



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Qatar Prime Minister His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani met India's Minister of External Affairs Dr Jaishankar in Doha. They discussed co-operation between the two nations and ways to support and develop them and several topics of common interest.

Maharashtra govt's plans to boost skills, employability

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra government has introduced a series of new programmes aimed at improving skills, employability and access to education while presenting its additional budget for the fiscal 2024-25.

With apprenticeship and on-job-training being included as a mandatory component of higher education programmes under the National Education Policy (NEP), Finance Minister Ajit Pawar said that the state will provide a monthly stipend of Rs 10,000 to around 10 lakh trainees under the scheme "Mukhya Mantri Yuva Karyaprashikshan Yojana". It is expected to cost the state around Rs10,000 crore every year.

The government also announced an overarching programme in collaboration with World Bank to upgrade infrastructure and other facilities at its various education institutes in the state. The project will cost around Rs 2,307 crore, of which World Bank will provide 70pc as a loan while the state will bear the remaining 10,000 to around 10 lakh

Etihad to hire 1500 pilots

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways is set to embark on an international roadshow to hire hundreds of pilots (about 1500 to 2000) over the next 18 months, as part of plans to expand its route network and double its fleet by 2030.

The Abu-Dhabi based airline will take its recruitment drive to eight European countries, including Cyprus, Bulgaria, Albania, Romania, Hungary and Poland, before expanding its search globally in the coming months, Etihad Airways said. It is seeking pilots of all ranks who can operate aircraft from across the Etihad fleet, including the Airbus A320, A350 and A380, as well as the Boeing 777,

787 and 777 freighter.

"We appreciate that pilots choose which airline to join for the length of their career, and as such we would like to highlight not only the career development and progression opportunities on offer at Etihad, but also the fantastic home and lifestyle that Abu Dhabi provides," said John Wright, chief operations and guest officer at the airline.

In March, Etihad CEO Antonioaldo Neves told a TV channel the airline planned to hire between 1,500 and 2,000 pilots, cabin crew, mechanics and engineers this year to drive its expansion. "In the second half of the year, we're going to be hiring to prepare for 2025," he

said at the time.

This comes as Etihad aims to triple passenger numbers to 33 million and double its fleet to 150 planes by the end of the decade. The airline is also preparing for a potential listing – a first for a major Gulf airline – as part of its growth plans. Pilots will be have "extraordinary growth opportunities" if they choose to join the airline now, Etihad said in its statement.

"This growth trajectory will offer pilots significant career progression and promotion opportunities, making Etihad a highly attractive employer for ambitious pilots looking to build a solid career," the airline said.

KERALA TRAVEL MART SOCIETY SUBMITS MEMORANDEM TO SURESH GOPI



Office-bearers of Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) Society and a few other trade association members met Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture Suresh Gopi in Kochi. The delegation had a fruitful discussion with the minister regarding numerous issues faced by the tourism industry and a memorandum with some common demands of the trade was submitted to Minister Suresh Gopi.

KTM Society has been the spokesman for tourism industry in Kerala. It also remains a non-profit organisation which has been keen on promoting tourism and related sectors in Kerala. The KTM Society has been incorporating the best in all tourism sectors and showcases them to the world. In a broader perspective, Kerala Tourism Authority and KTM Society need to take all accredited stakeholders together and collaborate to achieve its objectives.

Sharjah Shopping Festival begins

DUBAI: Sharjah Shopping Festival kicked off on July 1 covering all cities and regions of the emirate and will run until Sept 1.

The two-month summer extravaganza for shoppers features a plethora of promotional deals for both Sharjah's residents and visitors, with extensive participation from major

shopping malls, retail outlets, hotel establishments and tourist destinations.

Aside from marketing promotions that encompass raffle draws with prizes worth up to Dh3 million, this year's Sharjah Summer Promotions offers a packed programme of special entertainment activities for all shopping malls'

visitors, including cultural performances by folk groups.

Launched with a new visual brand identity, the Sharjah Summer Promotions 2024 showcases the latest products from renowned local and international brands including a diverse range of retail goods. Participating hotel establishments are also offering

special prices.

