



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT



PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Indian expatriate workforce in Saudi Arabia – a remarkable contribution of IPEPCIL members!

In the bustling landscape of Saudi Arabia's infrastructure development, there exists a silent yet monumental force – the Indian Expatriate Workforce! Comprising 90pc of the industries cohort are individuals recruited through the diligent efforts of the members of the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL), the Association of Government approved Recruitment Agencies.

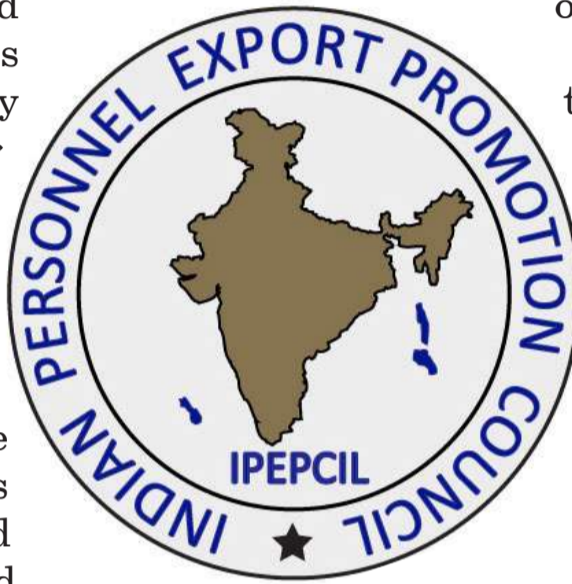
Their collective endeavours have not only shaped the physical skyline of Saudi Arabia, but also infused it with the spirit of dedication, expertise and resilience. From constructing tow-

ering skyscrapers to laying down intricate road networks, their sweat and toil have laid the foundation for Saudi Arabia's Progressive Vision.

Beyond bricks and mortar, these individuals bare woven a tapestry of cultural exchange fostering understanding and co-operation between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Their presence transcends more labour, it symbolises a partnership rooted in mutual respect and shared aspirations.

Appreciate our Member Fraternity's foresight in recognising the demand for skilled labour in KSA and their strategic efforts to fulfil

this need consistently. As we acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the Indian Expatriate workforce, we extend our deepest appreciation to



the Members of IPEPCIL for their unwavering commitment to excellence in recruitment and development. Their meticulous efforts have not only fulfilled the em-

ployment needs of Saudi Arabia but also facilitated to ease out the un-employment issues in India to certain extent and to achieve the developmental goals.

So, it is imperative that the continued collaboration between the IPEPCIL member Fraternity in the Recruitment of Indian Personnel vertical with the respective government bodies and the stakeholders to address the emerging challenges, so as to enhance emigrants mobility in a smooth, safe and secured manner and to promote sustainable developments in this sector to Saudi Arabia.

In recognising and honouring this Frater-

nity, we pay tribute to the thousands of unsung heroes whose hands molded the modern landscape of Saudi Arabia. Their dedication serves as a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the path towards a future marked by collaboration, prosperity and global solidarity.

IPEPCIL appreciates and recognises the relentless dedication of their member fraternity for recruitment in identifying, vetting and deploying qualified candidates to meet the diverse requirements of Industries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, says VS Abdulkareem, President, IPEPCIL (president@ipepcil.org)

SKILLS GURU By Sajan MS

HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Health, Healthcare and Health Workforce

(An industry in which approximately 70 million healthcare workers, including nurses, med-

try where the estimates of WHO testifies a shortage of 10 million health workers by 2030 mostly in low- and lower-middle-income countries, an industry for that an international organization (WHO) is established to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the



World Health Organization

ical doctors, pharmacists, dentists, midwives and additional professions actively serving worldwide, a workforce that is expected to surpass 84 million by 2030, an industry where 67pc women work, an indus-

vulnerable, an industry that plays a critical role in the well-being of individuals and the overall strength of society, an industry that offers panacea of never ending, exciting and fast-paced

(Cont. on page-6)

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Unified GCC visa

Finally, it seems that the Unified GCC visa is going to become a reality. Designed on the lines of the European Schengen visa – which is a common visa for 29 European countries – the Unified GCC visa will cover all the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) nations. To be called “GCC Grand Tours” visa it will allow visitors to travel in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar for over 30 days.

