



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2024 • VOL. NO. 1 • Issue • No. 83. DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE PVT. LTD. (A unit of Creative Group) • PAGES

UAE's construction surge leads to mini-boom in new jobs

DUBAI: There is a multi-billion dollar construction boom going on in the UAE -- and some strong hiring too.

“There is no way you have project managers with three to five year experience in the UAE or Gulf sitting around



Contractors, project managers and recruitment consultants say the new workforce intake by the local construction sector is progressing at its fastest in recent times. If there's anyone available with the required project experience, the candidate will be hired instantly.

without work for long,” said a consultant. “It's that kind of project environment right now.”

One only needs to look out the window to see proof of what means. New sites are being mobilised for towers and communities even as existing ones rush towards

(Cont. on page-4)

Nearly four lakh Indians emigrated for work in 2023

NEW DELHI: Nearly four lakh Indians got emigration clearance in 2023 to work abroad, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Labour mobility is something the Indian government has been working for and the nation currently has labour mobility pacts with six countries—Israel, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan, Portugal and Mauritius. According to Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Skill Development, the number of unskilled and semi-skilled Indian workers going abroad increased from 3,73,425 in 2022 to 3,98,317 in 2023. The data was collected by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) through the e-Migrate portal.

“As per information

provided by the MEA, data is maintained only in respect of Indian workers holding Emigration Check Required (ECR) passports, proceeding for overseas employment through e-Migrate portal to any of the ECR category countries,” Chaudhary stated in the House in response to a question from two MPs.

As many as 18 foreign countries—Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, the UAE and Yemen—require Indians migrating there for employment to have emigration clearance from the MEA. These countries do not have strict laws regulating the entry and employment of foreign na-

NATIONAL DAY OF OMAN CELEBRATED IN MUMBAI



Consul General of Oman in Mumbai His Excellency Jamil bin Haji Al-balushi, Chief Protocol Officer of Maharashtra Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar (IAS) and other Consul Generals of GCC in Mumbai at the 54th Oman National Day reception in Mumbai

Consulate General of Oman in Mumbai celebrates the 54th National Day

MUMBAI: The Consulate General of the Sultanate of Oman in Mumbai, led by His Excellency Jamil bin Haji Al Balushi, the Consul General, and members of the Consulate, hosted a reception to celebrate the 54th National Day.

The event was attended by a distinguished gathering of notable personalities, including the guest of honor, Ms. Manisha Mahiskar, Additional Chief Secretary and Chief Protocol Officer of the Government of Maharashtra. High-level delegations from the Indian government, prominent business leaders, academics, heads and members of diplomatic missions, as well as Omani citizens residing in India, were also present.

The event highlighted

the deep historical ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India, which serve as a model of fruitful co-operation and strategic partnership. His Excellency the Consul General delivered his speech in Hindi, praising the strong historical relations between Oman and India and emphasising the importance of further strengthening collaboration in various fields to serve the mutual interests of both na-

(Cont. on page-2)



EID AL ETIHAD
UAE NATIONAL DAY

We are very pleased to announce that, **one** is coming out with a special UAE National Day supplement on 2nd December, 2024.



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(Cont. on page-3)



Hotel boom in India

The announcement by the Tata-owned Taj group of hotels that it is embarking on a huge expansion aiming to open 120 luxury hotels worldwide, once again confirms the fact that the high-end hotel industry is alive and thriving. The 120-year-old Taj group, founded by the legendry Jamshedji Nusserwanji Tata and named after the iconic monument of love in 1903, opened its first luxury hotel by the seaside (the Gateway of India came up later in 1924) in Mumbai. Since then, there was no looking back and it was the rise and rise of the Taj group, nourished over the years by the Tatas.

Corporate sector as well as foreign tourists are always complaining that India does not have enough luxury hotels. While little Dubai has more than 800 luxury hotels with over 1.5 lakh rooms, the city state of Singapore has over 72,680 hotel rooms. Dubai leads in the world's highest hotel occupancy rates. Dubai's Burj Al Arab is the world's top luxury hotel and this seven-star hotel has been exquisitely shaped and modified into a world-class luxury property that has extraordinary experiences to offer.

With the opening up of the economy, hotel industry is facing a high demand. Luxury hotel demand has surged as affluent Indians, eager to splurge on leisure and luxury, continue to drive bookings. This shift helped the hotel industry to get rewarding business. In India, big fat weddings contribute hugely to the income of luxury hotels apart from MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions tourism).