Additionally, the festival will feature the launch of the "Back to School Campaign" from Aug 19 to Sept 1, offering students and parents exceptional opportunities to purchase diverse school and educational supplies at major discounts.

The new edition of Sharjah Summer Pro-

motions is further enhanced by an array of entertainment offerings and promotional deals at the most popular tourist attractions and family destinations in Sharjah. These promotions offer visitors unprecedented tourism packages with complimentary experiences at the emirate's tourist spot.

Easing of work permit rules for US H-1B visa holders by Canada crucial for India

OTTAWA: Canada's decision to relax work permit rules for US H-1B visa holders is a significant development in the realm of international workforce mobility. This adjustment not only showcases Canada's strategic efforts to position itself as a leading destination for highly skilled professionals, particularly in IT-related occupations, but also underscores its commitment to maintaining a competitive edge in the global talent pool.

With a GDP growth rate of 1.2pc, Canada boasts a steadfast dedication to fostering innovation and technological advancements, presenting numerous growth oppor-

tunities for IT professionals. In the financial year



2022-23, more than 15,000 Indian tech professionals relocated to Canada, signaling the nation's growing status as a worldwide hub for tech talent and its popularity amongst Indian nationals.

This relaxation of the work permit rules for the US H1-B visa holders is

crucial for Indian IT profes-

sionals in the US, as it could provide them with an alternative pathway to leverage their skills in a new market with stable job opportunities, especially for those affected by restrictive policies or uncertain job security in the current US immigration climate.

Despite previous tensions and challenges of in-

frastructural strains, the presence of a large Indian community in Canada, coupled with robust bilateral ties, further enhances the attractiveness of Canada as a destination for career and academic pursuits. Given India's significant participation in global mobility, with over 2.5 million Indians migrating overseas each year, these policy changes could restore Canada's position as a global power attracting quality talent.

However, to explore the deeper impacts on the Indian workforce, the scenario is two-fold. On the one hand, such migration trends could be viewed as a "brain drain," where India might face a loss of skilled

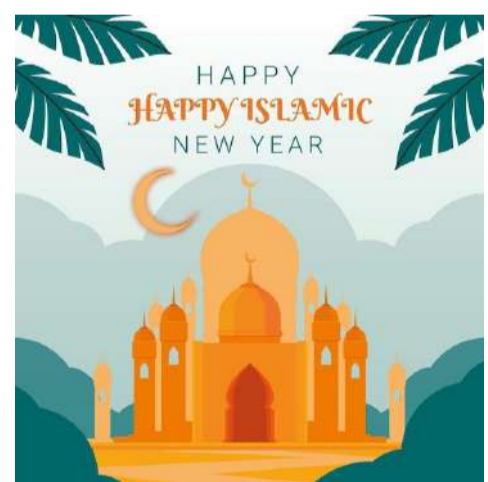
professionals to overseas markets. On the other hand, the movement of these professionals opens up numerous avenues for knowledge exchange and economic collaboration between Canada and India. The strategic advantages of nurturing such a skilled workforce are mutual for both nations. For Canada, Indian professionals add to the diversity and dynamism of its economy, driving forward industries ranging from technology to academia.

For India, the experiences gained abroad can translate into significant domestic advancements, particularly if return migration is encouraged and effectively managed.

Hijri holiday on July 7

MUSCAT: People across the Sultanate of Oman are expected to enjoy a public holiday on Sunday, July 7, marking Muharram 1, the start of the new Hijri year 1446 AH, and the Holy Prophet's Hijra Anniversary.

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs' moonsighting committee recently observed the crescent moon of Dhul Hijjah 1445 AH on Satur-



day, June 8, 2024. Accordingly, the holiday will be observed on Muharram 1, likely falling on Sunday, July 7, subject to the moon sighting.

The new Hijri year is of great religious significance as it commemorates Prophet Mohammad's migration from Mecca to Madina. The ministry typically conducts special programmes to celebrate the Holy Prophet's Hijra Anniversary, involving various segments of the community.

CURBS ON STUDENT VISAS Australia bans 'visa hopping'

SYDNEY: If you are applying for an Australian student visa, make sure that you start your student visa application from offshore and not from within the country. Starting July 1, 2024, holders of certain visas, including visitor and temporary graduate visas, will no longer be able to apply for student visas while in Australia. The Australian government is accepting student visa applicants with a genuine intention to pursue studies in Australia from those who applies for a student visa from offshore (outside of Australia).