As visa-free travel is already possible for citizens of GCC countries, the new visa system will apply to the expatriates living in the region. The visa will function as a multi-entry visa, permitting travellers to move freely among the GCC countries. The system



will allow freedom of movement between residents and citizens of six countries. The visa will function as a multi-entry visa, permitting travellers to move freely among the GCC countries.

The system will allow freedom of movement between residents and citizens of the six countries.

Once it comes into effect, it will contribute to highlighting the diverse tourism destinations in GCC countries, attracting and retaining tourists for longer periods, thus increasing the number of hotel guests and making the region one of the leading destinations for regional and international tourists alike.

The visa would allow member-nations to present the GCC as a connected destination, boosting accessibility and driving the key performance indicators such as length of stay, average spending and employment. The current and future infrastructure will complement the visa by enhancing accessibility within and between Gulf nations. GCC Secretary-General Jassem al Budaiwi has welcomed this visa but stressed the need for careful consideration due to security and technical concerns.

In addition to ongoing investment in new and existing airports and cruise terminals, the central role of the upcoming GCC Railway in facilitating and optimising region-wide access for both domestic and international visitors is worth mentioning. Gulf countries are working with large tourist operators, and companies to roll out packages that care for the entire region. The visa is designed to streamline the tourism process, making it significantly easier for visitors to explore the Gulf’s rich cultural and economic landscapes.

True, the inspiration for Unified GCC visa has come from the Schengen visa. But there are differences. For example, the Unified GCC visa is only a tourist visa. Schengen visa allows the holder to stay in the Schengen area for up to 90 days (in any 180-day period) for the purposes of tourism, business, visiting family, medical treatment, studies, training placements or volunteer activities that last under three months or for other non-gainful activities. It also allows transit through the territory and airports.

The Schengen visa allows the holder to travel to any of the Schengen States and to transit through their territory, but it does not automatically entitle them to enter the Schengen area. The border authorities can refuse entry if the visa holder does not provide proof of the purpose and specifics of the trip, or if any of the other entry requirements are not met. The Schengen visa fee is EU 80 or Rs 7200 for adults.

LIPSYNCH

“If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

Air India Express sacks striking cabin crew

MUMBAI: With Air India Express facing a major disruption in services due to a protest by a section of its cabin crew, the airline has handed out termination letters to some of the agitating employees.

As per the information, around 25 senior cabin crew members have been sacked by the airline following the mass sick leave by over a hundred senior cabin crew on Wednesday. Air India Express has also asked the other protesting cabin crew members to resume work immediately. While it is not clear if the airline is open to reinstating the sacked cabin crew, sources in the Tata group carrier said that the management is trying to engage with the agitating employees and is slated to hold a town hall later today, even as other communication channels also remain open.

The Tata group airline, which is an arm of Air India, is seeing network-wide disruptions, affecting over 90 flights on Wednesday alone. A section of the cabin crew, mostly senior members, reported sick evidently to protest against the changes in the carrier’s HR policies. Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India) are in the process of being

merged and the airline has also stepped up hiring of cabin crew to support its expansion.

The termination letters were emailed to employees late on Wednesday. The strongly worded letters said that the sudden sick leave by a large number of cabin crew pointed to a pre-meditated and concerted abstention from work without a justifiable cause. According to sources in the know, the termination letters accused the agitating cabin crew of causing embarrassment, reputational damage and monetary loss to the airline.

The letters also said that the act of calling in sick in a coordinated manner amounts to a common understanding of disrupting the airline’s services, which Air India Express claimed was in violation of laws as well as the carrier’s service rules.

Air India Express has been forced to curtail its schedule for the next several days due to the non-availability of cabin crew in adequate numbers after over a hundred crew members called in sick since Tuesday evening, the budget airline’s managing director Alok Singh said in a letter to employees.

The Air India Express-AIX Connect combine operates over 350 daily flights and has flexibility to go up to around 400 daily flights as per summer schedule for this year. While the airline has over 2,000 cabin crew in its ranks, the fact that the senior members called in sick led to a disproportionate impact on the airline’s network.

In April, the Air India Express Employees Union, which claims it has 300 senior cabin crew as members, had written to Tata group and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran, alleging that the airline was being mismanaged and there was a “lack of equality in treatment” of employees.

