



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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IPEPCIL bids farewell to PGE Brahma Kumar



A delegation of Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) led by its president VS Abdulkareem met outgoing Protector General of Emigrants (PGE, Jt Secretary OE/MEA) Brahma Kumar (IFS) in New Delhi and thanked him for all the help and guidance given to the licensed overseas recruiting community during his tenure. On behalf of the IPEPCIL, Abdulkareem wished Brahma Kumar all the very best in his future assignments.

Praising the professional leadership and great vision exhibited by Brahma Kumar, Abdulkareem recalled that it was a great inspiration and privilege to work alongside with the PGE on behalf of the HR recruitment fraternity. Bidding farewell to Brahma Kumar, the IPEPCIL president lauded the high standard of public service provided by the PGE and said that Brahma Kumar's presence will be missed by all. IPEPCIL delegation praised the positive changes and the safety measures to protect the job aspirants brought by the outgoing PGE in the recruitment process.



A delegation of IPEPCIL members, headed by its president VS Abdulkareem, had a meeting with Shri Muktesh K Pardeshi, Secretary, MEA (CPV-OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, in New Delhi and discussed various problems faced by licensed HR for overseas placement services.

IPEPCIL seeks industry/export status for HR overseas placement services

Placements of human resources abroad should be considered as "Export of Services" and indeed recognised as a significant contributor towards the national exchequer based on the substantial volume of inward remittance which is over US\$106 billion now and also multiple benefits enjoyed by the

country in various verticals, especially to ease out un-employment and upskilling of our expatriate workforce.

Many countries recognise the importance of Service Exports due to their substantial inward remittance and their role in creating jobs and promoting economic growth, some countries explicitly recognise the export of services as a critical sector and provide various incentives, such as tax benefits, subsidies and relaxed regulations to support and promote the sector. Industry status or export status can enhance the sector's visibility and credibility both domestically and internationally, emphasised. VS Abdulkareem, president, Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL), during the meeting with the Hon'ble Secretary Shri Muktesh K. Pardeshi, (CPV-OIA), Ministry of External Affairs.

Despite its importance, the govt. approved overseas recruitment agencies in service export sector face lot of challenges to carry out the business which is well explained and submitted comprehensive report to the Secretary Shri Muktesh K Pardeshi (CPV-OIA), ministry of external affairs during the interactive session with IPEPCIL delegates, said Abdulkareem.

IPEPCIL delegates emphasized that:

- All the Overseas recruitment should be routed through the MEA approved HRA's only to have accountability, safety and security of the mobility of emigrants
- MEA approved HRA's Representation also to be a part of G2G Agreements and MOUs signing process with the overseas countries intent to seek Indian HR.
- MEA approved HRA Agencies also should be at par with state government owned HR agencies. Discrimination among the Overseas HRAs should be eliminated.
- IPEPCIL sought diplomatic intervention to review and open the pre-medical check among the approved panel doctors of GCC to avoid harassments and hardships faced by the intended emigrants proceeding to GCC.
- IPEPCIL urged to role-back the country specific order for the recruitment of nurses and retain the ECNR status for the nurses placements abroad as before. HRAs' liabilities should be fixed within three months very reasonably as a facilitator. unlimited liabilities on HRAs will deprive and decrease the spirit of promotional activities, emphasised the IPEPCIL delegation.

NO NEED FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS Abu Dhabi launches smart air travel

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Airports has launched e-gates and boarding gates,



the Biometric Smart Travel project which will offer automated traveller registration service, self-service baggage delivery and facial

doing away with the need for travel documents or direct interaction with airport staff for passengers. The project will be rolled

country by organising and governing health insurance procedures for tourist visas, thus enhancing the country's global competitiveness in residency and travel indicators," the ICP said. The project was approved as one of the transformational projects for

the second cycle 2023-2024, within the performance agreements that were cleared by the PM's Office. Transformative projects are considered a qualitative initiative that moves the country towards the future and enhances its competi-

out in three phases to integrate biometric authentication systems across all security and operations touch points at the airport. The project utilises the databases of the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security to automatically authenticate travellers using biometric technology, eliminating the need for prior registration for departing passengers.