Visitor visa holders, temporary graduate visa holders and other specified visa holders cannot apply for student visas while they are in Australia. However, student visa applications lodged in Australia before July 1, 2024 will not be affected by this change and will be processed. Holders of working holiday maker and work and holiday visas will also be not be impacted.

The government of Australia has made it clear that temporary graduates should depart Australia at the end of their visa

or consider job opportunities that might lead to employer-sponsored visas or permanent residency if they want to remain in Australia.

This change makes it clear that graduates should be finding skilled jobs and becoming permanent residents or departing the country when they are more likely to become "permanently temporary".

These changes support a range of other changes that are being implemented for temporary graduate visa holders on July 1. These include significantly shorter post-study work

rights, reduced age limits from 50 to 35 years of age, and increased English language requirements which were implemented in March.

One can apply for their Student visa offshore and travel to Australia to wait for the outcome of their visa application. However, they need to hold or be granted a visa that allows them to enter and remain in Australia for that time. Also, Offshore Student visa applicants cannot get a bridging visa to stay in Australia while waiting for their application to be processed.

India set to overtake Japan: Sony chief

MUMBAI: Japanese consumer electronics giant Sony expects India to overtake home market and become the company's third largest market globally in the next couple of years with its revenue from the country reaching Rs 10,000 crore.

At present, the US, China and Japan are the top three markets for Sony globally, followed by India.

Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar said the company clocked a revenue of Rs 6,353 crore in 2022-23 in the country and is betting on the premium television segment besides



its audio and imaging products to drive the growth. According to him, Sony India is also betting big on the fast growth of the gaming segment and imaging business.

"We have travelled a long way. If I go 10 years back, we were quite behind the globe, but now, we are a close number four as a single country business across the globe, which means in a couple of years, maybe we can be number three

and to remain in the top three in future I think should be a good position to stay as a Sony company around the globe," Nayyar told a TV channel.

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Japanese Yen	0.57	0.51
Canadian Dollar	61.88	60.83
Singapore Dollar	62.52	61.37
Swedish krona	8.89	7.10
UAE Dirham	23.22	22.57
Swiss Franc	93.88	92.08
British Pound	106.59	105.44
New Zealand Dollar	51.84	50.39
Thai Baht	2.38	2.17
Hong Kong Dollar	11.64	10.33
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.95	22.00
Bahraini Dinar	228.30	214.30
Chinese Yuan	12.39	10.59
Danish Krone	12.53	11.53
Kuwaiti Dinar	278.05	262.05
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IndiGo's Bengaluru-Abu Dhabi direct flight from Aug 1

DUBAI: Budget carrier IndiGo is to launch a non-stop flights between Bengaluru and the UAE's capital, Abu Dhabi. The flight will operate six times a week and commence operations on August 1, amid the peak summer travel rush.

With the addition of this flight, IndiGo will

the 10th city on the IndiGo network to offer direct flights between Abu Dhabi and India."

He added: "With the addition of these flights, IndiGo offers 75 weekly frequencies to Abu Dhabi and over 220 to the UAE." Malhotra also said that this new flight will further strengthen



now operate 75 weekly flights from Abu Dhabi to 10 cities in India, further strengthening connectivity to the capital of the UAE.

Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo, said: "We are pleased to announce direct flights between Bengaluru and Abu-Dhabi. Bengaluru is

travel, trade, and tourism between India and the UAE by offering smooth and convenient business and leisure options.

IndiGo recently ditched its single-class cabin strategy by introducing a Business Class service on some of its aircraft that will fly over some of its "busiest and

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business routes", domestic and international.

However, for India's fastest-growing budget airline, the next growth phase is to expand beyond a low-cost carrier (LCC) model, including keeping options for other cabin classes such as Premium Economy. And as far as CEO Pieter Elbers is concerned, IndiGo "left that station already" when referring to the airline's low-cost categorisation.

