



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Air India offers more UK, Europe flights UAE visa waiver extended for Indian visitors, families

MUMBAI: Air India has announced an expansion of its international flight network for Summer 2025, adding more flights to key des-

For those eyeing the UK, Air India is adding more flights to several cities. The Delhi-London Heathrow route sees a significant jump,

9 aircraft, offering passengers a comfortable and modern travel experience.

Travellers from Amritsar and Ahmedabad will also benefit, with increased frequencies to Birmingham and London Gatwick, respectively.

Amritsar-Birmingham: Increased from to four weekly flights.

Amritsar-London Gatwick: Increased from four weekly flights.

Ahmedabad-London Gatwick: Increased to five weekly flights.

Air India is also enhancing its European network. More flights are being added to Zu-

(Cont. on page-2)

UAE visa waiver extended for Indian visitors, families

ABU DHABI: The UAE has broadened the visa waiver programme for Indian nationals and their families holding regular passports. Effective Feb 13 this year, the new regulations allow Indian passport holders to enter the UAE with valid visas, residency permits or green cards from six additional countries, expanding the previous list that included the US, EU and the UK.

The Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, Customs and Port Security (ICP) announced that Indian

passport holders with valid residency permits from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Canada will also now benefit from this initiative.

The programme allows visitors to enter the UAE without obtaining a prior visa. Upon arrival, these individuals will receive entry visas at all approved entry points in the UAE, provided their passports have a minimum validity of six months and applicable fees are paid, according to the country's regulations.

(Cont. on page-2)



tinations across the UK, Europe, Asia and Africa. The airline is also upgrading its fleet with modernised interiors and entertainment systems.

with three extra weekly flights, bringing the total to 24.

These flights will be operated by a mix of the airline's flagship A350-900 and upgraded B787-

NRIS IN GULF TO BENEFIT Air Arabia offers discounted sales on five lakh seats

MUMBAI: Air Arabia, the leading low-cost carrier in the Middle East and North Africa, unveiled an extraordinary early bird promotion called "super seat sale" with discounted offers on five lakh seats across the company's entire network.

The promotion includes non-stop flights from India to three air-

ports across the UAE (Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah) and beyond to other onward destinations like Milan, Vienna, Cairo, Krakow, Athens, Moscow, Baku, Tbilisi, Nairobi and many more with fares starting from Rs 5,914 one way.

This early bird offer is available for booking

(Cont. on page-7)

Gulf chambers to participate in Invest Kerala Global Summit

KOCHI: As the Left government prepares for the two-day Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS 2025) on Feb 21 and 22, Industry Minister P Rajeeve said there would be sincere efforts to turn all the proposals that come up at the summit into actual investments in the state.

The summit will have participation from the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce, Sharjah Chamber of Commerce,

Swiss India Chamber of Commerce, diplomatic representatives from 25 countries, besides prospective investing companies. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goel and other union ministers will attend the meet.

"We will be realistic in our expectations. Our efforts will be to convert all projects that come up at the summit into reality. Be assured that the actual realisation will

India to supply one lakh care workers annually to global market: NSDC

NEW DELHI: India is set to supply one lakh care workers annual-

ly to the global labour market for the next two years as it prepares to

provide a skilled workforce to advanced countries seeing a decline in their working-age population due to ageing, said Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

"Last year alone, India supplied nearly 20,000 workers to Israel, of whom 5,000 were care workers. India is

(Cont. on page-2)





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(Cont. on page-7)

VISA ISSUE UNDER STRICT SCRUTINY

Trump's order will lead to much delay in getting US visas

WASHINGTON: Stringent visa regulations await those seeking entry into the US as American embassies in many parts of the world, including India begin implementing President Trump's Jan 20 executive order.

"The Department of State is conducting a full review of the visa programme as directed by the Executive Order," a US government official confirmed.

Under Executive Order 14161—Protecting the US from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats—the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Director of National

Intelligence must submit a report to the president within 60 days.

This report will identify countries with inadequate vetting and screening procedures and recommend partial or full suspensions on the admission of nationals from those countries. Indian travellers planning to renew US visas may now face a fresh challenge. In line with the new order, the US Department of State has abruptly reduced the eligibility window for visa interview waivers (dropbox) from 48 months to just 12 months, which will lead to longer wait for thousands of Indian applicants.

This change will affect non-immigrant visa holders, such as those with H-1B and B1/B2 visas. H-1B visa is meant for specialty occupation and B1 and B2 visa B-1/B-2 visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows foreign citizens to visit the US for business or tourism. It can also be used for both purposes. These individuals had previ-

ously enjoyed more lenient rules that were established during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The executive order seeks to "re-establish a uniform baseline for screening and vetting standards and procedures, consistent with the uniform baseline that existed on Jan 19, 2021, that will be used for any alien seeking a visa or immigration."