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Etihad to extend route to Jaipur

ABU DHABI: Over the next two months, Etihad Airways will begin operating to Jaipur and Bali, as well as summer destinations, Al Qassim, Antalya, Malaga, Nice and the Greek islands of Mykonos and Santorini.

At the Arabian Travel Market, Etihad is showcasing its significant network development undertaken since last year’s event with 15 new destinations announced or launched, including recent inaugural flights to Boston and two new destinations in Kerala, India.

The UAE’s national airline expects to welcome thousands of visitors to its stand including distinguished guests, travel trade customers, members of the media and tourism partners.

Javier Alija, Vice President Sales and Distribution, Etihad Airways, said: “We’re looking forward to a great week ahead at the Arabian Travel Market, where we have the opportunity to showcase the growth story at Etihad Airways, in partnership with Zayed International Airport, our new home in Abu Dhabi. We look forward to welcoming our trade and tourism partners and industry peers to our stand and look forward to a fruitful week for the important travel trade industry.”

The stand is presented in partnership with Zayed International Airport, showcasing the stunning new home of Etihad Airways. The new airport, which opened in Nov 2023, offers streamlined check-in including dedicated spaces for families, First and Business class, as well as biometric self-check in and security facilities.

Visitors to the stand will also have the opportunity to see and experience the airline’s significant investment in guest experience, with the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner seats on display. Etihad’s newest Boeing 787 Dreamliners joined the fleet in Feb and feature an exclusive Business class offering enhanced privacy and state-of-the-art technology. The Economy cabin seats are also on display at ATM, showcasing the comfort and convenience offered on board.

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All set for unified GCC tourist visa

DUBAI: The system to launch a unified GCC tourist visa will be put in place by the end of the year by the regional countries, said Khalid Jasim Al Midfa of Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Authority (SCTDA) at the Arabian Travel Market.

It was understood that the new GCC visa will be on the lines of Schengen visa which is an entry permit for a short, temporary visit of up to

90 days in any 180-day period for 29 European countries.

“By the end of this year, the whole system will be in place. (We) are working day and night and e-service is a vital part of it. We don’t want to complicate things for people and also maintain the same security level.

and it will allow tourists to spend more than 30 days in the six countries that make up the GCC. “This will make travel to our region more convenient and affordable for tourists.”

“Once it comes into effect, it will contribute to highlighting the diverse tourism destina-



FOREX RATES
As on 10th May, 2024 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	84.19	83.29
Euro	90.43	89.50
Australian Dollar	55.67	54.72
Japanese Yen	0.58	0.53
Canadian Dollar	61.52	60.62
Singapore Dollar	62.32	61.40
Swedish krona	8.64	6.85
UAE Dirham	23.20	22.58
Swiss Franc	93.00	91.20
British Pound	105.07	104.09
New Zealand Dollar	50.89	49.63
Thai Baht	2.36	2.16
Hong Kong Dollar	11.64	10.33
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.97	22.02
Bahraini Dinar	228.15	214.15
Chinese Yuan	12.46	10.66
Danish Krone	12.53	11.53
Kuwaiti Dinar	277.50	261.50
Malaysian Ringgit	18.71	17.26
Omani Rial	222.96	210.96
Qatari Riyal	23.69	21.44
South African Rand	4.94	4.10

It will be a very good initiative and we will see a positive outcome for regional economies,” Al Midfa said during the panel discussion by the regional tourism chief.

UAEMinister for Economy Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri said the regional tourist visas would be called GCC Grand Tours

tions in GCC countries, attracting tourists and retaining tourists for longer periods, thus increasing the number of hotel guests and making the region one of the leading destinations for regional and international tourists alike,” Al Marri said after attending a meeting at the World

Economic Forum in Riyadh.

Al Midfa said the UAE and other Gulf countries are working with large tourist operators, and companies to roll out packages that take care of the entire region. He added that talks are underway with hotels and airlines to create partnerships. “As government, we create the right platform that enables them to create business. So work closely with the private sector we make it happen.”

He added that once the GCC single tourist visa is rolled out, companies and tourist operators will automatically roll out combined packages. He added that as part of the single tourism GCC, the aim is to extend the length of stay of visitors in UAE. “People don’t go to the US for two nights. People go for leisure travel for two to three weeks and we want

to combine the packages here within the GCC and make it easy and buy a package. We may need to align some of the biggest events in order to work out the timing so that there is no overlapping.” He revealed that both leisure and business travel packages will be rolled out by the private sector once a single tourist visa has been launched.