Abu Dhabi Airports and Etihad Airways implement-

(Cont. on page-2)

New health insurance project for UAE tourist visas announced

the second cycle 2023-2024, within the performance agreements that were cleared by the PM's Office. Transformative projects are considered a qualitative initiative that moves the country towards the future and enhances its competi-

(Cont. on page-2)



Budget ignores NRIs

It's natural for every section of society to expect some benefits/reliefs from the Union budget. Since the budget is a great annual exercise of financial allocations, everybody whether it business class or farmers anticipates some doles. Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are no different and many of their demands are not fulfilled for years now. Not only that the 2024 budget of Nirmala Sitharaman did not give any relief to NRIs, what's even worse is that the budget proposes a higher TDS on certain capital gains for NRIs on assets such as listed equities. It's like insult on injury.

Currently all the income generated in India by the NRIs are subject to highest rate of tax or rate specified in Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with respective countries. Through the DTAA, NRIs can avoid the duplicity of tax implications. India has a complex system for the realisation of the taxes paid by the NRIs in both the countries, i.e., India and the countries they are residing in. For example, rent payments are subject to 30pc TDS. Also, when an NRI sells a property, the buyer is required for TDS be deducted at 20pc on the sale amount, even if there is a loss incurred by the non-resident on the property. This brings no incentive for the NRIs to buy or maintain a property in India. This point was totally missed in the 2024 budget.

The finance minister announced income tax relief for the middle class, a Rs 2 lakh-crore outlay for job creation schemes over the next five years and a spending splurge for states run by her party's new coalition partners as she unveiled her seventh budget in a row. Nobody questions the government's move to provide more jobs. In fact, that's the need of the hour. Even more welcome is Nirmala's provision of Rs 2.66 lakh-crore for rural development and spending on long-term infrastructure projects at Rs 11.11-lakh-crore to boost economic growth. In a right move, she abolished "angel tax" for all classes of investors in startups, cut customs duty on mobile phones and gold and simplified capital gains tax. The finance minister, however, raised the securities transaction tax (STT) on futures and options of securities, which led to tanking of stock markets.

"India's economic growth continues to be the shining exception (in a world that is gripped by policy uncertainties) and will remain so in the years ahead," she said. "In this budget, we particularly focus on employment, skilling, MSMEs and the middle class." Besides Rs 2-lakh-crore provided over a five year period for schemes and initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth, I have made a provision of Rs 1.48 -lakh- crore for education, employment and skilling," she said.

In a bid to provide surplus at the hands of the middle class, Nirmala announced an increase in the standard deduction to Rs 75,000 from Rs 50,000 and also tweaked the tax slabs under the simplified New Tax Regime (NTR) marginally. These decisions will provide a tax benefit of up to Rs 17,500 per year to individual taxpayers under the NTR. The benefits should have been broad based and inclusive, but NRIs are totally left out.

LIPSYNCH

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light."

— Aristotle

AC technicians in high demand in Oman

MUSCAT: With temperatures soaring and summer at its peak, air conditioner and cooler dealers are experiencing a surge in sales. However, there is another group that is in high demand but scarce during this time.

Air conditioner technicians are sought after for repairing and servicing old units, working around the clock but struggling to reach their customers on time. Ironically, they are the only ones who thrive during

the scorching months and struggle when winter arrives.

"This is our season,



where we depend on servicing and repairing air conditioners. It's the only time we can make good money," said Sha-beer Khan, a Pakistani national who has been in the business with his four brothers for two decades.

Mainly staffed by South Asian nationals with expertise in servicing window units, split air conditioners, and central cooling systems, this sector has a large expatriate workforce that lacks skilled workers during the summer peak, causing delays in repairs.

"In the capital area alone, there are hundreds of air conditioner mechanics serving both locals and expatriates. We work from 5 am to midnight, trying to meet every customer's needs," added Islamudheen, a Bangladeshi citizen specialising in split air conditioners.

