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MUMBAI: TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024 • VOL. NO. 1 • Issue • No. 36. DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE PVT. LTD. (A unit of Creative Group) • 6 PAGES



Narendra Modi being sworn in as the prime minister by President Droupadi Murmu at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Sunday. (Pic right): Suresh Gopi, MP from Thirissur, taking oath as minister of state.

UAE rulers congratulate Modi

ABU DHABI: President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vice-President Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, both rulers of the UAE, congratulated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his re-election. The ruler wished him success in “leading India to further progress and growth.”

He also looked forward to the two nations’ continued collaboration and highlighted the strategic partnership between UAE and India. The president also tweeted in Hindi, and re-iterated “advanc-

ing shared developmental goals” of the two nations. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, also took to X to congratulate Modi. He expressed his trust in Modi’s leadership, and hoped for continued economic progress in India. The leader also talked about further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.



Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika called on HE Dr Ahmad Abdul Wahab Al-Awadhi, Minister of Health of Kuwait. Discussions pertained to further collaborations in a broad-spectrum of healthcare sector, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices and human resources.

Tier-II cities continue to witness growth in hiring activities

NEW DELHI: Hiring in tier-II cities showed consistent growth trends compared with metropolitan areas during May, mainly led by cities such as Kochi, Coimbatore and Jaipur, which have emerged as key hiring locations.

“It is remarkable to note the flourishing performance of tier-II cities in terms of hiring, outpacing their metropolitan counterparts. These cities have showcased consistent upward trends, particularly driven by the production and manufacturing sector, where we are witnessing a surge in recruitment,” a Ques company, CEO Sekhar Garisa said, quoting the Foundit Insights Tracker (fit).

He said, this can be attributed to several factors, including infrastructural development, favourable government policies and a burgeoning talent pool eager to contribute to India’s industrial landscape.

“It’s evident that tier-II cities are becoming increasingly attractive

hubs for businesses seeking expansion opportunities and tapping into diverse talent pools for sustainable growth,” he added. The Foundit Insights Tracker (fit) is a comprehensive monthly analysis of online job posting activity.

The report revealed

ies on a year-on-year basis, metros have witnessed a significant upswing in hiring in the last few months, it said.

According to the tracker, tier-II cities are seeing stronger growth rates in sectors such as production and manufacturing (29pc), IT-software and



that with cities such as Kochi, Coimbatore and Jaipur dedicating resources to infrastructure development initiatives and enhancing connectivity, transportation and other amenities, corporate firms are bound to be attracted here for their business expansions. In terms of the metro cities, Kolkata and Delhi/NCR stand out as leading hiring hubs on a year-on-year basis, it stated.

While tier-II cities have outperformed metro cit-

services (17pc), real estate (eight per cent) and education (eight per cent), where recruiters are seeking diverse talent with specialised skill sets.

Metro cities have shown an affinity for hiring from IT-software and services and advertising, public relations segment, due to the uptick in the demand for IT service providers and digitisation, signalling a recovery from the layoffs and reduced bench strength, the report added.

Air India-Vistara merger okayed Thailand drops proposed tax on tourists

MUMBAI: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of Air India and Vistara. The merger has resulted in the creation of one of the world's largest airline conglomerates. Under the merger deal, Singapore Airlines will own 25.1pc stake in Air India. Vistara is a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines.

Air India is planning to finalise the merger by the end of this year. The merger was announced in Nov 2022. In a detailed order, the Chandigarh branch of the NCLT has

approved for composite scheme of arrangement which will bring Air India, Vistara, and Talace all under the Tata Group umbrella.

The NCLT in its order mentioned: "A sanction is hereby permitted to the Composite Scheme of Arrangement between the petitioner companies and their shareholders under Sections 230 to 232 and Companies Act, 2013 provisions,". The order asserted that the approved scheme would be binding on the companies and their shareholders.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approval must

be availed by the companies from Singapore Airlines along with the security clearances within nine months from the date of the order issued. The approval should be per Civil Aviation Regulations (CARs) issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA.

Vistara, the Transferor Company, will be dissolved without engaging in the winding-up process once the merger formalities have been completed. All the pending approvals such as security checks and FDI clearance should be taken within the deadline.

Thailand drops proposed tax on tourists



Tourists throng Thailand

BANGKOK: Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin has said that his government would scrap the proposal by the previous administration to charge a 300 baht (S\$11) tourism fee from foreign tourists entering Thailand by air. Srettha said his government was not considering implementing the policy proposed in Feb 2023, which had encountered opposition from the private sector.

