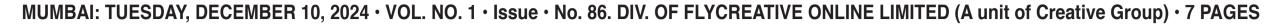
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### **OVERSEAS JOBS ON PAGE 3**

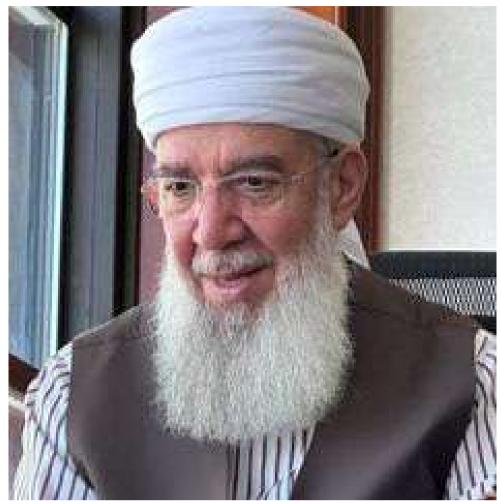
PUBLISHED ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS







Mr Hulusi, who organised the trip and FlyCreative CMD Mr VS Abdulkareem felicitated Sultan Sheikh Seyyid Muhammed Saki El Huseyni (KS) in Delhi on way to Sirhind pilgrimage.



Sultan Sheikh Seyyid Muhammed Saki El Huseyni (KS)

# **Ucbey Turizm organises India Islamic tours** in association with FlyCreative Online Ltd.

**MUMBAI:** India Imam people with his followers. Rabbani Hz. students, representatives of the Nagshbandi Sufi tradition in Turkey, grandsons of the Prophet Hz. Muhammad (pbuh), EsSeyyid Muhammed Saki El Huseyni, carried out an India Islamic Tour with a group of 54

The person who lives in the Menzil village of Adiyaman, Turkey, has around one million students and followers worldwide. The name of the foundation they established is SER-HENDI FOUNDATION and it is attributed to the

#### Ucbey Turizm, Turkey, organises tours in association with FlyCreative Online Ltd for ground handling in India destination.

village of Imam Rabbani arships Hz. The foundation services include food, shelter, clothing and other ple. The education schol-

and scientific studies of the students are included. They expressed satisfaction with the visassistance to the poor peo- it to India, thanked those who attended the service.

Ucbey Turizm thanked FlyCreative team management, the translators, hoteliers, fleet service personnel for their cooperation and support to conveniently organise the itinerary programmes and successfully arranging the trip.

# Importance of critical illness insurance plans for expatriates in GCC nations

L risks continue to rise, securing financial protection against unforeseen medical emergencies has become a necessity, especially for expatriates living in Kuwait. Critical illness insurance serves as a vital safety net, providing peace of mind and financial security when faced with life-altering medical diagnoses.

# insurance

Critical illness insurance is a specialised policy that provides a lump-sum payout upon the diagnosis of severe medical conditions. such as cancer, heart attack, stroke, kidney failure or major organ transplants. (Up to 40+ illnesses

n a rapidly evolving can be covered). This payworld where health out can be used for various purposes, including medical treatments, recovery expenses, debt repayment or supporting loved ones during the recovery phase. WHY EXPATS NEED CRITICAL ILLNESS IN-**SURANCE?** 

1. Financial Security Against High Healthcare Costs. While most of GCC offer world-class healthcare services, treatment All about critical illness for critical illnesses can be prohibitively expensive. As expatriates are often not entitled to subsidised healthcare, they bear the full brunt of medical expenses. A critical illness policy bridges this gap, ensuring that medical costs do not deplete savings or lead to financial distress.



By Eng. Afsar Ali. Z (Risk Management **Specialist**, Insure & Secure Insurance **Brokerage Company (A** Zain Company), Kuwait. Phone: 00965-69056649, 0091 -8925646660)

2. Limited Employer Coverage: Many employers provide basic health insur-

ance for their employees, but these policies often exclude coverage for critical illnesses. Even when included, the benefits may not be sufficient to cover the long-term costs associated with severe medical conditions. A standalone critical illness policy complements existing coverage, offering comprehensive financial protection.