Though there have been long delays post covid in getting visas, travel between India and the US has soared since the pandemic. In 2023, over 1.76 million Indians visited the US, surpassing the pre-Covid 2019 figure of 1.47 million. India is now the second-largest source of international visitors to the US, after the UK.

India to supply one lakh care workers...

(Cont. from page-1)

rapidly forming pathways to allow greater mobility of its skilled workforce to countries in need. As part of this, it is expected that India will provide nearly one lakh care workers every year to the world," he said while addressing a media interaction.

India is also undertaking skill-mapping exercises across various countries to help Indians gain a better understanding of global labour markets. "As of now, we have mapped 43 countries. A detailed analysis is being prepared for each economy, covering the types of jobs available and the documentation required. It has been observed that Indian workers are in high demand in sectors such as healthcare, social care, renewable energy, manufacturing and information technology," he added.

Recently, India signed an agreement with Germany under the Group of 20 skills-based migration pathways framework, increasing the number of visas for skilled Indians to 90,000 per year, up from 20,000 earlier.

The NSDC is also placing a "special focus" on partnering educational institutions in Tier-II and Tier-III towns, as a large portion of the country's workforce resides there. "With the use of technology and digitisation, every effort is being made to partner stu-

dents in these areas and bring them on board. They will be skilled appropriately, keeping industry demand in mind," he said. Tiwari further highlighted that the NSDC has skilled nearly 40 million people as of January 2025 as part of its "skilling, reskilling, upskilling" initiative. Moreover, 50,000 skilling centres are expected to be set up by the end

of 2025.

"Of these 40 million people, one-fourth were new trainees, while the rest included those already working who required additional skills. In our assessment, we found that once enrolled in skilling programmes, participants were able to increase their wages by 20pc while their employability improved by 15pc," he added.

Kerala records 21pc increase in tourist arrivals



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Kerala attracted 22.2 million tourists in 2024, which marked a substantial increase of 21pc from the pre-pandemic period, said Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas in the state assembly.

"This huge upsurge in tourist arrivals shows that in the last couple of years, the state has been erasing its previous record in arrival of tourists," Riyas said.

The newly introduced K-Homes project, announced in the 2025-26 state budget for increasing accommodation for tourists by making use of unoccupied homes near major destinations, will be implemented initial-

ly at Kovalam, Kumarakom, Munnar and Fort Kochi.

"The K-Homes project will take the growth of tourism to new heights, as it offers the tourists a comfortable stay and a hands-on feel of local culture and cuisine. Special arrangements will be made for the implementation of the K-Homes project including online booking of stays," added Riyas.

The K-Homes project is expected to strengthen Kerala's hospitality sector and the project will be implemented within a radius of 10 km in the selected destinations.

He also pointed out that a project to bring

(Cont. on page-7)

UAE visa waiver extended...

(Cont. from page-1)

According to ICP, the fee for issuing a 14-day entry visa for Indian nationals and their family members holding regular passports who have valid visas, residency permits, or green cards from the above-mentioned countries is Dh100. The fee for extending the visa for another 14 days is Dh250. The fee for issu-

ing a 60-day visa is also Dh250.

This expansion is seen as a reflection of the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between the UAE and India. It aims to facilitate smoother travel for Indian nationals and their families, offering them greater opportunities to explore living, working, and residing in the UAE.

Air India offers more UK...

(Cont. from page-1)

rich and Vienna from Delhi, providing greater flexibility for travellers exploring these vibrant cities.

Delhi-Zurich: Increased to five weekly flights.

Delhi-Vienna: Increased to four weekly flights.

Delhi-Seoul (Incheon) flights will increase, offering more opportunities for travel to South Korea. The Delhi-Hong Kong route will now feature the Boeing 787

Dreamliner, providing an upgraded travel experience for all seven weekly flights.

Additionally, there will be more flights to Nairobi, Kenya, opening up more travel possibilities in Africa.

Delhi-Seoul (Incheon): Increased to five weekly flights.

Delhi-Hong Kong: Aircraft upgrade to B787 Dreamliner on all seven weekly flights.

Delhi-Nairobi: Increased to four weekly flights.