The Prime Minister said that while collecting a fee of 300 baht per person could generate short-term revenue, a broader perspective suggests that if more tourists are allowed to enter without this fee, they would likely spend on shopping and other activities. This could stimulate the economy and potentially generate more jobs and more revenue for the government than the fee itself, he added.

Srettha said that any decisions must take into account the voices of all stakeholders. He added that if the government could generate additional revenue from other tax sources, it would be possible to allocate funds to support tourism as needed. When asked about Thailand's ranking falling to 47th out of 119 countries in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) tourism and travel development index --- a six-place drop from 2019 -- Srettha said that he wanted to be constructive instead of playing the blame game.

He said: "This government aims to continuously develop every aspect. And we should respect the previous government because all governments agree that tourism is a significant flagship that can generate substantial revenue for the country."

Qatar Airways introduces free Starlink Wi-Fi onboard

DUBAI: Qatar Airways has announced the introduction of Starlink's innovative high-speed, low-latency Wi-Fi on three of its Boeing 777-300 aircraft Q4 of this year as part of the initial phase of its rollout strategy.

This strategic move reinforces the airline's commitment to enhancing the passenger experience onboard, with plans to progressively extend SpaceX-powered technology across its fleet within the next two years. The announcement was made on the second day of the Air-Expo in Hamburg, Germany, in the presence of Qatar Airways Group CEO Med Al Meer and Vice President of Starlink Engineering at SpaceX Mike Nicolls.

By offering ultra-high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity of up to 500 megabits per second per plane, Qatar Airways' passengers can enjoy high-speed and low-latency internet access with a simple "one-click-access" to a variety of internet-based services such as video streaming of their favorite entertainment and sports videos, online gaming, enriched web-browsing, and much more. As the first-ever service of its kind in the MENA region, the collaboration with Starlink marks a new milestone for Qatar's national carrier.



Saudia woos Air India, IndiGo for its mega MRO facility

NEW DELHI: The Saudia Group is keen to pitch its upcoming mega maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility to Indian carriers and has already approached Tata group carrier Air India for the same, a senior executive with the Saudi Arabian aviation conglomerate said. The group also plans to soon discuss the MRO-related possibilities with India's largest airline IndiGo.

"We know airlines in India, not just Air India, are using European MROs. So, we want to be on their radar for their

maintenance activities," said Saudia Group spokesperson Abdullah M Alshahrani on the

sidelines of the CAPA India Aviation Summit in Delhi. Once fully operational next year, the

facility—Saudia Technic's MRO Village—will be the largest MRO in the Middle East and North

Africa (MENA) region. Spread over one million square metres, the MRO Village will have multi-

ple hangars and engine and component shops.

It is expected to soon become an Airbus-authorized maintenance centre catering to the Airbus A320 family of aircraft. Alshahrani said that the facility would also be maintenance centre for Boeing 787 aircraft and the CFM LEAP engines. Air India has both A320 family and Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet, while IndiGo's jet aircraft fleet is almost

entirely made up of the A320 family. With both airlines placed mega aircraft orders last year.

The Saudia Group is keen to densify its network with more direct flights between Saudi Arabia and India, and Alshahrani said that the facility would also be maintenance centre for Boeing 787 aircraft and the CFM LEAP engines. Air India has both A320 family and Boeing 787 aircraft in its fleet, while IndiGo's jet aircraft fleet is almost



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Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 10 years of experience in the Coating/Painting and Insulation activities to be performed by the EPC-1 Contractor and its Sub-Contractors to ensure the activities are safely executed within approved project procedures to meet Project objective.

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Superintendent - Piping Fabrication

Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 15 years' supervisory experience within EPC and/or Client organization in piping fabrication and demonstrate extensive experience in piping fabrication.

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Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience in Plant, Machineries and Equipment inspection, must have international codes of ASME Sec I, V, VIII and IX, ANSI B31.3/4/8, NACE, and API 620/650 and AWS D1.1 or has valid certifications in API-510 and ASNT Level II in MT, PT, UT & VT and must be valid Driving license

Electrical Protection Engineers

Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Electrical Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience in Testing and commissioning of substation, DC Systems (battery charger, battery back and UPS if possible) and reply to protection systems, review setting, implement new setting, perform maintenance activities and verify the performance of the relay. Download and verify the relay operations and Obtain certifications from relay manufacturers and good aware in all testing equipment.

Design & Drafting Engineer

Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Electrical Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience in develop a design for electrical systems and aware of best practices and how to develop the single line diagram and must have experience in primavera software and designing tools.