To meet demand, many servicemen hire additional technicians during the summer, who may be let go once the season ends. Business fluctuates during other months, making their future uncertain.

"Servicing a window unit earns me RO 5, adding gas is another RO3, while servicing a split unit can bring in RO12, or RO15 with gas. My team can handle six to seven clients a day," explained Islamudheen.

New health insurance....

(Cont. from page-1)

tiveness, and is expected to have a significant impact in all sectors within short periods of time.

Maj Genl Suhail Saeed Al Khaili, Director General of the authority, said in a media statement: "The project includes working on issuing health insurance for tourist visas through the electronic platform at the state level in order to facilitate the process of issuing health insurance while applying for tourist visas through the services system."

He added that the adoption of the transformational project is in line with "We Are the Emirates 2031" vision, by contributing to the efforts and initiatives of building the most active and competitive economy in the world.

He said: "The imple-

mentation of the project aims to achieve the authority's priorities and objectives which are to support the tourism sector in the UAE by encouraging visitors wishing to visit the country from all over the world and providing them with health insurance in emergency cases."

Al Khaili said it would also support the health sector in the country by increasing the operating rates of health facilities and increasing operating returns, in addition to governing and facilitating the procedures for issuing health insurance for tourist visas to customers, and automating the health insurance processes for visas through the electronic platform which manages the process of pricing.

Abu Dhabi launches smart air....

(Cont. from page-1)

ed the biometric systems across multiple touchpoints at the airport as part of the launch of the new terminal at Zayed International Airport in November 2023. This included automated traveller registration service, self-service baggage delivery and facial recognition verification at e-gates and boarding gates, without the need for travel documents or direct interaction with airport staff.

Abu Dhabi Airports has begun implementing a further phase of this project by introducing biometric systems for five additional airlines at check-in, all

boarding gates and the installation of new e-gates in designated transit areas to register travellers' biometric data and facilitate facial recognition. The future expansion also includes the Etihad Airways lounge and duty-free retail outlets. "By 2025, we aim to expand these systems across all security and operations touchpoints and other airlines," said Andrew Murphy, chief information officer at Zayed International Airport.

"The Biometric Smart Travel project aims to enhance the travel experience at Zayed International Airport, ensuring high levels of security and safety. The

project reduces the time to serve travellers from 25 seconds to just seven seconds, integrating ticket and travel document verification into a single process and alleviating the burden on human resources by relying on smart gates for identity verification," said Saeed Saif Al Khaili, general director at the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security.

The Biometric Smart Travel project will enhance airline performance by eliminating the need for expensive infrastructure expansions and effectively detecting fraud and forgery in identification documents.

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Diploma / ITI in Electrical Engineering with with 1 to 3 years' experience in Assist in carrying and positioning electrical equipment and components, Clean up work areas and dispose of waste materials and Prepare work areas and materials for electricians. The applicants should have excellent Teamwork Skills, Basic Understanding of Electrical Concepts. Preferable Age: 20 to 25 years

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Australian Dollar	55.69	54.59
Japanese Yen	0.60	0.54
Canadian Dollar	61.47	60.38
Singapore Dollar	63.17	62.07
Swedish krona	8.75	6.96
UAE Dirham	23.35	22.64
Swiss Franc (CHF)	95.89	94.09
British Pound	108.77	107.70
New Zealand Dollar	50.53	49.03
Thai Baht	2.42	2.21
Hong Kong Dollar	11.68	10.37
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.03	22.08
Bahraini Dinar	228.11	214.11
Chinese Yuan	12.45	10.65
Danish Krone	12.66	11.66
Kuwaiti Dinar	280.28	264.28
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Over 23 lakh new workers enrolled under ESI

NEW DELHI: The provisional payroll data of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) reveals that 23.05 lakh new employees have been added in May 2024.