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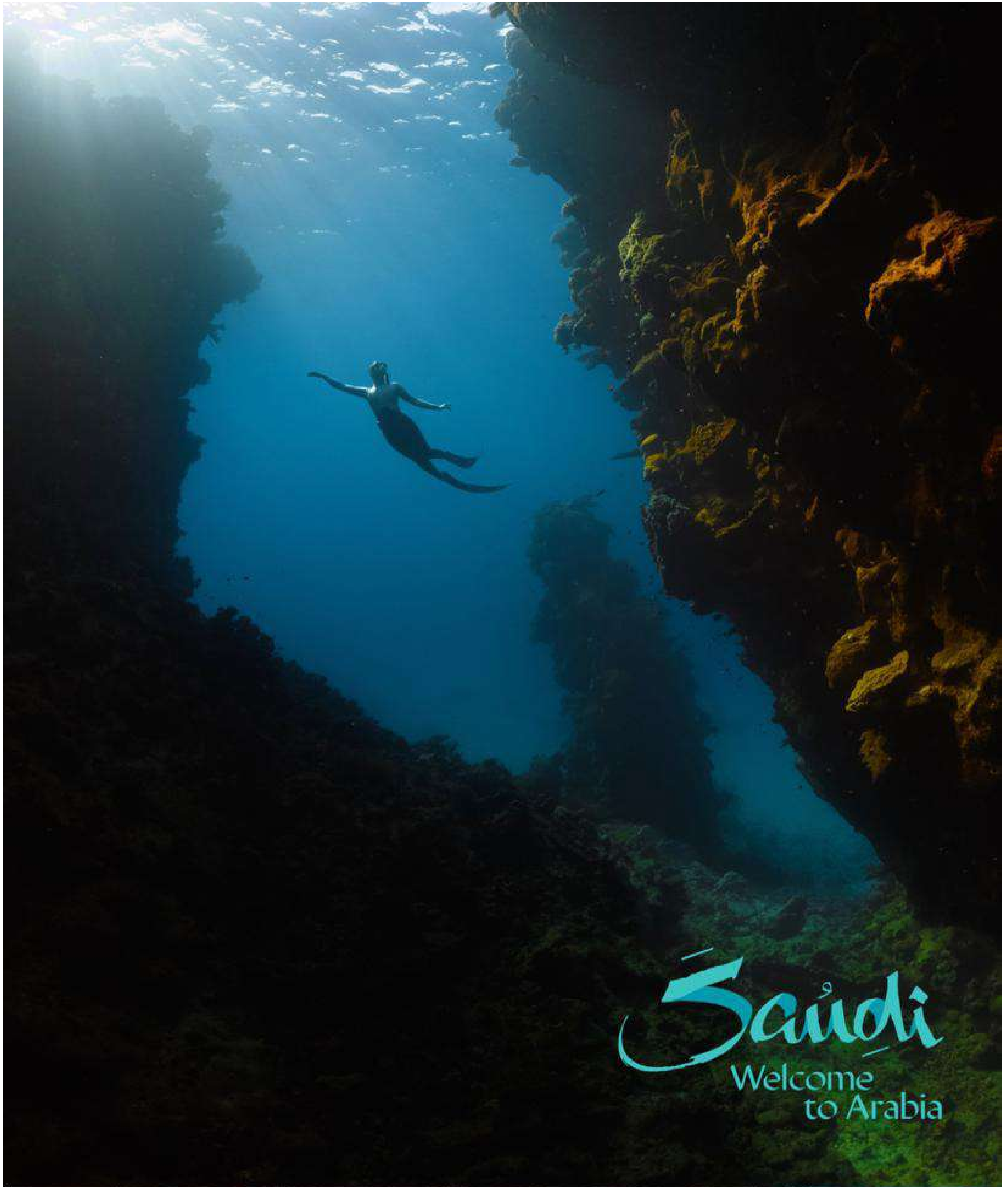
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GULF FAQs

How to extend Dubai tourist visa?

Can you explain the process to extend Dubai tourist visa?

Dubai is a prime destination for business and leisure, so it's no wonder that people from all around the world want to visit the city. Since Dubai has a lot to offer, guests often find themselves wanting to stay a little longer. If you're on a 30 or 60-day tourist visa, you can extend your stay within the country by another 30 days. You can renew your tourist visa through the following channels:

confirmation. ICP website

Register in the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship (ICP) website using your email address. Log in through your username. Click Public Visa Services. Click "Extension of Current Visa." Fill in the application data. Attach your passport. Pay the fee. Wait for SMS/email confirmation.