Sarah Buhijji, CEO of Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, added that Bahrain is also working on packages for the entire region. “Visitors can come to Bahrain and stay three nights, then go to Oman and Saudi. We are promoting the entire region as one package. We have signed an MoU with Saudi Arabia to promote two countries as one destination and we are doing it with the rest of the regional countries,” she added.



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GULF FAQs

How can expats draw up a will?

I am a non-Muslim expatriate living in Dubai. I have some assets in the country and wish to draw up a will. How do I go about this? What do I do after to make sure it holds in my home country too?

Pursuant to your queries, as a non-Muslim resident of Dubai, you have multiple options to create and register a will for your assets in the UAE. In this context, we may refer to the provisions of the following laws: (i) Federal Decree Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil Personal Status, (ii) Law No. 15 of 2017 Concerning Administration of Estates and Implementation of Wills of non-Muslims in the Emirate of Dubai and (iii) the DIFC Wills and Probate Registry Rules.

In the UAE, a non-Muslim may apply the provisions of the UAE Personal Status Law for non-Muslims his or her personal matters. This is in accordance with Article 1(1) of the UAE Personal Status Law for non-Muslims, which states:

“The provisions of this Decree Law shall apply to non-Muslims who are national citizens of the UAE and to non-Muslim foreigners residing in the state, unless any of them adheres to the application of the law of their home country, with regards to the articles of marriage, divorce, inheritance, will, and proof of parentage, without prejudice to the provisions of Articles (12), (13), (15), (16), and (17) of Federal Law No. 5 of 1985 referred to above.”

Based on the mentioned provisions of the UAE Personal Status Law for non-Muslims, a non-Muslim may also register a will as per his/her choice. This is in accordance with Article 11(1) of the UAE Personal Status Law for non-Muslims, which states:

“A legator may leave a will with all his assets in the state to anyone of his/her choice according to the controls set out by the Implementing Regulations of this Decree Law.” In addition, the registration of wills of non-Muslim individuals in Dubai should follow the provisions of Dubai Law No. 15 of 2017, referring to the provisions of Article 3 and Article 6(a).

Article 3 of Dubai Law No. 15 of 2017 states: “This Law will apply to all wills and estates of non-Muslims in the Emirate, including in the Dubai International Financial Centre.” Meanwhile, Article 6(a) of Dubai Law No. 15 of 2017 states:

“A register known as the “Register of Wills of non-Muslims” will be created at the Dubai Courts and the DIFC Courts for the purpose of registering wills of non-Muslims.”

Following the above provisions of the Dubai Law No 15 of 2017, a non-Muslim resident in Dubai, may register his or her will at the Dubai Courts or the DIFC Courts Wills Service Centre of the Dubai International

Financial Centre (DIFC). A will to be registered in Dubai Courts or DIFC must include the details of the executor(s) and/or beneficiaries of the testator’s properties and assets including but not limited to all of the testator’s movable and immovable properties, tangible and intangible properties. This also includes but not limited to real estate properties, shares in businesses and legal entities, bank accounts and the money kept in the bank accounts, credentials or passwords for his or her bank accounts, and other matters, jewellery, (the “Estate”) based in the UAE or outside the UAE.

With respect to the registration of wills at the DIFC Wills Service Centre, Article 9(1) of DIFC WPR Rules sets out the requirements for the registration of non-Muslim wills. The provisions read as follows: “1 These Rules shall apply only to wills:

a. of non-Muslim individuals over the Age of Majority;

b. 1) that are in a form as set out in Schedule 1, in the English language, in writing;

2) witnessed by at least two witnesses of the age of majority, such persons being either physically or virtually present in front of the Registrar or an Authorised Officer at the time of witnessing;

c. signed (in person) by the Testator;

d. that appoint Executors over the Age of Majority;

e. that appoint a Guardian, if at all, for a Minor who is habitually a resident with the Testator, in Dubai or Ras Al Khaimah;

f. that are deposited and (at the time of death remain) registered with the Registry; and

g. that state that the Testator intends Administration and succession to the Property dealt with by the will to be governed by these Rules and the laws of the DIFC.”