"A total of 20,110 new establishments have been brought under the social security ambit of the ESI Scheme in May, 2024 thus ensuring so-

cial security to more workers," an official release.

Further, the year-on-year analysis shows a growth of 14pc in net registrations compared with May2023.

Through the data, it is noticeable that out of the total 23.05 lakh employees added during the month, 11.15 lakh employees amounting

to around 48.37pc of the total registrations belong to the age group of up to 25 years. Also, the gender-wise analysis of the payroll data indicates that net enrolment of female members has been 4.47 lakh in May 2024. Besides, a total of 60 transgender employees have also got registered under the ESI Scheme in May.

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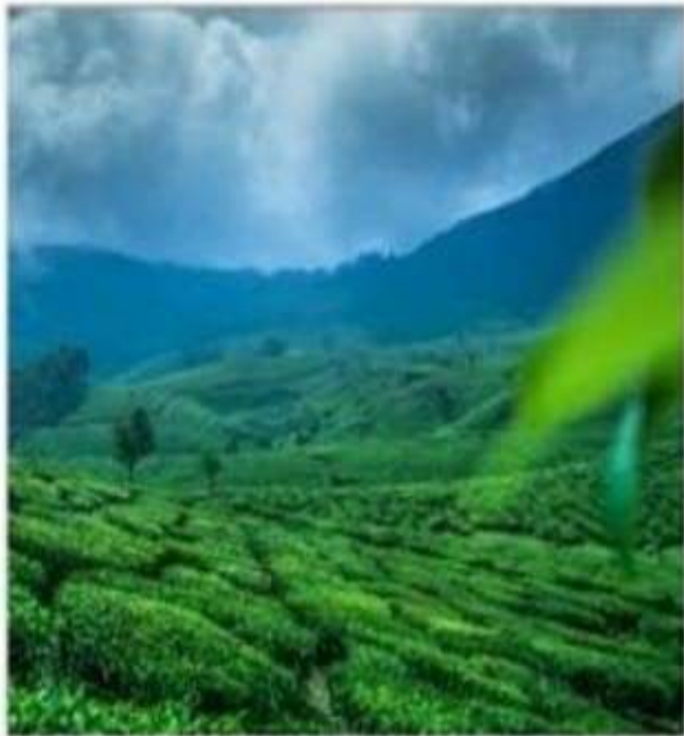
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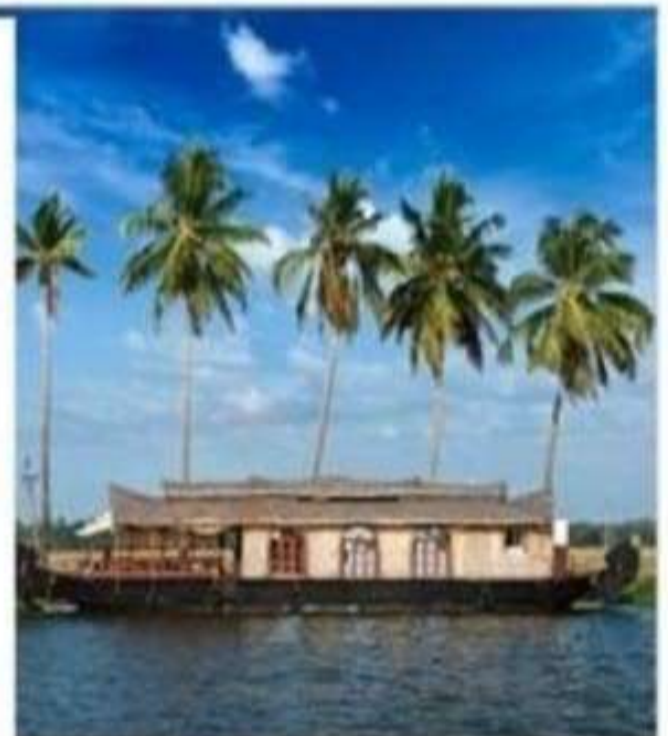
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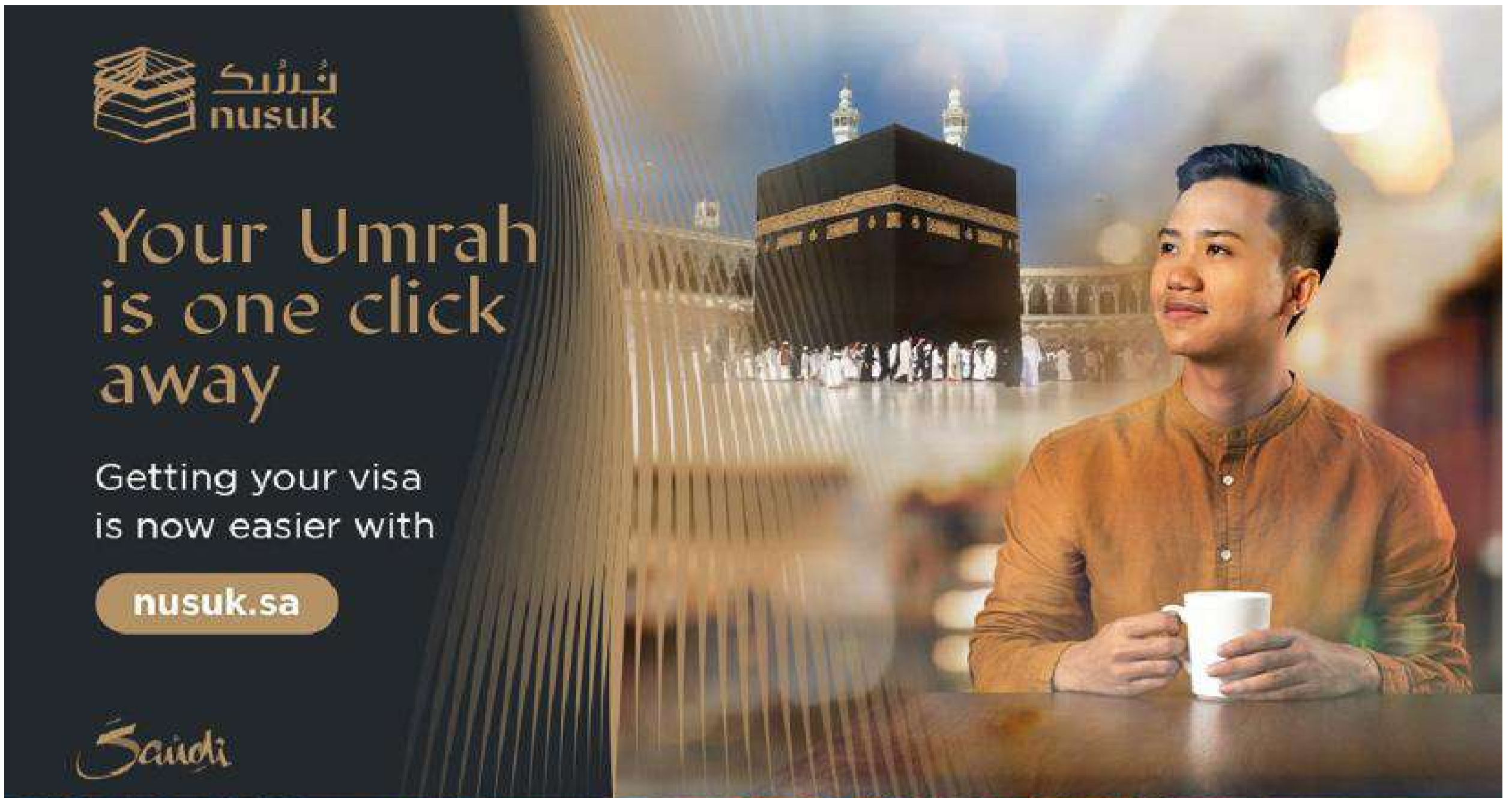


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GULF FAQs

How can non-Muslim expats draw up a will in Dubai?