Amer Service Centre

Visit the nearest Customer Happiness Centre. Get the automated turn ticket and wait.

Extension of UAE visit or Tourist visa

Convert tourist, visit visa to work visa



GDFRA website

Register in the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDFRA) website using your email address. Log in through your username. Click New Application. Click For Myself. Fill in the application data, where applicable. Attach your passport. Pay the service fee. The visa extension fee is Dh600, in addition to the five per cent value added tax.

GDFRA app

Sign up or log in to the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs Dubai (GDRFA) app. Go to the dashboard and open dependent visa details. Tap the "Renew Residence" icon. Fill up the details. Select delivery method. Attach your passport. Submit the fee. Wait for SMS/email

Submit the application that fulfills all conditions. Submit your passport and visa copy to the customer service employee. Pay the service fee

Amer website

Go to amer247.com Click "UAE tourist visa" in the top-right corner. You will be redirected to a new tab featuring 14 types of tourist visas varying based on the number of days, validity and prices. Select the most relevant one for you and click "Apply Now". Pay the fee. Proceed to the completion of the process. While the visa extension fee is Dh600 plus five per cent tax, it is worth noting that the total amount of the visa fee may vary depending on your circumstances. Once you're done with the process, you can expect a result of your request for visa extension in 48 hours or less.

Missing partner, how to close company?

We are four partners in a private limited liability company. A year ago, one of the partners left the country and we do not know his address. Currently the company is experiencing losses and we all agreed to close the company, but we were not able to due to the absence of the fourth partner. My question is: What is the appropriate procedure to take to close the company in the absence of the fourth partner?

The partners holding one quarter of the capital may request the court to dissolve the company if the losses of a Limited Liability Company reach three quarters according to Article 308 of the Companies Law no. 32/2021. The partners holding the same majority prescribed for amending the Memorandum of Association may decide to dissolve the company through a decision made by the general assembly if the losses reach half of the capital. In this

Budget to boost jobs

NEW DELHI: Staying on the path of fiscal consolidation and extending the production-linked incentive scheme to small and medium enterprises, as well as labour-intensive sectors to create jobs and boost consumption, were key suggestions discussed in Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's meeting with economists.

The government had set the 2024-25 (FY25) fiscal deficit target at 5.1pc or Rs 16.85 trillion of gross domestic product, and revised the 2023-24 (FY24) target to 5.8pc from the earlier projection of 5.9pc. The fiscal deficit narrowed further to 5.6pc in FY24.

Economists emphasised that the budget needs to focus on job creation and include policies directed

towards generating more employment in the economy during the meeting. "It was a free-flowing conversation about the priorities of the budget. We raised issues about how to sustain the growth momentum and capital expenditure (capex). Job creation should be the priority of the Budget," said Nagesh Kumar, director of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development.

Additionally, the economists discussed measures for capacity-driven growth that should be sustainable and the need to push private sector investment and consumption to sustain the growth momentum. One suggestion was to create a capex fund using part of RBI's dividend and keep disinvestment out of the budget

case, the managers shall refer the dissolution matter to the general assembly of the partners.

The partners may decide to liquidate the company and nominate the liquidator through a decision made by the general assembly following the methods of liquidation agreed upon in the Memorandum of Association or Statute of the Company. If such a method is not provided, then the provisions of the companies Decree-Law shall apply to the liquidation of the Company.

Article 678 of Civil Transaction law gave the right to any person having an interest to apply to the court to liquidate the company. It states: "The assets of a company shall be liquidated and distributed in such manner as the partners agree, and if they do not agree, it shall be permissible for any person having an interest to apply to the court for an order appointing one or more liquidators to carry out the liquidation and distribution".

Salary withheld for three months, what to do?

I have been working in a private company for two years. Two months ago, my employer suspended me from work for no reason and without any investigation – just false allegations – and my salary has been suspended for three months. My question is: Do I have the legal right to resign and work for a new employer? When does an employer have the right to suspend a worker from work and how long is the suspension period?

