



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025 • VOL. NO. 2 • Issue • No. 8. DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 7 PAGES

Crackdown on illegal travel agents in Punjab, 271 registrations cancelled

CHANDIGARH: In a major crackdown on illegal travel agents in Punjab, the administration has now cancelled the registration of 271 such agents in Jalandhar. This comes in the wake of a recent deportation drive by the US under President Donald Trump's regime under which, three American military planes brought back hundreds of illegal Indian immigrants. All the planes landed at Amritsar International Airport, and the action by the US fuelled an

intense debate in India.

The government said there would be action against the travel agents who thug innocent people and sell them expensive American dreams by promising an easy life. However, these people are then taken to the US through illegal means on donkey routes.

Now, taking action against the agents, the administration has cancelled the registration of 271 travel agents in Jalandhar. The officials found, during verification, that these travel agents had not renewed

their licence, even after the same had expired. The action has been taken to curb human trafficking, a concern Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised during his recent visit to the US.

This comes after multiple reports said that Amritsar police took action and cancelled licence of nearly 40 travel agents. Three deportation flights from the US have landed in Amritsar so far, bringing back a total of 335 Indian nationals. These individuals, mostly from Asian nations like India, Iran,

Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and China, cannot leave the hotel while waiting for international authorities to arrange their return.

Many of the migrants were unwilling to go back to their home countries, with some displaying signs from their windows reading "Help" and "We are not safe in our country." The situation has sparked concern in Panama as images of detained migrants circulate.

The US, facing challenges in deporting people directly to certain

countries, is using Panama as a transit point. Panama has agreed to act as a "bridge" country under an agreement with the US, which covers all costs. Costa Rica is also expected to receive a similar group of deportees.

Meanwhile, the Jalandhar zonal office of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) too has started search operations against three immigration firms. The ED conducted raids at five business and residential premises. (Cont. on page-7)

UAE reduces working hours for pvt sector employees during Ramadan

DUBAI: March 1 will likely be the day when most Muslims around the world will start to observe fasting as Ramadan's crescent will easily be visible in the sky.

The UAE has announced reduced working hours for private sector employees during the month of Ramadan.

Working hours will be reduced by two hours across the UAE, as per the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE). Private sector companies may, in accordance with their interests and the nature of their work, apply flexible work patterns or remote work within the limits of the daily working hours specified during the month of Ramadan, the authority added.

Earlier, the Federal Authority for Government

Human Resources (Fahr) announced working hours for public sector employees. These will be from 9am to 2.30pm between Monday and Thursday, while on Fridays, work will commence from 9am to 12pm.

Saturday, March 1, will likely be the day when most Muslims around the world will start to observe fasting as Ramadan's crescent will easily be visible in the sky the night before, the UAE's International Astronomy Centre (IAC) said on Feb 13. Islamic months last either 29 or 30 days, depending on the sighting of the crescent. On the 29th day of Shaban (Feb 28), official moon-sighting committees will convene to determine when Ramadan will officially start. If sighted on this day, the holy month begins on the next day.

Now, Trump Gold Card to replace investor visas

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump has said that he plans to offer a "Gold Card" visa with a path to citizenship for

US\$5 million, replacing a 35-year-old visa for investors.

"They'll be wealthy and they'll be successful, and

they'll be spending a lot of money and paying a lot of taxes and employing a lot of people, and we think it's going to be extremely successful," Trump said in the Oval Office.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the "Trump Gold Card" would replace EB-5 visas in two weeks. EB-5s were created by Congress in 1990 to generate foreign investment and are available to people who spend about \$1 million on a company that employs at least 10 people.

Lutnick said the gold card — actually a green card or permanent legal residency — would raise the price of admission for investors and do away with fraud and "nonsense" that he said characterise the EB-5 programme. Like other green cards, it would

(Cont. on page-2)

IndiGo to launch Boeing 787-9 plane on Delhi-Bangkok route

NEW DELHI: IndiGo will start operating the leased wide-body Boeing 787-9 aircraft on the Delhi-Bangkok route starting March 1 and continue to explore opportunities to take more planes on lease for operations.