3. Income Replacement During Recovery: A critical illness not only brings hefty medical bills but can also impact an individual's ability to work, resulting in loss of income. For expats, this can be particularly challenging as they may have financial obligations back home, such as mortgages, education expenses or family sup-

port. The lump-sum payout from a critical illness policy can act as an income replacement, ensuring stability during the recovery period.

4. Peace of Mind for the Family: Living far from home, expats often worry about the impact of a health crisis on their family. A critical illness policy alleviates this concern by ensuring that their loved ones are financially secure, even in the face of adversity. The coverage allows families to focus on recovery rather than financial worries.

5. Tailored Plans for Expat Needs: Leading Insurance providers offer critical illness plans specifically designed to meet the needs

(Cont. on page-2)



## **TRAVEL & TOURISM**

# Higher interests on NRI deposits till March next

**MUMBAI:** NRIs looking RBI's monetary policy to open a fixed deposit account in India can consider choosing an FCNR enables them to deposit and save money earned in foreign currency while living abroad.

2

Reserve Bank of India has stated that the interest rate ceiling on Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account FCNR(B) deposits has been raised to overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) plus 400 basis points for maturities between one year and less than three years.

This decision was an-

during

meeting to entice foreign currency deposits from abroad. These new Account. This account rates will remain in effect until March 2025, marking a significant increase from the previous limit of ARR + 200 basis points. The central bank has elevated the interest rate ceilings on FCNR(B) deposits to attract more capital inflows.

> "In order to attract more capital inflows, it has been decided to increase the interest rate ceilings on FCNR(B) deposits. Accordingly, with effect from today (Dec 6, 2024), banks are permitted to raise fresh FCN-

R(B) deposits of one year to less than three years maturity at rates not exceeding ARR plus 400 bps and deposits with maturity between three and five years at rates not exceeding ARR plus 500 bps. This relaxation will be available till March 31, 2025," RBI noted in its policy statement.

NRIs looking to open a fixed deposit account in India, can consider choosing an FCNR Account. This account enables them to deposit and save money earned in foreign currency while living abroad. "This is an opportunity for NRIs to invest in India," Governor Shaktikanta Das said triated, and the interest during the media interaction. RBI has said: "It has been decided to increase the interest rates ceiling on fresh FCNR(B) deposits raised by the banks with effect from Dec 06, 2024 as under:

Period of Deposit Ceiling rate one year to less than three years Overnight Alternative Reference Rate for the respective currency/ Swap plus 400 basis points

Threeyears-above to and including up five Overnight Alternative Reference Rate for the respective currency/ Swap plus 500 basis points

FCNR In accounts, funds are held in foreign currency to mitigate exchange rate risks. Both the principal amount and interest can be repa-

earned is exempt from taxes in India. By maintaining the account in a foreign currency, your funds are shielded from fluctuations currency throughout the deposit term. Most banks book FCNR deposits in the following currencies in US dollars, pounds sterling, euro, japanese yen, Australian dollars, and Canadian dollars.

Premature withdrawal: No interest is payable, if the deposit is withdrawn before one year. No premature penalty for the deposit withdrawn after completion of one year. However, interest shall be paid at the rate applicable for the period deposit has remained with the bank. Interest will be paid at the rate available on the date of deposit.

# **Importance of critical**

#### (Cont. from page-1)

nounced

of expatriates. These plans often include flexible coverage options, worldwide treatment benefits and the ability to choose between local and international medical providers, making them ideal for expats who may frequently travel or prefer treatment in other countries.

CRITICAL ILLNESS IN-A VITAL **SURANCE**: **INVESTMENT:** For expatriates, critical illness insurance is not just a policy; it is an investment in their health, future and financial stability. The rising prevalence of lifestyle diseases, coupled with the unpredictable nature of medical emergencies, underscores the importance

of having this coverage. How to Choose the Right **Plan?:** When selecting a critical illness insurance plan, expats should consider:

- Comprehensive Coverage: Ensure the policy covers a wide range of critical illnesses.
- Adequate Sum Insured: Choose a coverage amount that aligns with potential medical costs and personal financial responsibili-

costs to find a balance affordabilibetween ty and comprehensive benefits.