At the DIFC Wills Service Centre, a testator may include all his estate within and outside the UAE. This is in accordance with Article 11 of the DIFC WPR Rules, which states”

“A Will may give or dispose of Immovable and movable Property, located in any part of the world, to which the Testator is entitled at the time of his death, whether the Testator became entitled to it before or after the registration of his Will, and shall not govern succession to any other Property.”

A non-Muslim expat in the UAE may also register his/her will at the consulate or embassy of his or her own country, if such service is available. Therefore, based on the aforementioned provisions of law, you may draw up and register your will for your Estate in the UAE before the Notary Public at the Dubai Courts, or at the DIFC Wills Service Centre. You may also register your will at the embassy or consulate of

your home country, if the service is available. Generally, a will registered in Dubai via the procedures mentioned above would be valid and binding outside the UAE. However, it may be noted that the validity and enforceability of such wills may also be subject to the laws of the other countries concerned.

It is also advised to avail independent legal advice from a legal

counsel of your home country, to ensure that you’re aware of the applicability of a will registered in the UAE for your estate here, as well as your home country. This will also help you if there’s any additional procedures which may be carried out to make sure that your will registered in the UAE will be valid in your home country.

Overtime at home?

I work in a Dubai-based company. I am a senior executive but not in a managerial post. The amount of work that I have is so intense that I work at least two hours a day extra. Also, I need to log in from home on my laptop to complete my work. Is this legal? And how do I address it?

It is assumed that you are employed by a mainland company in Dubai. Therefore, the provisions of Federal Law No. 33 of 2021 Regulating Employment Relations in the UAE (Employment Law) and Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the implementation of the decree are applicable.

In the UAE, the normal maximum working hours are eight per day or 48 hours per week. This is in accordance with Article 17(1) of the Employment Law. An employer may call on an employee to work for two hours of overtime per day. But the maximum working hours for three weeks may not exceed 144 hours. This is in accordance with Article 19(1) of the Employment Law, which states: “The employer may instruct the employee to work overtime over the normal working hours, provided that they do not exceed two hours per day. The employee may not be instructed to work for more than that period, except under the conditions and rules specified by the Implementing Regulation hereof. In all cases, the total working hours shall not exceed 144 hours every three weeks.”

An employee who performs overtime work is entitled to basic pay and at least 25pc of the basic pay as additional compensation. Furthermore, an employee is entitled to basic pay and at least 50pc of the basic pay as additional compensation if the employee works overtime between 10pm and 4am.

This is under Article 19(2) and (3) of the Employment Law, which states: “If the work conditions necessitate that the employee work for more than the normal working hours, the excess period shall represent overtime, for which the employee shall receive a salary equal to the salary corresponding to the normal working hours, which is calculated according to the basic salary plus an increase of not less than 25pc of that salary.”

“If the work conditions require that the employee work overtime between 10 pm and 4 am, the employee shall be entitled, regarding the overtime, to receive the salary prescribed for the normal working hours calculated according to the basic salary plus an increase of not less than 50pc of that salary.”

However, employees who are in managerial and supervisory positions are not eligible for overtime payment. This is in accordance with Article 15 (4) (b) of the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022. Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, you are entitled to overtime payments by your employer for working overtime as you are not in a managerial position even though you are a senior executive with your employer. In the event, that your employer does not pay you for the overtime work, you may consider filing a complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation against your employer.

Health, Healthcare and Health Workforce

(Cont. from page-1)

career opportunities worldwide

– Yes. It is nothing but **HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY**. The tremendous growth of medical technology has expanded medical facilities and significantly increased healthcare roles. Due to this, more and more medical staff required for the care of patients. There are many medical roles available depending on your interests, skills and qualifications. Here begins a humble attempt to take you into all aspects of the health care industry which is abundant with stable and in-demand career options.)

Without good health, you have nothing!

Your health is one of the most important things in your life. It affects your physical, mental and emotional well-being. Therefore, it's so important to be proactive about your health and take steps to improve your health before you get sick and prevent illness. Healthy human beings of a nation are the centre of sustainable development. A healthy population is the pride and wealth of any country. This wealth can only be harnessed for the nation by being proactive in your health by eating healthy, exercising regularly, getting enough sleep, managing stress and seeing your doctor regularly. Scientific studies and historical research testify that

since the beginning of time, mankind has tried to maintain and improve their health through timely means.