To meet the rising air traffic demand, the airline has inducted a Boeing 787-9 plane from Norse Atlantic temporarily ahead of taking deliveries of A321 XLRs, that have a longer range and A350s. IndiGo has embarked on an ambitious international expansion

plan and expects to induct A321 XLRs in the next financial year and the wide-body A350s in 2027.

The airline said it will operate daily flights with the Boeing 787-9 plane on the Delhi-Bangkok route from March 1 onwards. The aircraft will have 56 IndiGoStretch seats and 282 economy seats. "IndiGo will continue exploring opportunities to contract additional aircraft," the company said. Currently, the airline has a fleet of over 400 aircraft and operates around 2,200 daily flights.





Plummeting stocks

The steep fall (on a day-to-day basis) experienced by the Indian stock markets is alarming, to say the least. Despite the good show by the economy and encouraging performance by companies, stock prices are plummeting defying the thumb rule. The savings made by investors, particularly the middle class, have been completely wiped out by the present bear market--- and it seems that there is no end to it. And what's worse and shocking is that our government seems to be least bothered about the happenings on the Dalal Street.

The stock weakness is a sustained one. From the highs observed last year — on Sept 27, 2024, the BSE Sensex had touched 85,978 — it is down around 13 per cent. Since the beginning of this year, the Sensex is down about five per cent. While on Tuesday it was up marginally, most sectoral indices are in the red. The fall among the smaller firms is steeper — the BSE Midcap index is down almost 15pc since the beginning of the year, while the BSE Smallcap index has nosedived by around 19pc. After this correction, the Sensex is trading at a price to earnings ratio of 21.48.



Blaming the victory of Donald Trump for the stock market crash does not hold water any more. No doubt, Trump's tariff proposals, some of which have been kept on hold while others are already in effect, have soured investor sentiment initially. The threat of reciprocal tariffs weighs heavily on countries. But higher tariffs will be inflationary for the US itself. Inflation data released a few days ago has further complicated matters for the US FedReserve — in Jan, inflation rose to three per cent. Foreign investors have continued to be net sellers with reports suggesting increasing allocations towards China. Though stock market is a sensitive market, no development --- good or bad---will have its impact on the market for long time. Global headwinds continue to weigh on the domestic market, with persistent volatility causing uncertainty among retail investors, who generally have a lower risk appetite. Weak US consumer sentiment and tariff concerns may further pressure export-oriented sectors such as IT. Looking ahead, the pace of earnings downgrades is expected to ease, supported by increased government spending, lower interest rates and tax reductions. After withdrawing \$13.7 billion in Oct and Nov last year, net investments by foreign portfolio investors were \$12.8 billion in the first two months of the year (data up to Feb 25). The pressure on the rupee continues. On Tuesday, it fell by 51 paise, settling at 87.23 (provisional) as per reports d banking.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), whose chairperson is facing various allegations, should regulate the unabated flow of initial public offers (IPOs). The huge IPOs that flood market is literally wiping out the market dry and this added by the withdrawal of huge funds by foreign institutional investors have turned detrimental to the market. The flood of IPOs reminds one of the IPO rack of the 1980s when every issue used get oversubscribed. Where are these companies? Most of them went bankrupt and the promoters ran away with the public money. A similar situation now cannot be ruled out.

LIPSYNCH

“Be prepared to invest in a down market and get out in a soaring market.” — Warren Buffett.

Delhi airport tariff hike will not be more than two per cent

NEW DELHI: The proposed tariff hike at the Delhi airport will result in a 1.5 to two per cent increase in domestic airfares for passengers, according to a top official.

The Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), which is operating the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, has proposed different user fees for economy and business class passengers as well as for peak and off-peak hours.

The airport has an annual passenger handling capacity of around 109 million.

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipurjar said the Yield Per Passenger (YPP)

will rise to Rs 370 once the higher tariffs are approved from the current level of Rs 145.

YPP includes airline and passenger charges. The proposed increase is around 140pc compared with the level of 2006, when DIAL, a consortium led by the GMR Group, had taken over the airport.

“Out of Rs 370, as suggested by AERA, about 30pc should be towards airline charges and 70pc towards passenger charges... now, it is 68pc airline charges and 32pc passenger charges,” Jaipurjar said at a media briefing.

With the higher tar-

iffs, he said the maximum increase on average on domestic fares will be 1.5-two per cent and on international fares, it will be less than one per cent. Consultations are going on with respect to the tariff proposal submitted to the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA). The proposal is for the period April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2029.