Reputation of the Insurer: Work with reputed insurance providers with a proven track record in the region.

Conclusion: For the vibrant expatriate community critical illness insurance is more than a financial tool—it is a lifeline that or well-being. In a land of opportunities, where expats strive to build a better future for themselves and their families, securing this essential coverage Affordable Premiums: is an indispensable step topremium ward a worry-free life.

# Australia launches new visa leading to permanent residency

**CANBERRA:** Australia's skilled visa programme changed on Dec firms who require more 7, 2024.

The key changes in- pand their enterprises. clude a new Skills in Demand (SID) visa and a modernised skilled occuderail their financial goals Skills Occupation List (CSOL). The Skills in Demand (subclass 482) visa has replaced the Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa. The SID permits most visa holders to remain in Australia for up to four years. It provides

a streamlined approach for both migrants and trained personnel to ex-

Skills in Demand visa holders have a clear pathway to permanent ensures health crises do not pation list called the Core residence. This will give certainty to both migrants and employers. Key insights for international students and foreign workers before they plan to immigrate to Australia in 2025.

the

ties.

- Global Treatment Options: Opt for plans that offer the flexibility to seek treatment internationally if needed.
- Compare

The Skills in Demand (Cont. on page-3)

### Alberta seeks to hire foreign workers from

looking to lure workers from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of a 2025 international recruitment mission, according to documents and emails shared with CBC News. It's a move that's raising concerns the province.

In a Nov 5 email, obtained by the federal NDP and shared with CBC News, an immigration partnerships advisor with Alberta Immigration and Multiculturalism outlined steps for participating employers interested

**EDMONTON:** Alberta is in joining the mission, advising of two employer information sessions scheduled for later in the month.

A separate one-page document was shared with CBC News by Local 424 of the International Brotherhood of Electriamong labour leaders in cal Workers, which represents more than 4,000 electricians in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

> It outlined the international talent mission, tentatively scheduled for the end of Feb or for early March 2025.

the rationale of the mission:

It's an opportunity to "attract skilled workers who live temporarily in the UAE.'

Alberta can access the "large pool of migrant workers in the UAE who are extensively vetted before being able to work there, which can result in having high-quality interview candidates.'

The fact that "there is a high level of English proficiency in the UAE." The Alberta government said it would support venue arrangements, pro-The document outlines motion of job opportuni-

informational workshops to be part of that contions for employers.

Local 424, which was organised 96 years ago, includes electricians who do construction maintenance. When it learned of the Alberta government's plans to attract skilled workers, the union sought to learn more. "We were a little bit confused why the government would be doing such a trip," Scott Crichton, a spokesperson with the group, told CBC News.

"If there are issues related to meeting skilled the mission.

ties, interview logistics, labour demands, we want and travel recommenda- versation. We want to be involved with any consultation the government does ... we have a lot of electricians ready to go to work."

> Foreign worker cuts could improve youth unemployment rate, says Alberta jobs minister. In late Nov, they reached out to Prairies Economic Development Canada, the federal department that promotes economic growth in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, sharing concerns about

#### **Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

### **GULF JOBS & OPPORTUNITIES**

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FOREX RATES As on 9th December, 2024 (In rupees)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	85.12	84.28
British Pound	108.47	107.31
Euro	90.23	88.57
Japanese Yen	56.90	56.19
Swiss Franc (CHF)	97.18	95.37
Canadian Dollar	60.41	59.24
Australian Dollar	54.69	53.66
Norwegian Krone	7.64	7.50
Swedish Krona	7.81	7.66
New Zealand Dollar	49.69	48.84
Hong Kong Dollar	10.99	10.78
Singapore Dollar	63.73	62.45
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.77	22.33
United Arab Emirates	23.28	22.83