Welding Inspectors (CSWIP 3.1)

Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience in welding inspection of the construction of Petrochemical or hydrocarbon facilities. The applicant must have AWS or CSWIP 3.1 certification and must be valid Driving license

Coating Inspectors (NACE)

Applicant should be B E / B Tech / Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience in Painting / Coating inspectors with specifications of API 510, API 570 and API 650 in the construction of Petrochemical or hydrocarbon facilities. The applicant must be NACE Level II certified and must be valid Driving license.

HVAC Inspectors

Applicant should be B E / B Tech in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 10 years' experience in HVAC inspection in construction projects with industry codes and standards (e.g. SMACNA, Uniform Mechanical Code, NFPA 90A & ASHRAE, etc.). He must have fluent command of the English language (spoken and written)

Transformer Specialists

Applicant should be B E / Diploma (Electrical) with minimum 10 years' experience in performing electrical testing, analysis results and provide recommendations and must have in transformer failure troubleshooting and pre-commissioning activities for transformer including installation.

RT TECHNICIANS

Applicants should be Diploma / ITI (Mechanical) with 5 years' experience in digital RT, having Certification to RT Level II, to SNT-TC-1A, ASNT or PCN. He must be able to perform RT with Ir-192 isotope using Sentinel 880 Camera, and X-Ray Machines up to 300KV, RT with different techniques, calculate the exposure time, correct IQI / penetrameter, well conversant with industry codes and standards, interpret films, job meeting, lead the assistant radiographers and knowledge in different welding processes.

RT FI - RADIOGRAPHIC FILM INTERPRETATION

Applicants should be Diploma / BE (Mechanical) with 5 years' relevant experience in Oil and Gas Industry and Mega Construction, responsible in interpreting results of radiographic film and performing, production radiography on castings and weldments using radioactive isotopes and high energy x-ray. Verify radiographic techniques on castings and weldments, and Review completed radiographs for compliance, good knowledge in different welding processes and Ability to handle the job independently.

EDDY CURRENT INSPECTOR - TUBE TESTING

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AI Express cabin crew chargesheeted

MUMBAI: Charge sheets to 200 Air India Express cabin crew members for reporting sick during strike Air India Express Employees Union says can be detrimental for company and passengers. Charge sheets to 200 cabin crew .

In a letter to Air India Express chief Alok Singh, the Union also warned the Tata Group-run airline's management that such actions could be detrimental to the interests of the company and its passengers. According to Union sources, the charge-sheet was issued to around 200 cabin crew members on June 5, with a deadline of 72 hours to file a response.

The Air India Express Employees Union (AIXEU) has termed the alleged issuance of charge-sheet by the airline's management to around 200-odd cabin crew members for reporting sick during last month's strike as unfortunate and unfair labour practice. In a letter to Air India Express chief Alok Singh, the Union also warned the Tata Group-run airline's management that such actions could be detrimental to the interests of the company and its passengers.

Around 200 cabin crew members of Air India Express had gone on strike on May 7, to protest against the alleged mismanagement in the airline, resulting in cancellation of hundreds of flights.

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FOREX RATES
As on 11th June, 2024 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	84.25	83.30
Euro	90.51	89.55
Australian Dollar	55.79	54.80
Japanese Yen	0.57	0.52
Canadian Dollar	61.39	60.44
Singapore Dollar	62.42	61.47
Swedish krona	8.89	7.10
UAE Dirham	23.13	22.58
Swiss Franc	94.16	92.36
British Pound	106.96	105.96
New Zealand Dollar	51.77	50.47
Thai Baht	2.37	2.16
Hong Kong Dollar	11.65	10.34
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.97	22.02
Bahraini Dinar	228.36	214.36
Chinese Yuan	12.42	10.62
Danish Krone	12.53	11.53
Kuwaiti Dinar	278.57	262.57
Malaysian Ringgit	18.92	17.37
Omani Rial	222.87	210.87
Qatari Riyal	23.69	21.44
South African Rand	4.87	4.03