Currently, the User Development Fee (UDF) is around Rs 77 per passenger.

Listing out the YPP at various airports, Jaipurjar said the amount is Rs 478 at Bangalore, Rs 533 at Chennai and Rs 637 at Kolkata.

Dubai launches ‘Salama’ AI platform to ease visa services

DUBAI: The General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) in Dubai has unveiled a groundbreaking new artificial intelligence platform, “Salama,” aimed at transforming the efficiency of government services.

The announcement took place at the Fourth Annual Media Council under the theme “Media Vision Shaping the Future.” The event was attended by Lt Gen Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of GDRFA Dubai, along with senior officials and media influencers.

The “Salama” platform is designed to simplify residency services, offering a quick and seamless way for users to manage residency tasks. Through the platform, users can complete transactions, make payments, and perform other residency-related actions without the need for traditional forms or paperwork. This innovative approach significantly enhances the service delivery of the GDRFA, supporting the UAE's Vision 2071 and Dubai's wider Digital

Transformation Strategy.

Lt Gen Al Marri highlighted the transformative power of digital technology in creating a future-ready Dubai. “Digital transformation is not just about building services; it's about redefining customer experiences, improving government perfor-

mance and fulfilling the visionary leadership's goal of providing more accessible, efficient services,” he remarked.

He also stressed that “Salama” is a testament to the GDRFA's commitment to leveraging advanced technologies to improve the quality of life in Dubai.

(Cont. on page-3)

Now, Trump Gold Card to replace...

(Cont. from page-1)

include a path to citizenship.

About 8,000 people obtained investor visas in the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 2022, according to the Homeland Security Department's most recent Yearbook of Immigration Statistics. The Congressional Research Service reported in 2021 that EB-5 visas pose risks of fraud, including verification that funds were obtained legally.

Investors' visas are common around the world. Henley & Partners, an advisory firm, says more than 100 countries around the world offer “golden visas” to wealthy individuals, including the US, UK, Spain, Greece, Malta, Aus-

tralia, Canada and Italy.

Trump made no mention of the requirements for job creation. And, while the number of EB-5 visas is capped, Trump mused that the federal government could sell 10 million “gold cards” to reduce the deficit. He said it “could be great, maybe it will be fantastic.”

“It's somewhat like a green card, but at a higher level of sophistication, it's a road to citizenship for people, and essentially people of wealth or people of great talent, where people of wealth pay for those people of talent to get in, meaning companies will pay for people to get in and to have long, long term status in the country,” he said.

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF DIGITALISED ADVERTISEMENTS WITH ONE E-NEWSPAPER

CLICK ON THE LINK / WEBSITE BELOW THE REQUIREMENT ADVT TO CONNECT WITH THE RECRUITMENT AGENCY

REQUIRED FOR A GROUP OF CO. IN QATAR
FINAL INTERVIEW WITH CLIENT ON 5TH & 6TH MARCH 2025

- MAINTENANCE MANAGER (Exp. in Food Processing)
- QC SUPERVISOR (Exp. in Blow Film & Stretch Film)
- QC SUPERVISOR (Exp. in Thermoforming, Molding of Injection & Blow, Pet bottles)
- MOLD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS
- BLOW FILM MACHINE OPTRS (Exp. in 3 Layers & Mono Layers)
- MACHINE OPERATORS (BAG CUTTING / FLEX PRINTING)
- THERMOFORMING MOLD SETTER / OPERATORS
- INJECTION MOLDING OPERATORS (Exp. in Mold Label)
- BOTTOMER OPERATORS (Exp. in Cement Bags)
- TUBER OPERATORS (Exp. in Cement Bags)
- FLEKO PRINTING OPERATORS (Exp. in Cement Bags)

REQUIRED FOR A GROUP OF CO. IN KSA

- HVAC SALES ENG. • QC ENG. (API 510/653/570/580)
- QC WELDING INSPECTOR (CSWP 3.1)
- HYDRAULIC MECHANICS (Exp. in Mobile Cranes)
- AUTO ELECTRICIANS (Exp. in Mobile Cranes/Tower Cranes)
- AC MECHANICS (Exp. in Heavy Exp. Vehicles)
- MOBILE CRANE OPERATORS