FREE RECRUITMENT SHUTDOWN VACANCY IN **QATAR** PROJECT MANAGER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 15 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works EXECUTION MANAGER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 12 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works HSE MANAGER / LEAD: BE (Mech. / Chem.) / Diploma with NEBOSH. Exp 15 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works SHUTDOWN COORDINATOR (Onshore / Offshore): BE (Mech.) / Dir Exp. 10 yrs., Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works PROJECT ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 5 - 8 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance wo RIGGING ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 8 -10 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Lifting Plan preparations RIGGING SUPERVISOR: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 8 - 10 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Lifting works MECHANICAL SUPERVISOR: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 8 - 10 yrs With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works QA/QC ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) CSWIP 3.2, NDT Level-II & Lead Audit Certification, Exp. 15 yrs, in Oil & Gas Plants with Exp. 5 yrs in Piping/Stati Equipment's Inspections in Plant Shutdowns & Turnaround CA/QC INSPECTOR: BE / Diploma (Mech.) CSWIP 3.1, NDT Level-II API 510 / 653. Exp. 15 yrs. in Oil & Gas Plants Shutdowns with Piping Static Equipment Inspections PLANNING ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) Exp. 12 - 15 yrs. (Primavera & SAF knowledge Required) PLANNER: BE (Mech.) Exp. 5 - 8 yrs. (Primavera & SAP knowledge Reqd) FLANGE INTEGRITY ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) Exp. 12 - 15 yrs. With Knowledge of Flange Management & Joint Integrity System FLANGE INTEGRITY INSPECTOR: BE / Diploma (Mech.) Exp. 8 - 10 yrs With Knowledge of Flange Management & Joint Integrity System Inspectio SAFETY OFFICER: Diploma (Mech./Chem.) with NEBOSH Exp. 8 - 6 yrs ENVIRONMENT OFFICER: Diploma (Mech./Chem.) with NEBOSH Knowledge of Hygiene / Hazardous Waste Management Systems. Exp. 8

6yrs, in Oil & Gas Plant Shutdowns HSE TRAINER: BE (Mech. / Chem.) / Diploma with NEBOSH. Exp. 15 yrs + Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works RESCUE PLANNING & FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER: Fire & Safet Course Completed & Fluent in English. Knowledge in Rescue Operation Should have min Exp. 4 - 6 yrs, in Oil & Gas Plant Shutdowns in Middle East FIRE / SAFETY WATCHER: Fire & Safety Course Completed & Fluent i English. Min Exp. 8 - 6 yrs. in Oll & Gas Plant Shutdowns in Middle East QUANTITY SURVEYOR: BE (Mech.) / Diploma Exp. 5- 8 yrs. With SAI and Oil & Gas project Experience ACCOUNTANT : Any Degree with 5 - 8 yrs. Experience in Accounts Candidates with Oil & Gas Plant Shutdown Experience please apply with Latest CV & Passport.

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https://occgroup.in/

# Australia launches new visa....

(Cont. from page-2)

visa has three streams:

Core Skills stream: Most SID visa holders will use this stream to meet targeted workforce needs.

Specialist Skills stream:  $\mathbf{This}$ stream

towards permanent residence.

Benefit from a work experience requirement that is one year less than the TSS. SID applicants must have one year of work experience in their nominated oc-



 $\operatorname{List}$ 

Skill

health.

 $\mathbf{es}$ 

# **Beyond oil: Saudi's \$2.5t mining revolution**

One

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in its mining sector to diversify its economy away from oil and capitalise on the growing demand for critical minerals.

The Kingdom's untapped mineral resources are now estimated to be worth \$2.5 trillion, significant increase a from previous estimates. Through strategic investments and partnerships, Saudi Arabia aims to become a global hub for the supply of minerals essential for the green energy transition.

For the last year or so, Saudi Arabia has taken major steps beyond its traditional oil sector, investing heavily in the exploration and development of its extensive domestic mineral resources. This effort is two-pronged. On the one hand, the country wants to develop its own mineral resources in the long term. On the other hand, it hopes to strike foreign partnerships with countries like the US, some African nations and India to become a global mineral hub.

