billionaires is estimated at US\$950 billion, ranking the country third globally, behind the US (\$5.7 trillion) and Mainland China (\$1.34 trillion).

“India’s growing wealth underscores its economic resilience and long-term growth potential. The country is witnessing an unprecedented rise in high-net-worth individuals, driven by entrepreneurial dynamism, global integration and emerging

industries,” Shishir Bajaj, Chairman, Knight Frank India, said.

## Illegal immigrants deported from US

**CHANDIGARH:** The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to 11 illegal immigrants recently deported from the US as part of an investigation targeting travel agents involved in facilitating illegal immigration through the so-called “Dunki Route.”

Sources revealed that on Tuesday, the ED sent summons to 11 illegal immigrants who were deported from the US. Among them, at least one is from Haryana, and others are from Punjab.

## Saudi expands India outreach with SATTE....

(Cont. from page-1)

and Formula 1. Looking ahead, Saudi is set to host the World Rally Championship, the FIBA Basketball Asia Cup, the Esports World Cup and the FIFA World Cup 2034, with its matches set to take place in iconic venues across Riyadh, Jeddah, Al Khobar and Abha. These high-profile events are

set to appeal to Indian sports enthusiasts, offering them unparalleled opportunities to experience world-class sporting action in an exciting new destination.

Saudi’s growing status as a global sports and tourism powerhouse is backed by its enhanced connectivity, making travel

more accessible than ever before. As of Feb 2025, inbound weekly flights from India have increased to 314, marking a 13.4pc rise from the same period in 2024. This capacity is set to grow by an additional 14.5pc this year, with expanded routes to 33 key gateways, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru

and Hyderabad, catering to the rising demand for both business and leisure travel.

Currently, seven airlines operate between India and Saudi—Saudi, Flynas, IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, SpiceJet and Akasa Air—offering seamless connectivity. Additionally, Indian travellers with a valid

Schengen, UK or US visa can now benefit from simplified visa procedures at 11 Tashcer Centres across India, making travel to Saudi even more convenient and accessible.

As one of the key source markets, India plays an important role in Saudi’s tourism growth and Vision 2030.