REQUIRED FOR A GROUP OF CO. IN AFRICA

- HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS

Salary USD 1000 - 1200 + Free Food + Accommodation

REQUIRED FOR A GROUP OF CO. IN DUBAI

- SALES EXECUTIVES (Exp. in Oil & Gas) Salary Negotiable

Please contact for More Information :
+91 86574 67364 in what's app or
@ 022 40111384 / 022 67551411 / +91 86574 67364
Send your Documents to :
+91 86574 67364 in what's app or
hd@backerassociates.com • info@backerassociates.com

BACKER ASSOCIATES
HUMAN RESOURCE SOLUTIONS WORLDWIDE
3-B, Bezzola Commercial Complex, Gr. Flr, Suman Nagar
Sion-Trombay Road, Chembur, Mumbai - 71
Phone: No. 022-40111384/022-67551411

<https://backerassociates.com/>

UAE

A Lift Erection Company requires the following personnel immediately

LIFT ERECTION TECHNICIANS (40 Nos)

The candidate should be ITI (Mech or Electrical) / Diploma in Lift Engineering with more than 5 years on job erection experience in India or Abroad. He should have participated in the team work and installations of the elevator.

Salary Range AED 2500 to AED 2700 (Basic)

LIFT ERECTION ASSISTANT TECHNICIANS (20 Nos)

The candidate should be Diploma in Lift Engineering / ITI (Mech or Electrical) / SSC passed with 2 years to 4 years on job erection experience in India or Abroad. He should have participated in the team work and installations of the elevator.

Salary Range AED 1700 to AED 2400 (Basic)

Interested candidates must submit the updated CVs, Copies of Education and Experience Certificates, Passport and photograph at the earliest on

Email ID: gulfjobs.creative786@gmail.com

Accommodation, Transportation, Uniform, Medical & Insurance Benefits, Applicable Overtime, 42 days paid leave in 24 months employment cycle with renewable employment contract and return ticket in every 2 years will be provided by the company as per UAE Labour Laws

Approved By
Creative Enterprises Ministry Of External Affairs
ESTD. - 1979 Government Of India

License No: B - 0367 / MUM / PER / 1000+ / 3 / 570 / 1984

82 / 10, Badrikeshwar Bldg, Gr Flr, Patan Jain Mandal Marg, Marine Drive, Mumbai-2
Tel No: 022 - 2281 4421, Mobs: 8356073917 / 7506692237 / 8104132329

www.creative-india.com

flyCreative Online LIMITED **4N | 5D**

1N BANGALORE - 1N MYSORE - 2N COORG





Karnataka
₹ 18900/- PP

- Golden Metro Or Similar
- Sandesh the prince Or Similar
- Club Mahindra Or Similar

Accommodation

Meals

Hotel Taxes

Private Cab

CONTACT : 8828800804 | 9152110170 | 9207740605 | 8828800805
022-22077955/56/57 | SOUTH@FLYCREATIVE.IN | WWW.FLYCREATIVE.IN
WWW.FLYCREATIVEGLOBAL.COM

www.flycreative.in

"To make your dreams into a reality."

Become a 'ONE' family member today!

one YouTube Channel

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

<https://youtube.com/shorts/kYRoQH0eM?feature=share>

one Instagram

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

<https://www.instagram.com/oneoverseasne/Instagram>

one facebook

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555732380298>

one x.com

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW

<https://x.com/Mediaovers16859>

FOREX RATES
As on 27th February, 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	87.78	86.92
British Pound	111.27	110.08
Euro	92.39	90.70
Japanese Yen	0.60	0.58
Swiss Franc (CHF)	98.38	96.55
Canadian Dollar	61.45	60.26
Australian Dollar	55.60	54.56
Norwegian Krone	7.90	7.75
Swedish Krona	8.27	8.11
New Zealand Dollar	50.12	49.26
Hong Kong Dollar	11.34	11.13
Kuwaiti Dinar	285.64	277.45
Singapore Dollar	65.81	64.54
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.52	23.08
United Arab Emirates	24.01	23.55

one OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT
PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Providing information about overseas projects and job opportunities for job seekers.



8828737706 / 8828656610 • prince@overseasne.com / media@overseasne.com • www.overseasne.com
GLOBAL REACH, INSTANT ACCESSIBILITY!