The overall aim is to slowly move away from its oil-dependent economy and capitalise on the growing global demand for transition minerals, specifically lithium, cobalt and nickel. Such mineral resources are critical for the shift from fossil fuel-dependent economies to more sustainable, carbon-neutral systems.

By leveraging its abundant mineral resources and strategic initiatives, the mining sector in Saudi Arabia is poised to become a cornerstone of economic diversification and sustainable development. That is, if everything goes according to plan. Media reports indicate that mining now plays a central role in Riyadh's strategy to reduce oil dependency, with a focus on utilising its significant reserves of phosphate, gold, copper and bauxite. The reports claim that Saudi Arabia holds considerable amounts of minerals necessary for the energy transition, such as aluminum, copper and rare earth elements.

OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

3

# Kerala nurses defraud Kuwaiti bank of Rs 700cr

KOCHI: Hundreds of  $\mathbf{from}$ Kerala nurses have allegedly defrauded a bank in Kuwait of nearly Rs 700 crore before leaving the Gulf country. As many as 1,425 nurses from the state availed large loans from Gulf Bank, "wilfully" defaulted repayment and migrated to Canada, Australia and European countries. So far, cases have been registered in Kerala based on complaints filed by Kuwaiti national Mohammed Abdul Vassey, Deputy General Manager, Gulf Bank, against 10 persons who took loans while working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and exited the country without repaying the loan. According to advocate Thomas J Anakkallumkal, who is represent-

ing the bank in Kerala, "Most of these nurses had taken loans earlier and promptly repaid them. However, when the demand for medical practitioners boomed in Europe, Australia and Canada, they took huge loans from the bank and migrated to greener pastres. Then they stopped the loan repayments." The bank has identified 1,425 nurses from Kerala involved in the fraud. As they were not in Kuwait, the bank could not initiate any further action, Thomas said. Mohammed arrived in Kerala last month and met the state police chief before filing a complaint."The company identified 10 loan defaulters who are currently in Kerala. The police have registered FIRs against them. One

of the nurses returned to Kerala, purchased a luxury apartment in Kochi, and works at a hospital here. We are in the process of identifying more nurses. More FIRs will follow," Thomas said. Police have registered cases against Shafeek Ali of Kalamassery, who allegedly defaulted Rs 1.25 crore, DelnaThankachan of Vadayampady (Rs 93.10 lakh), Biju-Moonjely of Anappara (Rs 98.40 lakh), Rita Shibu of Aimury (Rs 1.22cr,RaghulRetheeshan of Muvattupuzha (Rs 1.21cr), Robin Mathew of Nellimattom (Rs 63.24 lakh), Sindhya Alex of Varapuzha (Rs 70.07 lakh), Deepak Gopi of Nayarambalam (Rs 1.16 crore) and Keerthimon of Kumarakom (Rs 1.10cr).



will help drive innovation and job creation.

Labour Agreement stream: This stream will be replaced by an Essential Skills stream which is under development.

With a SID visa, you: Have a pathway to permanent residence as any work with an approved employer counts

Have the same English language requirement as the TSS medium-term The stream. Skills Core Occupation (CSOL) replacmultiple existing skilled occupation lists that were previously used for the Temporary

Shortage

visa). The CSOL has

more than 450 occupa-

tions in sectors such as

construction, cyber se-

curity, agriculture and

(TSS





4

**TRAVEL & TOURISM** 

#### Tuesday, December 10, 2024



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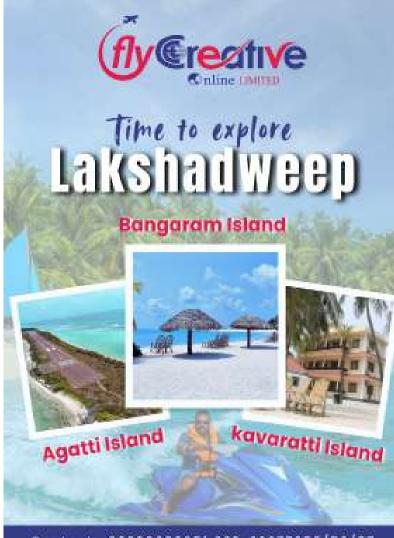
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# **TRAVEL & TOURISM**