Group bookings, conducted tours etc benefit the hotel industry immensely in a large country like India. The weak rupee attracts more and more tourists to India. According to an analysis, most foreign tourist arrivals, comprising 36.5pc were for leisure holiday and recreation purposes, trailed by Indian diaspora visits at 21.1pc, business and professional reasons at 10.2pc and the remaining 16.5pc attributed to other purposes.

The market size of the hospitality industry in India is projected to be about US\$ 24.61 billion (2024) and is forecast to reach US\$ 31.01 billion by 2029. The projected growth is anticipated to occur at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.73pc throughout the forecast period of 2024-29. Travel industry was one of the most affected industries during pandemic period. Key performance indicators such as revenue per available room (RevPAR), occupancy rate and average daily rate (ADR) declined from 2019 to 2021. The industry rebounded in 2022. The positive trend continues into 2024, with further growth in ADR, RevPAR, and occupancy rates, indicating a resilient rebound of the sector. Premium hotel occupancy rates are predicted to hover at 72pc in FY24 and FY25, with average room rates expected to reach between US\$ 94.06 and US\$ 96.47 (Rs. 7,800-8,000) in FY25.

The Indian hotel market is identifying substantial growth prospects, aiming to broaden its footprint in key urban areas and offer quality services across renowned brands. This expansion is driven by robust corporate performance, enhanced air travel connectivity across the country.

Some of the key players in this segment are ITC Hotels, Marriott, Taj group, Hyatt Hotels, East India Hotels (Oberoi), Radisson, The Leela etc.

LIPSYNCH

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."
— Walt Disney

Consulate General of Oman in Mumbai celebrates the 54th National Day

(Cont. from page-1)

tions. The event also shed light on the significant developmental achievements of the Sultanate of Oman under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. Attendees expressed pride and admiration for the comprehensive renaissance that has po-

sitioned the Sultanate among the ranks of advanced nations.

The celebration featured a diverse cultural and artistic programme that showcased Omani heritage and values, adding a unique charm to the occasion and reflecting the spirit of national pride and identity.

The event conclud-

ed with a reaffirmation of the commitment to building on these historical ties and enhancing mutual co-operation to achieve greater progress and prosperity, further solidifying Oman's regional and international standing and embodying its vision for a brighter and more prosperous future.

Etihad expands global network

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is gearing up for a significant expansion in 2025, announcing the launch of 10 new exciting destinations. This strategic move aligns with the airline's commitment to providing its guests with diverse travel options and enhancing Abu Dhabi's global appeal.

"This expansion reflects our dedication to meeting the evolving needs and aspirations of our valued guests," said Antonoaldo Neves, Etihad's CEO. "By carefully selecting these 10 new destinations, we aim to offer a world of possi-

bilities, from breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural experiences to business opportunities

complement previously revealed additions like Prague, Warsaw and Al Alamein.



and family adventures."

Etihad's 2025 expansion includes destinations across Africa, Asia and North America, adding to the airline's extensive route network. The newly announced routes

Here's a closer look at the 10 New Destinations set to be launched in 2025: Algiers, Atlanta, Chiang Mai, Hanoi, Hong Kong, Krabi, Medan, Phnom Penh, Taipei and Tunis

IT hiring set to grow by 10 to 12pc in next six months, says report

MUMBAI: IT services hiring is expected to grow 10-12pc in the next six months following the rapid evolution of technology which is reshaping industries and economies worldwide.

Emerging technologies such as Generative AI, Deep Tech and Quantum Computing are set to create over a million jobs by 2030, the report by business services provider Quess Corp said. The report revealed that demand for talent across Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and Cybersecurity during the second quarter (July-Sept) sequentially surged across the country by 71pc and 58pc respectively, compared with the previous quarter.

This report is based on data from the first two-quarters of FY25 from Quess IT Staffing's operations that analyses the evolving aggregate tech hiring demand and related insights to give leaders a clear understanding of what the talent market looks like.

"India, with its burgeoning tech talent pool and innovative spirit, is at the forefront of this digital revolution. Therefore, IT services hiring will grow 10-12pc in the next six months," Quess IT Staffing CEO Kapil Joshi said. According to the IT Staffing Quarterly Digital Skills Report Q2FY25 report, 79pc of the aggregate demand emerged from the top five skill suites, including Development, ERP, Testing, Networking and Data Science.

In addition to these functional skill suites, there was a rapid increase in specialised roles and skills related to Java (30pc), cybersecurity (20pc) and DevOps (25pc)

between the first quarter and second quarter of FY25, it said. Meanwhile, the report also found that in the second quarter of FY25, technology talent demand saw a distinct trend across various IT services firms leading by 37pc, followed by Hi-Tech (11pc), Consulting (11pc), Manufacturing (nine per cent) and BFSI (eight per cent) firms.