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FOREX RATES
 As on 17th February, 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	87.12	86.26
British Pound	109.79	108.56
Euro	91.89	90.20
Japanese Yen	0.58	0.57
Swiss Franc (CHF)	97.18	95.37
Canadian Dollar	61.78	60.57
Australian Dollar	55.74	54.65
Norwegian Krone	7.88	7.73
Swedish Krona	8.19	8.03
New Zealand Dollar	50.13	49.27
Hong Kong Dollar	11.25	11.04
Kuwaiti Dinar	282.03	276.12
Singapore Dollar	65.41	64.11
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.35	22.89
United Arab Emirates	23.83	23.37

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GULF FAQs

Unfair dismissal in UAE, what are your rights?

What are the rights of employees in UAE if they are dismissed?

In the UAE, terminating an employee for filing a labour complaint or lawsuit against their employer is considered illegal if the claim is valid. According to Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 Regulating Labour Relations, such a dismissal is deemed arbitrary.

Under Article 47, a worker's rights are protected if they are terminated without a justifiable reason. Specifically, dismissing an employee for filing a complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) is classified as arbitrary termination.

If an employee believes he has been dismissed unfairly, he can lodge a complaint with MOHRE. The ministry will first attempt to resolve the matter amicably. If no settlement is reached, the case will be referred to the rel-

evant court for further proceedings.

If arbitrary dismissal is proven, the court may order the employer to compensate the employee. The amount of compensation is determined based on:

The nature of the work:
The extent of the damage caused to the employee

The duration of employment: The maximum compensation awarded cannot exceed the employee's wage for three months, based on their last salary. In addition to compensation, employees can also claim: gratuity, any other unpaid entitlements.

How to file a complaint for arbitrary dismissal? If you have been unfairly dismissed, you can file a complaint with MOHRE by following these steps:

Visit the MOHRE website at mohre.gov.ae. Go to the "Services" section and scroll down to select "Submission of Comments, Complaints and Inquiries".

Click "Start Service" to proceed. You will be re-directed to the Twasoul

platform.

Enter the following details: full name, email address, mobile number, select the case type as "Complaint", enter the subject and provide a detailed description of your complaint.

Attach any supporting documents or evidence. Click Submit to complete the process. Upon submission, you will receive a reference number to track your complaint status. What happens next? The timeline for a response or resolution depends on the type of complaint.

MOHRE advises that complaints must be submitted within 30 days of the employer's violation of legal obligations. Labour disputes are typically settled within 14 days of submission. If a resolution cannot be reached amicably, the case is referred to the competent court for a decision.

If you need further guidance on filing an arbitrary dismissal complaint or understanding your rights, you can contact the Labour Claims and Advisory Centre at 80084.

How can I recover my rent?

Five years ago, I purchased a hotel room property from one of the developers in Dubai and paid the full value of the property. In return, I signed a lease contract with the developer, according to which the developer would rent the property and gave me

is 10 years and above, then you have to file a civil case against him to request for the rental amounts and the cancellation of the contract. You have to request to transfer the matter to an expert to check and calculate the rent-



70pc of the property's income. Currently, it has been five years since I signed the contract, and the developer did not give me any amount. Accordingly, I asked him to hand over the property to me for personal use, but he refuses under the pretext that I signed a lease contract with him. My question: what is the appropriate action to take against this developer so that I can recover my property?

In case the rental contract is a long-term which

al amounts accumulated through these years. The contract, as per Article 246 of the Civil Transaction Law, shall be implemented, according to the provisions contained therein and, in a manner, consistent with the requirements of good faith. No one is entitled, to enrich himself to the detriment of another person, without just cause, if he does so, he is liable to retribute it, and the hand that has taken is liable until it gives it back.

All about UAE visa on arrival

What are the conditions for obtaining visa on arrival for Indians landing in UAE?

Individuals from eligible countries will receive the visa on arrival in the UAE, provided their passport is valid for at least six months and they fulfil the applicable visa fees as per UAE regulations.

The UAE's expanded visa-on-arrival programme for Indian nationals came into effect from Feb 13 and have been extended to Indian nationals residing in more countries.

The facility will be

applicable to those with valid visas, residence permits or Green Cards from six new countries.

WHICH ARE THE COUNTRIES? Accordingly, Indian citizens holding ordinary passports and valid visas, residence permits or Green Cards from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, will be granted visas upon arrival at all UAE entry points. These are in addition to the previously eligible nations, namely the US, European Union and UK.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? In-

dividuals from eligible countries will receive the visa on arrival in the UAE, provided their passport is valid for at least six months and they fulfil the applicable visa fees as per UAE regulations.

WHAT IS THE FEE? The entry visa fee for a 14-day stay is Dh100, with an option to extend for an additional 14 days at a cost of Dh250. Additionally, a 60-day visa is available for Dh250.