5



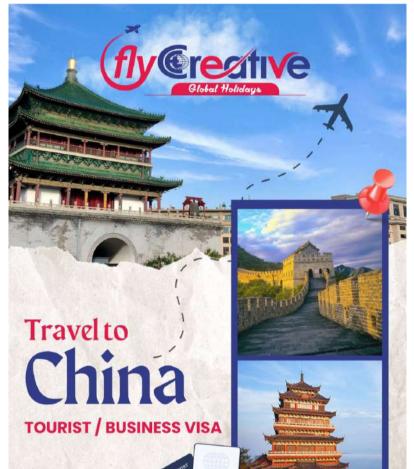
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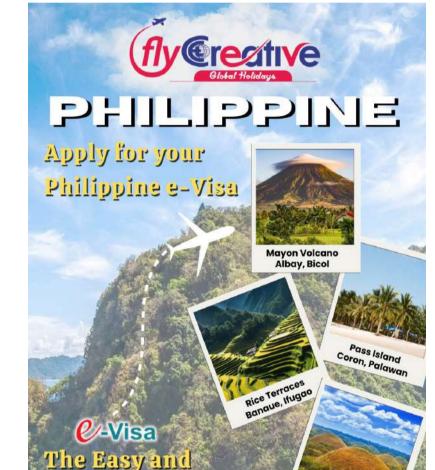






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## **GULF LAWS**

# Need Golden Visa holders renew yearly health insurance?

I am a Golden Visa holder in Dubai. Is it mandatory for me to renew my insurance and that of my family's every year?

6

Pursuant to your query, the provision of Dubai health insurance law is applicable.

Dubai, a sponsor is obligated to provide health insurance if they are not to beneficiaries; covered by an employ-

Insurance in the Emirate of Dubai.

**OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT** ASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNI

#### A sponsor must :

1. Enrol the persons he sponsors where such persons are not provided with health insurance by an insurance card; employer:

2. Bear the cost of health In the emirate of insurance enrolment for the persons he sponsors and not charge such cost

3. Ensure that the



ries. This is in accordance with the Article

er and bear the cost of health insurance of the this enrolment without persons he sponsors is valcharging the beneficia- id throughout their residence or visit:

4. Bear the cost of 11 of the Law No. (11) of health services and medi-2013 Concerning Health cal intervention in emer-

gency cases for each person he sponsors who does not have health insurance as stipulated in this law; 5. Provide the persons he sponsors with a health

6. Produce a health insurance policy when issuing or renewing the residence or visit permits of the persons he sponsors; and

7. Perform any other obligations determined pursuant to relevant resolutions issued by the DHA"

In accordance with the aforementioned provision of the law, the sponsor shall be required to mandatorily obtain health insurance for himself and his family members, even though he or she is a Golden Visa holder.

Law No. (11) of 2013 Concerning Health Insurance in the Emirate of Dubai

# Dubai hospital equipment seized to settle staff's unpaid salaries

ordered the sei-Large of equipment at a healthcare facility to pay off creditors and unpaid staff, including doctors and nurses. The Dubai Court-mandated seizure follows a site inspection conducted in March this vear by a court-appointed executor, who catalogued all medical equipment and furniture at the clinic.

Items seized include advanced tools such as X-ray ma- months without pay. chines, automated analysers and bronchoscopy equipment worth millions of dirhams. Even basic essentials, patient beds, infusion added: "I struggled to pumps and blood pressure monitors, confiscated. Among the the end of a workplace, most valuable assets was but also a chance for us a cathetrisation cardiac to be compensated."

Dubai court has system worth Dh1.7 million.