It is better if you file a complaint with the Labour Office instead of resigning, because the employer violated the Labour Law by suspending you from work without investigation and without giving you any salary for several months. The Labour Law prescribes three types of suspension from work the employer may impose to an employee.

The first one is stated in Article 39 of the Labour Law, which covers a period not exceeding 14 days and non-payment of wage for the suspension days, which is a kind of penalty to the employee when he violates the provisions of this Decree-Law, its Implementing Regulation and resolutions issued for its implementation.

The other two temporarily suspensions are mentioned in Article 40 of the same law, where the employer may suspend the worker temporarily from work for a period not exceeding 30 days, in order to conduct a disciplinary investigation with him, if the investigation interest so requires, along with suspending half the wage during the suspension period.

If the investigation concluded keeping the case, non-violation or punishment of the worker by warning, the worker shall be paid the wage that was suspended during the suspension period. The employer may also temporarily suspend the worker from work when he is accused of committing a crime of assault on oneself, money or crimes related to breach of honour or trust, until a final judgment is issued by the competent judicial authority.

His wage shall be suspended for the suspension period. If a judgment is issued for not putting the worker into trial, he was acquitted for absence of felony or the investigation concluded keeping the case due to lack of evidence, he shall be returned to work, along with paying his full suspended wage.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCES / INTERVIEWS

Although the technology of virtual conferencing has been around for more than a decade, it got an identity of its own during the Covid-19 pandemic times. The popularity of live streaming and virtual events has grown exponentially during the pandemic. Although live events have returned post-pandemic, virtual conferences and virtual interviews remain a part of our lives. Although virtual events are different from physical events, they bring the interactions of the physical format into the virtual landscape. These platforms have come with different features that allow people to gather for a specific purpose remotely over the internet. Pandemic has actually turned physical events into virtual events. It became the moments that brought people together online for the first time. We have all seen how the pandemic changed plans. Finding alternative routes when calculations go wrong has led to the adoption of virtual as an alternative route. Virtual conferences and interviews have now gained more importance in the field of Overseas Manpower Recruitment than they did during the covid-19 pandemic.

What is a virtual conference platform?

A virtual conference platform is a technology used to host and promote a virtual event. It is a platform where anyone can access or participate or watch an event from their computer or mobile anywhere in the world with internet accessibility. From registering guests to creating networking spaces, virtual conference platforms offer comprehensive setup for events. The online event platform required depends on the scope and size of the event to be held. Events vary in size, from small, with few attendees, to groups of 1,000 people or more.

Online experiences are available on virtual event platforms that present the same active and engaging feeling that physical events provide. Virtual



By Sajan MS

event platforms provide a way for people to have a live virtual experience from the comfort of their own home. The popularity of live streaming and virtual events has grown exponentially during the pandemic. During this period, online events using virtual event platforms shared experiences, ideas, celebrations and joys among global audiences.

Best Virtual Event Platforms of 2024 for Digital Engagement

- **ZOOM**- This virtual event platform works well for small teams but also features robust tools for connecting larger crowds. Each event can host up to 100 speakers and 10,000 view-only attendees. With enhanced security, password-protected rooms, and the ability to record and collaborate through whiteboards, Zoom is a business event planner's dream. Free for up to 100 participants, with fees based on event size and features

- **M I C R O S O F T TEAMS**-Another top business solution, Microsoft Teams offers instant connections between small teams along with the potential to host large, global conferences.

- **HOPIN**-The HOPKIN platform is designed solely for virtual events, which is why it's designed to look and feel like a traditional, in-person conference. With features like roundtables, breakout sessions and networking, it is a great choice for those who want a simple, streamlined approach. HOPKIN is a good option that has tools for hybrid and in-person events.

- **BIG MARKER**-With a custom expo hall, virtual lobby, and custom touch points at every part of the event cycle, this is a powerful virtual party platform if you want to personalise every detail of your event.

- **EVENTZILLA**-If looking for a cost-per-par-

ticipant model, consider **EVENTZILLA**. It comes with its own mobile app solution for attendees and pairs with video streaming partners like **GOTOWEBINAR** and **Zoom**. Schedule and automate almost any part of the event lifecycle and customise the experience for each attendee type. The self-service functionality is especially innovative, giving attendees control over refunds, cancellations and registration records. Drag-and-drop design tools will help the event landing pages and promotions stand out – no design experience necessary.