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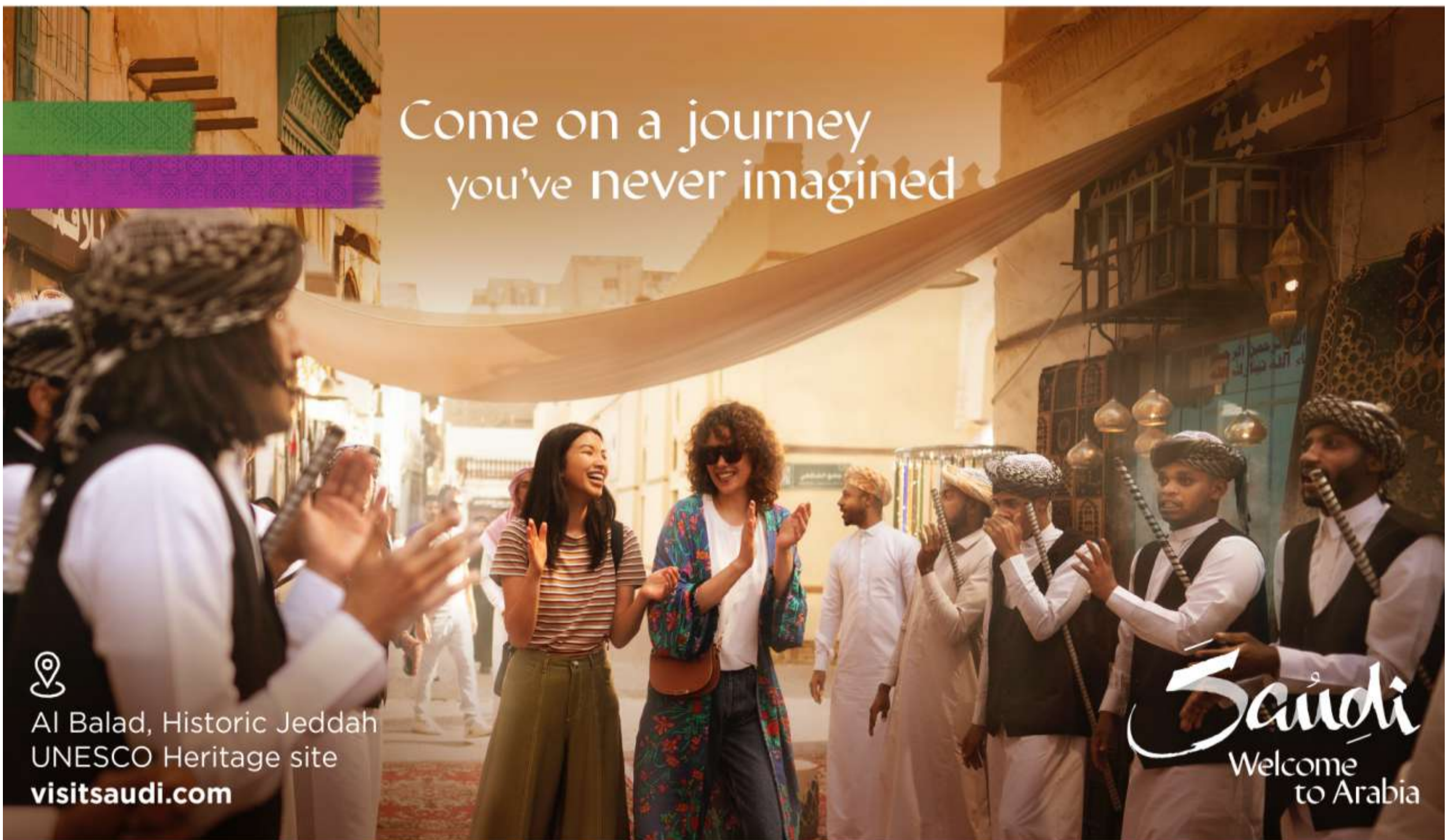


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GULF FAQs

Flight delays: can passengers claim compensation ?

I travelled from Dubai to Maldives on a local carrier for vacation with my family. There was a long delay of over 10 hours in flights. When I asked the staff, they said it was due to technical issues. Can I claim compensation against the airline in this case? What are my rights in this case?

Pursuant to your queries, the provisions of Federal Decree Law No 50 of 2022, Issuing the Commercial Transactions Law and Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air of 1999, signed at Montreal, are applicable.

A traveller in the UAE must check the terms and conditions related to travel, baggage and other general matters on the air ticket. Once you book an air ticket, it is implied that an air traveller is governed by the terms and conditions mentioned in an air ticket. Furthermore, an airline may be liable if there is a delay in scheduled flights. This is in accordance with Article 357 of the Commercial Transactions Law, which states, "The air carrier shall be responsible for the damage resulting from the late arrival of the passenger, checked luggage or cargo."