> The court's enforcement action came after the hospital failed to settle significant debts owed to creditors and unpaid staff. With the facility unable to meet its obligations, the court approved the confiscation of assets to recover dues. The decision has drawn mixed reactions from the hospital's employees many diagnostic of whom had endured "For too long, the hospital failed us," said a former physician. "Justice has finally like been served." A nurse pay rent and bills. This were is bittersweet — it's

#### policy tourism unified visa UJ DOOSU

**RIYADH:** The East is experiencing a significant transformation in **BENEFITS OF THE UNI**its tourism sector, driven by the proliferation of **Streamlined** low-cost airlines and the Tourists

implementation of unified visa systems. These developments making are travel more accessible and affordable, thereby attracting a diverse array of

regional economies.

unified tourist visa for GCC member states marks a historic shift in the region's approach to tourism. This Schengen-style visa will allow travellers to visit Saudi, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait with a single per-

der travel. FIED VISA **Travel:** can

¥ **GCC** Visa 想迎机制

without the hassle of ob-The introduction of a taining separate visas. Enhanced Appeal: The system is expected to attract millions of new visitors by offering a seamless travel experience. Economic Impact: The GCC tourism market is projected to reach 128.7

million visitors by 2030,

2022.

This initiative aligns **SYSTEM:** with the tourism goals of each member state. createxplore ing a unified strategy to

> position the region as a travel destination. Expansion of Low-Cost Airlines in the Middle East:Therise of lowcost

tourists and stimulating multiple GCC nations riers (LCCs) has been instrumental in reshaping the Middle East's aviation landscape. Airlines such as Wizz Air, Air Arabia and flynas have expanded their networks, offering budget-friendly options that appeal to a broad customer base. For instance, Wizz Air's establishment of operations

Middle mit, simplifying cross-bor- up from 39.8 million in in Abu Dhabi in 2019 has significantly transformed the region's budget travel market, providing exceptionally low fares and a wide range of point-topoint travel options.

> These airlines have intop global troduced new routes connecting the Middle East with Europe and Asia, facilitating greater mobility and fostering cultural and economic exchanges. Wizz Air, for example, plans to launch new low-cost flights between Europe and the Middle East, incarcluding routes from London Gatwick to Jeddah and Milan to Abu Dha-

bi, utilizing the Airbus A321XLR aircraft. Each GCC country is leveraging these advance-

ments to enhance its tourism offerings:

Saudi Arabia: The Kingdom has introduced an eVisa system for GCC

residents and is investing heavily in mega-projects like NEOM and AlUla. UAE: Dubai and Abu Dhabi continue to lead in global tourism rankings with attractions like Expo City Dubai and

Louvre Abu Dhabi. Qatar: Following the success of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar is focusing on luxury and cultural tourism.

Bahrain: Known for its heritage sites and Formula 1 events, Bahrain is enhancing its connectivity through affordable flights.

**Oman:** With its natural landscapes and cultural heritage, Oman is targeting adventure and eco-tourism.

Kuwait: The country is investing in tourism infrastructure to diversify its economy and attract global visitors.

#### Tuesday, December 10, 2024

## **TRAVEL & TOURISM**

## **Glossaries** –NRIS, OCIS, PIOs & Non-resident accounts under the constitution.

#### Who are Non-Resident **Indians (NRIs)?**

Indian citizens or persons of Indian descent who live outside of India for work, business or education are known as non-resident Indians (NRIs). Indian citizens residing overseas are granted the legal status of non-resident Indians (NRIs) by their government. For example, under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999, "X" would be legally classified as an NRI if he or she spends more than 182 days in a foreign country during a fiscal year. Many Indian laws and regulations use the NRI category. This category finds application in areas such as taxation, banking and real estate transactions. A person who has left the country in search of work is also referred to as an NRI. An NRI is also another name for a person who is staying overseas on business.