I am a non-Muslim expat 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 fol-

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 "Regis-



lowing 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, wills, 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

ter 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.

Provisions

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:

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

Does working in branch office outside UAE impact my end-of-service, other benefits?

I have been working with a private company for four years. Six months ago, the company assigned me to work for a branch office outside the Emirates for two years. I was receiving my salary from the company outside the Emirates. A month ago, I returned to work for the company in the UAE. I submitted my resignation, but the employer tells me that I am not entitled to end-of-service allowance for the two years that I worked outside the Emirates. I also have late salaries for more than four months which I did not receive from the company outside the Emirates. My annual leave allowance for two years is also not used. What are my rights?

You have to file a complaint against your employer and try to prove that you are entitled to your rights, that the employment relationship is still continuous and your contract is extended from the date of the beginning of service. The Labour Cassation Court of Dubai No. 116/2017 has decided that the worker's uninterrupted service with the same employer or his legal successor is considered continuous from the date of the beginning of the service, even if there are multiple contracts for the periods of this service. The court will take the decision as per the documents and situation in hand.

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.

The fact that the employer did not report your absence from work and accepted your return without any objection plays a role in the proof. An assignment contract will be good proof if it existed.

Assigning a worker to other work is conditioned by Article 12 of Labour Law No. 33 of 2021 which states that it is not permissible to assign the worker a task that is fundamentally different from the work agreed upon in the employment contract, unless necessary, or with the aim of preventing the occurrence of an accident or repairing what resulted from such accident; provided that such assignment is temporary in accordance with what is specified by the Executive Regulation of this decree by law.

The employer may assign the worker in cases other than those referred to in Clause (1) of the article to perform a kind of work that is not agreed upon in the employment contract, provided that the worker agrees in writing. If performing the work that is not agreed upon in the employment contract requires that the worker changes his place of residence, the employer must bear all the financial costs resulting there from, including the costs of the worker's displacement and residence.

Oman reserves 30 new professions for locals Flight cancellation: Air India offers full fare refunds

MUSCAT: To provide more jobs for citizens in the private sector, the Ministry of Labour (MoL) has listed 30 new professions where hiring expats will be prohibited. In a post on social media platform X, MoL announced a series of decisions aimed at regulating the labour market in a way that enables Omanis to find jobs suitable for them. MoL, however, has not specified the professions to be Omanised.

The ministry said it will unveil details of these decisions before it comes into force in Sept. MoL said all units of the state's administrative apparatus and government companies should not deal with private sector establishments that do not adhere to the Omanisation targets. All private sector establishments must obtain a dig-

ital certificate from the MoL proving that they meet the work standards and requirements, including the Omanisation targets prescribed by the government.

All private sector establishments must employ at least one Omani in the professions. It also approved a financial package to raise the established Omanisation rates. MoL will review work permit fees to ensure that private sector establishments that are committed to Omanisation rates are incentivised and that fees are doubled for establishments that are not compliant. It will also intensify follow-up and inspection campaigns to ensure that private sector establishments adhere to the decisions regulating the labour market. The ministry called upon all companies to comply

with the decisions that serve the public interest. Last week, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MoTCIT) rolled out several initiatives to enhance Omanisation in transport, logistics, communications, and information technology sectors.

The ministry will allocate specific jobs exclusively to Omanis from 2025 until the end of 2027. For 2024, the targets are set at 20pc Omanisation in the transport and logistics sector and 31pc and information technology sector.

The initial Omanisation rates for the transport and logistics sector will range between 20 per cent and 50 per cent starting in 2025, with a gradual annual increase until reaching 100 per cent.

MUMBAI: "Heavy rains in Mumbai are affecting flight operations and resulting in the cancellation and diversion of some of our flights. Air India is offering full refunds or a one-time complimentary rescheduling for bookings confirmed for travel on July 25, 2024,"

fall. "Flights to and from Mumbai may be affected due to heavy rains. Guests are advised to start early for the airport, as slow traffic and waterlogging may delay movement," said the airline in a post earlier in the morning.