UAE is a signatory to the Montreal Convention of 1999, therefore, the provisions of the said convention are applicable. This is in accordance with Article 354 of the Commercial Transactions Law, which states: "Without prejudice to the international conventions to which the state is a party, the provisions of this section shall apply to the air transport, subject to the provisions set out in the following articles."

The aforementioned Montreal Convention of 1999 mentions that the airline may be liable for flight delays

except for reasons beyond the airline's control. This is in accordance with Article 19 of the Montreal Convention of 1999, which states, "The carrier is liable for damage occasioned by delay in the carriage by air of passengers, baggage or cargo. Nevertheless, the carrier shall not be liable for the damage occasioned by delay if it proves that it and its servants and agents took all measures reasonably required to avoid the damage or that it was impossible for it or them to take such measures."

In addition, for any delays, the airline may have to compensate the passengers. This is in accordance with Article 22(1) of the Montreal Convention of 1999, which states: "In the case of damage caused by delay as specified in Article 19 in the carriage of persons the liability of the carrier for each passenger is limited to 4,150 Special Drawing Rights."

As per the website of IMF, the aforementioned Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) means, is an international reserve asset. The SDR is not a currency, but its value is based on a basket of five currencies—the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen and the British pound. The aforementioned SDR of 4,150 related to compensation for delayed flights has been revised to 5,346 SDR in 2019 related to the limit of liability of airlines about compensation.

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law and convention, you may contact the airline based on the terms and conditions related to compensation for delayed flights that are mentioned on your air ticket. You may also contact the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in the UAE and the Dubai Aviation Authority for further clarification on this matter.

Can employer refuse commissions, sack employees for complaining

I have been working in a private company for four years. For two years, I have not received the commission according to my agreement with the company, and I have also not received the annual leave allowance. According to the employer, I do not have the legal right to claim them after two years, and therefore I filed a labour complaint against the employer, but after filing the complaint, the employer dismissed me from the work. My question: What are the rights that I must claim according to the labour law?

Annual leave regardless of the leave duration according to Article 29 of the labour law No. 33 of 2021 ("The worker shall be entitled to a wage for the accrued leave days if he quits the work before using them, regardless of the leave duration, with respect to the period for which he did not obtain his leave. He shall also be entitled to receive leave wage for parts of the year in proportion to the period he spent in work and it shall be calculated according to the basic wage." Salaries or any part of the salaries for the last year of your service according to Ar-

Forex reserves jump to new high of \$651.5b

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves jumped US\$4.837 billion to a new all-time high of \$651.51 billion for the week ended May 31. In the external sector was \$648.87 billion on May 10. For the week ended May 31, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$5.065.51 billion to \$572.564 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect



In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped \$2.027 billion to \$646.673 billion. "Touching a new milestone, India's foreign exchange reserves reached a historical high of \$651.5 billion as on May 31," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his statement.

The previous high for the kitty a crucial guard against any disturbances of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves decreased \$212 million to \$56.501 billion during the week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down \$17 million to \$18.118 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with the IMF was up \$1 million to \$4.326 billion in the reporting week.

article 54/9 of the Federal Decree Law No. (20) of 2023 Amending Certain Provisions of Federal Decree Law No. (33) of 2021 ("After one year from the maturity date of the right subject to a lawsuit, the lawsuit cannot be heard with regards to any of the rights protected by this Decree-Law", any agreed upon commissions, bonuses etc. for the last year of your service as per Article 54 mentioned above.

Gratuity based on Article 51 of the law ("The foreign full-time Worker, who has completed one or more years of continuous service, is entitled to an end-of-service gratuity upon the end of his service, calculated according to the basic wage, as follows: a. The wage of 21 days for each year of the first five years of service. b. The wage of 30 days for each year in excess of that." Arbitrary dismissal based on Article 47 of the law ("1. The termination of the Worker's service by the Employer shall be

unlawful if the termination of the Worker's service is due to his filing a serious complaint to the Ministry or filing a case against the Employer that has been proven to be true. 2. The Employer is obligated to pay a fair compensation to the Worker estimated by the competent court, must not exceed the wage of the Worker for a period of three months, calculated according to the last wage received thereby.")

Warning period as per agreed in the contract used on Article 43 of the law ("The party who does not abide by the warning period must pay the other party a compensation called a warning allowance, even if the failure to warn does not result in harm to the other party. Such compensation shall be equal to the Worker's wage for the entire warning period or the remaining part of it").

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CHEF VERSUS COOK: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

(Cont. from last issue)

A Hunt for Skilled and Qualified Chefs & Cooks exists!