WHY THIS INITIATIVE? Major General Suhail Saeed Al Khaili, Director General of the Federal Authority

for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP), has emphasised that granting visa on arrival to Indian nationals holding visas from some countries aligns with the long-term strategic partnership between the UAE and India.

The initiative aims to facilitate smoother travel for Indian citizens, offering them and their families new opportunities to explore life, residency and employment prospects in the UAE.

Additionally, it provides an opportunity to experience the country's

world-class tourism, economic landscape and dynamic business environment, while also attracting top global talent and entrepreneurs—further solidifying the UAE's status as a global financial, tourism and economic hub, the ICP noted.

India has also signed visa exemption agreements with several countries for holders of diplomatic and official passports, including the UAE, where such passport holders are exempt from visa requirements for stays of up to 90 days

All set for Goa Carnival

PANAJI: Goa Carnival the perfect time to visit. grand public celebration, 2025 is set to be one of The streets will be filled open to everyone. Today, the largest and most vi- with music, laughter and it is one of the most an-



brant celebrations in the state. Known for its colorful parades, lively music and grand street performances, the festival attracts thousands of locals and tourists every year. With its roots in Portuguese traditions, the Goa Carnival is a unique blend of Goan culture, extravagant floats, dance and merry-making.

If you want to experience Goa at its liveliest, then Goa Carnival 2025 is

endless fun, making it a one-of-a-kind festival in India.

Goa Carnival has a 500-year-old history, dating back to the time of the Portuguese rule in Goa. It was originally a festival meant to celebrate before the 40-day period of Lent, where people would indulge in music, dance, food and drinks before a time of fasting and prayer.

Over the years, the carnival has evolved into a

anticipated festivals in Goa, showcasing the state's rich cultural heritage, traditional music, dance performances and artistic floats. One of the most exciting traditions of Goa Carnival is the announcement of King Momo, a symbolic figure who officially declares the start of the carnival. Many locals and tourists dress up in masks, costumes, and bright outfits to join the carnival spirit.

Gulf chambers to participate...

(Cont. from page-1) sectors already, and the state would woo investors from across the sectors at the IKGS2025.

"As much as 24pc of the turnover of medical device manufacturing comes from Kerala. The state is also home to the

top four players in spice processing companies," Rajeeve said.

"In the next 15 years, Kerala will emerge as a major destination for high-tech manufacturing and knowledge industries worldwide," the minister said. Project-

ing Kerala's potential to become the centre of the country's knowledge economy, the minister highlighted the state's rich pool of human resources with the skills and competencies that can boost ways towards achieving the goal.

Kerala records 21pc increase...

(Cont. from page-2) women stakeholders in the tourism sector under a single umbrella has been drawn up as part of initiatives to strengthen women-friendly tourism.

"So far, 17631 women have registered under the project through the Responsible Tourism Mission Society. They include tour operators, homestay owners, drivers and other tourism entrepreneurs," added Riyas.

Farm Tourism is another segment identified for further development. The Responsible Tourism Mission Society has imparted training for 952 units. In this segment, 452 units are found to be performing well, out of which 103 units have been listed on the RT Mission's website. Riyas also pointed out that the state's Design Policy has been leveraged to keep destinations environment-friendly and aesthetically appealing.

Air Arabia offers discounted sales on...

(Cont. from page-1) till March 2, 2025 with travel dates spanning from Sept 1 to March 28, 2026.

The Rs5,914 ticket sale extends to non-stop flights originating from Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Nagpur, Goa, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Coimbatore and Kozhikode into Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Ras Al Khaimah and beyond.

Operating over 200

Dubai: 90-day notice must for rent hikes

DUBAI: Landlords in Dubai, who are eligible to increase rents under the new smart rental index, must serve tenants with a 90-day notice period before the expiry of tenancy contracts, the Dubai Land Department has clarified.

The 90-day notice period rule for tenants remains unchanged, even

2025; second, the new index will be enforced if the contract is renewed during 2025.

The new rental value calculates the applicable increase based on data drawn from multiple factors, including rental contract values in the building, the average rental values in the area, and the building



if the property is eligible for a rent increase under the new index.

The Dubai Land Department said on Sunday that if a landlord gave the required 90-day notice and the previous index supported a rent increase, but the new index does not, the renewal date will be based on two factors. First, the previous index will be applied if the contract was renewed before

classification.

The index utilises artificial intelligence to deliver accurate and standardised rental price assessments to cover all residential areas, including key districts, special development zones and free zones. This enhances market transparency, ensures fairness, and strengthens confidence in Dubai's real estate sector.



and Egypt, Air Arabia continues to solidify its position as a leading player in the aviation industry.

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unbeatable value, Air Arabia is an award-winning airline dedicated to delivering exceptional travel experiences.