The services that were in use and needed for healthcare in the respective eras have been the guide for the vast and sophisticated healthcare system of the modern era. In modern times, demand for health care is a demand derived from the need for health. It is influenced by many factors including price, income, population etc. When asked the importance of prioritising health, many people cannot answer. Studies suggest that this is due to lack of awareness of the importance of health and lack of self-care. Spending a lot of time on all other occasions, we testify through our daily activities that we do not prioritise health which is the essential basis of life. Instead of giving importance to more nutritious food, exercise and health care methods, money is seen to be spent on non-essentials.

What is health?

According to World Health Organisation (WHO): "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity"

The principles set out in the preamble to the Constitution of WHO are:

- Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being

and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity* The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

- The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent on the fullest co-operation of individuals and states.
- The achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all.
- Unequal development in different countries in the promotion of health and control of diseases, especially communicable disease, is a common danger.
- Healthy development of the child is of basic importance; the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment is essential to such development.
- The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health.
- Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people.
- Governments have a responsibility for the

health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures*

What is healthcare industry?

The healthcare industry (also called the medical industry) is an aggregation and integration of sectors within the economic system that provides goods and services to treat patients with curative, preventive, rehabilitative, and palliative care. It encompasses the creation and commercialization of products and services conducive to the preservation and restoration of well-being. The contemporary healthcare sector comprises three fundamental facets, namely services, products, and finance. It can be further subdivided into numerous sectors and categories and relies on interdisciplinary teams of highly skilled professionals and paraprofessionals to address the healthcare requirements of both individuals and communities (Source: WIKIPEDIA).

This complex and rapidly changing healthcare industry plays a critical role in the well-being of individuals and the strength of society as a whole. This sector has created a unique market for customer services. As the industry has undergone globalisation, it has faced strong resistance in healthcare delivery. The healthcare market is fiercely competitive

due to the inclusiveness of powerful financial interests, administrative bureaucracies, product manufacturers and many more. These competitions strongly influence the quality of all available services in the health care sector, treatment decisions, prices, and human resource allocation in the concerned areas and so on.

Who Is A "Healthcare Worker"?

According to the WHO, "Health workers are people whose job it is to protect and improve the health of their communities. Together these health workers, in all their diversity, make up the global health workforce." Generally speaking, these are individuals who are paid to look after the health of others, either directly as doctors and nurses or indirectly as aides, helpers, laboratory technicians or medical waste handlers. They are considered as the most valuable resource for health and play an important role in the healthcare sector.

However, health workers often face stress, loneliness and emotional distress due to the demanding nature of their work. It is important for healthcare workers to prioritise self-care, as neglecting one's own well-being can have negative consequences. Healthcare workers need to balance personal safety with their duty of care. (To Be Continued)

New Schengen visa rules for India

BRUSSELS: Travelling to Europe has become much more convenient for GCC and Indian visitors. The European Commission has approved new regulations for the issuance of Schengen visas to citizens of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and India who live in their home countries.

Under the new system, Saudi, Bahraini and Omanis will now have access to multiple-entry visas, allowing them to travel to 29 European countries using the same visa within five years.

This implementation has significantly simplified the process of obtaining a Schengen visa, making it much more convenient for eligible applicants, even first-time applicants. They can now look forward to receiving a multi-

ple-entry visa that remains valid for up to five years, relieving them of the stress of frequent visa applications.

"The European Commission has adopted new rules for the issuance of Schengen visas for Saudi, Bahraini and Omani nationals residing in their home country. It is an important step promoting people-to-people contacts and facilitating exchanges between the EU and GCC citizens," the delegation of the European Union in GCC posted on X.

Kuwaitis can be issued with long-term, multi-entry Schengen visas valid for five years. UAE nationals enjoy visa-free travel to the Schengen nations, permitting stays of up to three months at a time. However, a Schen-

gen visa is a must for UAE residents.

Additionally, the European Commission adopted specific rules on issuing multiple entry visas to Indians. Under the new regulations, Indian travellers are now eligible to obtain a two-year Schengen visa, a significant enhancement compared to the shorter validity periods previously offered.

To qualify for this extended visa, applicants must have obtained and used two Schengen visas within the last three years in accordance with the regulations. Upon successfully utilising the two-year visa, travellers can typically anticipate eligibility for a five-year Schengen visa, subject to the maintenance of sufficient passport validity.