Earlier in the day, the



posted the airline on X.

The airline further said that passengers need to check their flight status before heading to the airport. Earlier in the day, the airline warned passengers about the potential disruption in flight operations as a result of the heavy rain-

Andheri Subway in Mumbai was closed for vehicular movement following waterlogging from the persistent rainfall. The downpours have brought back woes for Mumbai and the suburbs, with waterlogging reported from several low-lying areas in the city.

Air India Express launches flights from Abu Dhabi to Bengaluru

ABU DHABI: Air India's low-cost sister carrier (LCC) Air India Express announced it had expanded its flight network by launching flights connecting Bengaluru to the UAE's capital Abu Dhabi. The airline said that Bengaluru, India's IT capital, is the largest station for Air India Express with over 200 weekly flights.

With the addition of Bengaluru, the airline now operates direct flights to seven Indian destinations from Abu Dhabi: Kannur, Kochi, Kozhikode, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram and Tiruchirappalli. Additionally, it offers one-stop itineraries connecting 17 Indian cities to Abu Dhabi.

"With the launch of the Bengaluru-Abu Dhabi flight, guests from cities such as

Ayodhya, Bagdogra, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Goa, Guwahati, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkota, Lucknow, Pune, Ranchi, Varanasi and Visakhapatnam now have the op-



tion to connect conveniently to Abu Dhabi through one-stop itineraries via Bengaluru," said an airline spokesperson.

Air India Express operates from Dubai

to 12 cities in India, including Amritsar, Goa, Indore, Jaipur, Kannur, Kochi, Kozhikode, Lucknow, and Mangalore.

Following the Tata Group takeover, the airline underwent an image makeover last year. Unlike its sister concern, Air India, the budget carrier is more focused on operations in Tier 2 cities in the country. In an earlier interview with Gulf News, Alok Singh, Managing Director of the budget airline, reaffirmed the carrier's commitment to improving UAE-India connectivity as soon as it starts taking delivery of new aircraft.

"By Dec 2024, we would have 50 new planes, which would increase our total fleet size to 100 aircraft," Singh had said.

Portal glitches slow down tax filing

MUMBAI: With the deadline for Income Tax Returns (ITR) filing fast approaching on July 31, several taxpayers are facing hurdles in completing the process. A recent survey by LocalCircles revealed that a staggering 40pc of those yet to file their ITR for the financial year 2023-24 have cited difficulties with the income tax portal as the primary reason for the delay.

The survey, conducted among 18,139 respondents, delved into the specific challenges tax-

payers are encountering. While time constraints and document procurement were mentioned by a considerable portion of respondents, the inability to effectively navigate the tax portal emerged as the most significant obstacle. Issues such as system glitches, slow response times and data discrepancies have been reported by numerous taxpayers.

Taxpayers have been encountering issues like login failures, unresponsive pages, timeouts and problems reflecting pre-filled data and upload-

ing large files. Inconsistent calculations for capital gains and foreign income tax have also been reported, as well as instances where filings were not reflected in records after submission. With just a few days left to file income tax return (ITR) by July 31, taxpayers are worried and have been using social media to air their difficulties in filing the returns and have been urging the government to extend the deadline.

Several chartered accountant associations, in-

cluding the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Karnataka CA Association among other are reported to have formally written to the Income Tax Department about the various problems and sought an early resolution of the technical problems and extension of the deadline for filing the returns.

Seeking to know how individuals who must file ITR are faring, the survey asked them: "How are you positioned to be able to file your individual income tax returns for

FY 2023-24 by the current deadline of July 31, 2024?" Out of 19,865 who responded to the question 48pc stated that they had "done it already"; four per cent stated that they "have tried but had difficulty in filing. Will try again and file by July 31, 2024"; 16pc of respondents stated they "haven't done it yet but will comfortably do before July 31, 2024"; 18pc of respondents stated that they "haven't done and it will be significant effort doing it before July 31, 2024".