Overseas News And Employment (ONE) will be a reliable interface between job providers and job seekers.

Dubai launches 'Salama' AI...

(Cont. from page-1)

The platform's services are aimed at simplifying residency processes for individuals. Among its features, platform a highly efficient and user-friendly tool. They service will be extended for companies in future

Col Khalid bin Madia



"Salama" allows users to renew or cancel residency permits, receive quick responses to visa inquiries, and complete transactions without navigating multiple systems or visiting service centres. These enhancements make the

Al Falasi, Assistant Director General of the Digital Services Affairs Sector at GDRFA Dubai, shared further details on the platform's capabilities. "The launch of the "Salama" AI platform marks a major shift in how users en-

gage with government services," he stated.

"Using sophisticated algorithms, the platform tailors responses to individual needs, offering quick, accurate service. He told a TV channel that the new service is currently available for individuals, primarily to renew or cancel residency permits. In the next phase, it will be extended to include companies.

The service can be accessed via the smart channel and through UAE Pass. During the forum, the department demonstrated the transaction live, which was completed in just a few seconds. One applicant used the service to renew the residency permit for a family member.



Creative Group



flyCreative
Global Holidays



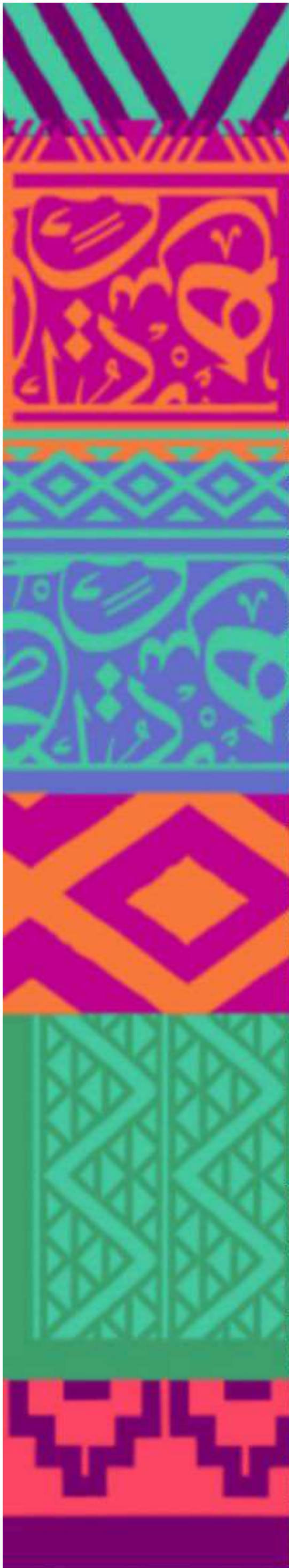
IATA
Accredited Agent

Incredible India

www.flycreativeglobal.com
Email : support@flycreative.in

(Cont. on page-2)

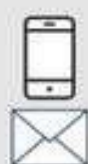
www.flycreative.in



Official travel partner
flyCreative
Global Holidays

Saudi
Welcome to Arabia

For booking & enquiries please visit www.flycreativeglobal.com



+91 22 22077955 +91 9892076453

tours@flycreative.in / henna@flycreative.in



"Plan a South India tour with us."

Fly Creative, a premier Destination Management Company (DMCC), operates throughout India, specializing in South India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh). With over 40 years of travel expertise, we offer bespoke experiences:

- Kerala
- Telengana
- Karnataka
- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh
- Lakshadweep

GULF FAQs

Do new marriage, divorce rules apply to both Emiratis, expats?

Do new marriage, divorce rules apply to both Emiratis, expatriates?

The new UAE Personal Status Law — which governs marriage, divorce, and

home country allows her to do so. Previously, the approval of a guardian was mandatory.

The law protects a woman's financial independence. If the spouses jointly own or rent a



custody matters among other aspects — applies to both Emiratis and Muslim expats residing in the UAE. The law does not apply to non-Muslims, unless they choose to. In matters regulated by the new legislation, expats have the option to apply the laws of their home countries. The new law marks major changes the UAE has made to its personal status laws. The country's courts are all set to implement the new rules from April 15.