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to start with: The hotel management industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. This industry offers a wide variety of career options and prospects.

The world of hotel management and cooking is quite glamorous. A growing number of international hotel chains require a supply of skilled professional manpower.

Various services are provided under a single roof 'Hotel Management Industry'. A key component of the hotel management industry is the 'HOTEL', which focuses on the 'CULINARY ARTS'. Due to the popularisation of international/traditional cuisine, the entry of

a long-standing shortage of chefs.

If you have a passion for cooking and want to make a professional career in it, here are a few Culinary Programmes for you to consider.

- Diploma in Food production- The Diploma in Food production is a 12 monthly Diploma course with Industrial Training
- Diploma in Cookery
- Diploma in Bakery and Confectionery
- Diploma in catering Management
- Certificate in Food Production
- Certificate in Chinese and Continental
- Certificate in Indian and Tandoori
- Certificate Course in Bakery & Beverage Service
- BHM in Culinary
- B Sc Catering Science and Hotel Management
- B Sc Hospitality Studies
- Diploma in Food and Beverage Services
- Diplomain Food and Nutrition

Diplomain Bakery and Confectionery

BHM Catering Technology Bachelor of Catering Technology & Culinary Arts

B Voc in Bakery and Cookery B Voc in International Culinary Arts

BA in Culinary Arts Diploma in Catering Technology

Diplomain Culinary Arts Certificate in Food Production

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BHM Culinary Arts Scope of career opportunities after culinary art training

CULINARY ARTS opens up endless career opportunities in the booming food service industry. A skilled

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call away for a COOK.

TYPES OF CHEFS & COOKS FROM A SINGLE STEM

(A few are given here. Countless TITLES still to be added)



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learn advanced and specialised skills in hotel management and culinary arts.

Culinary arts-here is a few

global food chains, specialty restaurants, and increasing opportunities in food-related industries, there has been

Etihad Airways carries 5.7 mn passengers in four months

ABU DHABI: About 5.7 million passengers were transported by Etihad Airways in the first four

months of 2024. Over 1.4 million passengers were carried by the airline, witnessing an average passenger load factor of 84pc for the month, as per its preliminary traffic statistics for April 2024.



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It is also worth noting that the carrier's fleet has expanded to 89 aircraft, serving 68 destinations globally. "In April 2024, we expected 39pc growth in customers, further underlining our positive growth trajectory and contributing to a four per cent boost in load factor, despite a considerable increase in capacity against the same period in 2023,"

said Antonoaldo Neves, CEO of Etihad Airways. "Our year-to-date (YTD) passenger figures at 5.7 million are 41pc higher than at YTD April 2023," he added. He also underscored that their strong first-quarter earnings for 2024 is equal to the total net income for the full fiscal year 2023. "We continue to grow our network and our frequency to match customer demand, and in April, we successfully reintroduced our much-loved A380 onto our New York route while announcing plans to add it to our flights to Paris from Nov 1," Neves stated.

IPEPCIL - ADVISORY

BEWARE OF UNSCRUPULOUS AGENTS FOR OVERSEAS JOBS

Seeking employment abroad can be an exiting opportunity, but it also comes with risks if the intended job-seekers go through unauthorised agencies / personnel.

Unscrupulous agents / persons may exploit these job-seekers through social media advertisements and channels, leading to financial losses, unsafe working conditions, fraudulent activities or even human trafficking. Therefore, it is crucial to stay informed and CAUTIOUS – among the overseas job aspirants. Job-seekers are advised to protect themselves by following means:

- 1) Verify credentials of the recruitment agency / persons. Ensure that, the recruitment agency / persons are licensed by the Ministry of External Affairs, OE, PROTECTOR GENERAL OF EMIGRANTS, Government of India.
- 2) Avoid any upfront payment in case asked for.
- 3) Seek legal advice through trusted advisors or Regional Protector of Emigrants Offices.
- 4) Do not enter any dealings with lack of physical office or any credibility of the advertisers without referring their websites.
- 5) Do not deal with the unscrupulous agencies who are inconsistent or give evasive answers to your questions.
- 6) Reporting Fraud:

If you suspect that an agent / person is doing fraudulent activities related to overseas recruitment / employment, report it to the nearest POE Office, police station etc. etc; your report can help to prevent others from falling victims to scams.

Your safety and well-being are paramount, by staying vigilant and informed, you can avoid falling prey to unscrupulous agents and ensure a secure legitimate path towards overseas employment.----- VS Abdulkareem (President, Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council – IPEPCIL).