- **VFAIRS**-Mid-sized businesses and colleges will get the most out of the **VFAIRS** platform, which is designed for job fairs, trade shows, and large online conferences. While it doesn't have a mobile app, it is mobile-compliant and boasts just about every other perk, including a fully immersive 3D environment. From exhibitor booths to green rooms, it has the toolkit to recreate the most imaginative conference experience as a real-time digital event.

- **C L I C K M E E T - I N G - C L I C K M E E T I N G** is designed for both live video and pre-recorded events, and it can host up to 1,000 people and six panelists. Even better, this virtual conference software integrates seamlessly with dozens of apps. It works especially well with YouTube Live and Facebook Live, allows combining favorite social marketing methods for maximum effect. Also able to access features like white boarding, file sharing, participation certificates, polls, and surveys.

- **CVENT**-Previously well-known for managing face-to-face events and connecting event planners to vendors and hospitality brands, **CVENT** now offers end-to-end planning, hosting, and event management for every type of experience.

- **CONVENE STUDIO**-Convene Studio may be the best option for like other platforms on our list, this company shifted to hosting virtual events, and it can cover all the bases from filming to website creation to promotion. Convene Studio is an A-list approach to conferences, one that only those with the budget and concern for image will consider.

- **ON24**-On24 is familiar for its sales pitch platform and has expanded into the virtual conference and trade show space. On24 creates a virtual conference experience like no other.

- **MIGHTY NETWORKS**-This platform serves to continue those participant relationships through services and tools designed to encourage collaboration before, during, and after the conference. Mighty Networks is a particularly savvy choice for those interested in building a community and it helps you to grow and monetise your event at the same time.

- **INTRADO**-With three levels of functionality to consider, **INTRADO** is a big brand offering that can customize budget. It focuses on big events, expos and tradeshow and it can create 2D or 3D worlds for the attendees to enjoy.

- **HUBILO-HUBILO** is known for its webinar technology, providing an enhanced experience to its users on different scales. ***Google Meet**-Google Meet is one of the best virtual event platforms that provide a secure system for conducting video calls and important meetings. It offers multiple assisting features, including live streaming, video recording, and noise cancellation during meetings.***WebEx Events**-Formerly known as **Socio**, **WebEx Events** is an event management virtual platform for progressive virtual events. This virtual event platform provides complete end-to-end event management for crafting an event that is customised to perfection.

- **BIG MARKER - BIG-MARKER** provides a user-friendly webinar experience with its impactful virtual event setting system. Consequently, this best virtual event platform allows complete user interface customisation to enhance the live interaction experience.

• **ACCELEVENTS**- **ACCELEVENTS** is specifically known for offering event management functions to improve results. It comes with the option of building advanced registration flows along with personalized branding.

- **Orbits**-This platform allows large-scale events to be conducted with the ability to create virtual workspaces.

- **GATHERLY** • **EVENTSAIR** • **BIZZABO** • **WEVE** • **HUBB** • **EVENTTIA** • **HEY-SUMMIT** • **EVENTMOBI** • **WHOVA** • **PHEEDLOOP** • **GOLDCAST** • **AIRMEET** • **SPOTME** • **REMO** (Source: HP.Com & People Managing People)

We believe that virtual events are here to stay!!

It is important to have a clear purpose or topic for the virtual conference and virtual interview. In the case of a virtual conference, it should make the participants tune in and in the case of a virtual interview, the participants should be shortlisted and highly interested. A motivational topic is the glue that unites and connects participants in a virtual conference. When everyone is excited about a message or a topic, they are more likely to be engaged and interested in interacting with new people.

Pandemic or not, event industry insiders point out that virtual events will remain part of the world order for a number of reasons. It is on the rise even after the Pandemic. The benefits of virtual events range from lower overall costs for everyone involved to easier networking for attendees. This expanded reach of virtual event platforms, which remove geographical barriers and allow event possibilities to be seen from anywhere in the world, is one of the reasons we believe that virtual events are here to stay. **(To Be Continued)**