The main purpose of the new law is to modernise the provisions of personal status, while remaining true to the country's core values, culture and heritage. The legislative policy takes into consideration the diversity of the country's community.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE KEY CHANGES:

Penalties have been toughened to protect the rights of all parties concerned. Fines of between Dh5,000 and Dh100,000 apply for certain offences. A non-Emirati Muslim woman can get married without a guardian, provided the law of her

house, neither of them may have anyone live with them except with the consent of the other party. If a woman is getting married for the first time and her groom is 30 years older, a court permit is required to ensure that she has agreed to the alliance. Husband has to document a divorce within 15 days, failing which the wife can file a case of compensation. Either spouse may seek divorce if the other is addicted to drugs.

Referring a case to the Family Guidance Centre is optional. Previously, this step was mandatory, extending the litigation process. In custody cases, the child's rights are paramount. The age of custody has been unified for males and females and raised to 18. Children aged 15 and above have been granted the right to choose which parent they want to live with.

Parents with custodial rights can travel with their children for up to 60 days in a year. DNA tests will be used to prove lineage. The new law penalises fraudulently seizing or squandering inheritance. It also penalises the abuse or neglect of parents.

New UAE personal status laws: Up to Dh1 lakh fines for unauthorised travel with minors

What are the new strict provision of the UAE personal status laws?

Under the new UAE personal status laws, violators could face fines of up to Dh1 lakh. The laws protect vulnerable groups and include penalties for custodians who travel with a child under their care without the consent of the child's guardian or the court. Additionally, the decree imposes fines on individuals who abuse, neglect, or refuse to care for their parents. According to the law these regulations will take effect on April 15 and are designed to safeguard both minors and elderly parents. Custodians who violate the travel provisions can face imprisonment and fines ranging from Dh5,000 to Dh1 lakh.

Furthermore, the legislation addresses financial misconduct, penalising those who embezzle, squander, or unlawfully manage the funds of minors. The law underscores the importance of familial duty; anyone who abuses, assaults, neglects, or refuses to care for a parent or who leaves them without care despite having the ability to provide it, faces the same penalties of imprisonment and fines between Dh5,000 and Dh1 lakh. Those who neglect to support their parents financially when required by a court ruling are also subject to these penalties.

The law also establishes serious repercussions for individuals who conceal, squander, destroy,

or fraudulently seize any part of an estate's property, regardless of whether they are an heir. Offenders may face imprisonment and fines ranging from Dh5,000 and Dh1 lakh or may incur either penalty. Other notable amendments include granting judges the discretion to expedite cases through family reconciliation centers and setting the legal age for marriage at 18. Additionally, the law emphasises the best interests of children, allowing them to choose which parent to live with upon reaching the age of 15.

The new law introduces several important revisions regarding marriage and custody provisions.

to marry a suitable partner of their choice, particularly if their guardian refuses to grant permission. This change also eliminates the need for a guardian's approval for Muslim residents women whose nationality does not require a guardian for marriage contracts.

To streamline the process for annulment lawsuits related to marriage contracts due to harm, the law reduces the arbitration period from 90 days to 60 days, after which a ruling will be issued. In terms of custody, the age at which custody terminates has been raised to 18 years for both boys and girls, unifying the previous



It clarifies the rules concerning the return of gifts and dowries if an engagement is broken. Returnable gifts include those that were conditional on the marriage being completed and any valuable gifts exceeding Dh25,000, provided they still exist. If such gifts are no longer available, their equivalent value or the amount at which they were received will be considered, except for consumable items.

Additionally, the decree-law facilitates the transfer of marriage guardianship to the court, allowing women the right

disparities where custody for boys ended at 11 and for girls at 13. Moreover, a new provision allows children in custody to choose which parent to live with upon reaching the age of 15. The law also re-evaluates the rights of non-Muslim mothers as custodians, granting courts the discretion to make custody decisions based on the best interests of the child, unlike the previous law which stipulated that a non-Muslim mother's custody ended when the child reached five years old.

Competition fierce in the UAE job market

ABU DHABI: Some industries seeing clearout of older middle management while younger tech savvy jobseekers see opportunities

Competition is fierce in the UAE job market following a massive influx of job-seekers – and legacy expats can no longer expect to draw the handsome salary packages they once did in 2025 and beyond, according to recruitment specialists.