Non-resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) are the three main groups of Indian Nationals who live overseas.



status as NRIs, despite that they stay in India money overseas, deposit the fact that they enjoy for no more than 182 many benefits in India. OCI is an individual of ous fiscal year. Indian descent who lives **NRIs' Benefits and Rights** abroad, with the excep- Under Indian law, NRIs

days during the prevition of Bangladesh and have a number of rights

### **KNOW ABOUT NRI, PIO & OCI**



#### Pakistan. Standards for Classification as an NRI

is eligible to be an NRI, ty Ownership: Except the Indian Income Tax for agricultural proper-

and advantages even though they reside overseas. Among them are To find out if someone the following: Proper-

their earnings in India, and repatriate money to their home countries with the help of these accounts.Investment **Opportunities:** Mutual funds, stocks, bonds and fixed deposits are just a few of the investment options available to NRIs in India. With some limitations depending on the kind of investment, they can also invest in Indian companies and real estate. In addition, their investments may yield higher interest rates than those in their home country. Tax benefits: As long as the income is taxed in the nation where it was earned, non-resident In-

cial reservation in Indian education. Additionally, the MEA provides a scholarship programme for children of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). **Travel:** Non-resident Indians (NRIs) can enter India without a visa or authorisation. NRIs are eligible to cast ballots and contest in elections. **LIMITATIONS ON NRIS:** NRIs are subject to a number of legal restrictions in addition to their many advantages: **VOTING RIGHTS: Un**less they are physically present in India during the election, NRIs are not eligible to vote in Indian elections. They are not able to vote by absentee ballot or remotely. Public Office: NRIs are not permitted to occupy any of the government's positions, including political ones. The purpose of this restriction is to guarantee that such positions are held exclusively by Indian citizens

OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

**Education:** NRIs

their kids are given spe-

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and

There are a lot of reasons to travel. Some people travel for work, while others do so for leisure. While some people travel to escape from life, others do so to further their education. Some people travel for work-related reasons as well. Whether it is for work, entertainment, education, or job searching, travel is a great way to learn a lot of things in life. Travel gives us the opportunity to experience a wide range of things and discover the world beyond our wildest dreams, regardless of the reason. There are many acronyms and jargon used in the travel and tourism and overseas manpower recruitment industries. SKILLS GURU hopes this glossary will be useful to those who are not familiar with it.

#### Who are PlOs?

A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) is any person who is an Indian by birth or descent and resides overseas. An ID card was previously issued to those who held passports from nations other than China, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. However, on January 15, 2015, the Indian government discontinued  $\operatorname{the}$ PIO Card Scheme and combined it with the OCI Card Scheme.

#### Who are OCIs?

OCI is an acronym for Overseas Citizens of India. People of Indian descent who have obtained foreign citizenship but still possess an OCI card issued by the Indian government fall into this category. OCI holders do not have the same

Act specifies certain requirements. Based on the length of stay in India during the applicable fiscal year, these criteria are as follows: **Duration** of Stay Outside India: If a person spends more than 182 days outside of India during the fiscal year, they are classified as an NRI. This is the main standard by which NRI status is decided. RESIDENTIAL STA-**TUS:** A person is considered an NRI if they have spent more than 182 days outside of India in the previous year or who have spent more than 60

days in India in a sin-

gle year but more than

182 days abroad in the

previous four years are

classified as Non-resi-

dent Indians (NRIs). It

is also very important

ty, NRIs are allowed to dians (NRIs) may be expurchase real estate in empt from paying Indian India. Bank Accounts: taxes on income earned Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO), Foreign Cur- to fundamental rights:

rency

Non-Residential NRIs are entitled to the (FCNR), and NRE ac- same basic rights as Incounts can all be opened dian citizens, including by NRIs. They can send the right to remedies

outside of India. Access

Indians (NRIs) are able to invest in agricultural land, but they are not allowed to buy it unless they have a specific permit. NRIs are subject to additional restrictions on land ownership in some Indian states. **TYPES OF NON-RES-IDENT ACCOUNTS:** Only Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Non-resident Indians(NRIs)are eligible for non-resident accounts. As an NRI, PIO or OCI, you can open a variety of bank accounts, but the most popular ones are a Non-Resident External Account (NRE), a Non-Resident Ordinary Account (NRO) and a Foreign Currency Non-Resident Account (FCNR).

who are residents of In-

dia. Revenue from Ag-

riculture: Non-resident

(To be continued)