In some industries, there is a clearout of older middle-earning, middle-management professionals. Younger, tech and AI-savvy jobseekers may find they are well-placed as candidates in sectors preparing for dramatic change. These were among the key findings

of The National's 2025 salary guide, which provides a snapshot of the state of the jobs market



WORLD'S TOP 10 MOST COMPETITIVE JOB MARKETS

and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

“Salaries in the UAE for certain roles have reduced. It was inevitable though, with the UAE continuing to be featured in so many ‘best places

to live’, ‘safest places to live’ and ‘best places for expat lifestyle’ lists,” says Thanj Kunganan-



than, partner at recruitment consultancy Visible HR.

“Competition is fierce, everyone wants to move here and many legacy expats on those previous gold-plated packages

only have three options: stay in current company until retirement, take a pay cut in your next role or leave the UAE,” she says.

The workers being replaced most are long-term expats in non-technical, management roles in the Dh40,000 to Dh60,000 (\$10,890-\$16,337) monthly salary band.

“These ‘cheaper’ replacements are not poorer quality, they are just willing to accept less because their only compari-

son is their home country salaries and not legacy packages from the good old days. It's a tough pill to swallow though,” Kunganathan says.

Meanwhile, C-suite roles are unaffected and can still demand a premium, she adds.

Salaries in the UAE are expected to remain stable this year, with no average increase expected, influenced by significant population growth despite a thriving economy, recruitment specialists say. However, candidates with extensive UAE experience and specialised skills in investment banking, artificial intelligence, data, renewable energy and compliance have a good chance of a wage rise.

UAE shoppers investing in gold bars

DUBAI: More of UAE's jewellery buyers are getting convinced – that when gold prices are this high, there's value in gold bars. And coins too.

“UAE gold shoppers are ‘value investing’, because if they invest in

particularly sensitive about high gold prices plus the making charges. With gold bar purchases, they don't have to worry about that, nor do they pay for VAT.

In recent days, gold prices crossed \$2,950

is that they can always exchange it for jewellery purchases when needed.

“Even those shoppers who bought low-design necklaces and bangles are shifting to gold bars. Anything to beat making charges and VAT.”

Any sale of gold is good enough for retailers too, with bullion prices pushing on ever higher. The last few weeks have been particularly bruising for shoppers and retailers. Just trace the path of the UAE gold rate during this period: if a gram of 22K was Dh309.25 on January 27, it's now at Dh331.25.

“There are a lot of younger buyers choosing gold bars or coins and they want the physical gold rather than the ‘digital’ investments done through trading platforms,” said a retailer. “Some are even making monthly or quarterly purchases right through the phase when gold kept adding \$100 an ounce.”



a bar, they feel it offers them the best storage for value under current prices,” said a jewellery retailer. “We have seen a lot of that happening in recent days, and even lots of instances, where they are exchanging low value jewellery for gold bars.

Shoppers are getting

an ounce for the first time, pushed its way to \$2,956 and now trading at \$2,936. Hardly price levels seen as reasonable by jewellery shoppers.

“Most shoppers buying gold bars now are thinking about holding them for two-three years, even longer,” said the retailer. “The best part

Oman announces Ramadan work hours

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has said that all units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and private sector establishments should follow official working hours for employees and workers during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Official Working Hours: The official working hours shall be five continuous hours per day, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Flexible Working Hours: The heads of the

departments may implement a flexible working system and determine employees' attendance and departure times under the nature of the work, ensuring compliance with the stipulated number of working hours. The flexible working hours shall be between 7 am and 3 pm, with working hours calculated based on the employee's time of arrival and departure, under the unit's established mechanism.

Crackdown on...

(Cont. from page-1) es in Ludhiana and Chandigarh related to three firms — Red Leaf Immigration Private Limited, Overseas Partner Education Consultants and Infowiz Software Solutions — under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ED suspects money laundering was done in some fraudulent deals.

ED officials said during the search operations,

various incriminating documents, digital devices and Rs 19 lakh cash were seized. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIRs registered by the Punjab Police and the Delhi Police on the basis of complaint by the Office of the Overseas Criminal Investigations, US Embassy, New Delhi, regarding fraudulent activities perpetrated by the three visa consultancy companies.