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Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	84.86	84.02
British Pound	107.57	106.41
Euro	90.01	88.38
Japanese Yen	56.16	55.45
Swiss Franc (CHF)	96.49	94.69
Canadian Dollar	60.82	59.64
Australian Dollar	55.39	54.35
Norwegian Krone	7.69	7.54
Swedish Krona	7.80	7.65
New Zealand Dollar	50.18	49.32
Hong Kong Dollar	10.95	10.75
Singapore Dollar	63.54	62.28
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.71	22.27
United Arab Emirates	23.21	22.76

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Nearly four lakh...

(Cont. from page-1)

Most recently, India and Germany signed a joint declaration on labour and mobility during German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India last month. During a bilateral meet-

ing last week between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Brazil, mobility and migration was brought up by the former.

India's Vedanta to invest \$2b in Saudi to boost copper output

RIYADH: Indian minerals, energy and technology conglomerate Vedanta Copper International has inked an agreement with the Ministry of Investment and Ministry of Industries and Mineral Resources to develop \$2 billion worth of copper projects in Saudi Arabia. This includes a 400 kilo-tonne per annum greenfield copper smelter and refinery and a 300 kilo-tonne per annum (KTPA) copper rod plant in Ras Al



Anil Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta group.

Khair industrial city in Saudi.

Copper is considered one of the most critical minerals in the global energy transition.

and elevate the minerals sector's GDP contribution from \$17 billion to \$64 billion by 2030.

Currently, the Kingdom's copper demand is

Vedanta's initiatives support Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which aims to unlock an estimated \$1.3 trillion in mineral resources

about 365 KTPA, which is anticipated to double by 2035, primarily met by imports. Chris Griffith, CEO, Base Metals, Vedanta, said: "Our projects will enhance the Kingdom's self-reliance in the copper supply chain. For decades, Saudi Arabia has been a leader in oil exploration and hydrocarbons."

He added: "Now, under visionary leadership, it is poised to tap into its vast, unexplored mineral potential as it embraces the fourth In-

dustrial Revolution.

The deals were announced during the World Investment Conference in Riyadh by the Global Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, a government programme under the Saudi government's National Investment Strategy.

The project will ensure domestic self-sufficiency in copper production and contribute an estimated SR70 billion to economic growth, according to the presentation.



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UAE plans grand 53rd Eid Al Etihad celebrations

ABU DHABI: The UAE is gearing up for a remarkable and unprecedented Eid Al Etihad celebrations this year, blending heritage, history, cultural traditions and modern innovation.

The UAE's 53rd Eid Al Etihad (National Day) festivities will feature a captivating mix of technological creativity, artistic displays and visual spectacles. The official ceremony will take place in Al Ain, with a live broadcast nationwide on TV, the official "53rd Eid Al Etihad" website, YouTube, and various social media platforms on December 2, 2024.

One of the event's most exciting features is the nationwide screen-

ing of the official ceremony in cinemas and select celebration venues, with locations to be revealed soon. The organising committee emphasised Al Ain's profound historical and cultural significance, highlighting the city's natural beauty and heritage. This choice reflects the UAE's commitment to sustainability and preserving its environmental and cultural legacy while embracing modernity and progress. Al Ain's rich history spans thousands of years, and its natural landscapes, including Unesco World Heritage sites, make it a national treasure representing the UAE's deep-rooted heritage and environmental con-

sciousness.

Al Ain holds a special place in the UAE's Eid Al Etihad, deeply connected with the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. The city was where Sheikh Zayed began his leadership journey, emphasising unity, prosperity and sustainability. It was also vital for its agricultural significance, supported by the traditional Aflaj irrigation systems, reinforcing the UAE's historical commitment to environmental sustainability.

This year's celebration will honour the UAE's journey, the vision of its founding fathers and the nation's remarkable progress. The event will also feature innova-

tive storytelling techniques, highlighting the achievements that have shaped the UAE.

The 53rd Eid Al Etihad celebrations will be

packed with exciting events across the UAE, including a spectacular array of fireworks displays, cultural festivals, and official ceremonies.

UAE's construction boom leads...

(Cont. from page-1)

their completion deadlines. On the government side, more highways and required infrastructure is being put into place, while sectors such as manufacturing are seeing work start on new projects or expansion. All of which adds up to more work for construction.

Drake & Scull International, the Dubai-based MEP firm, said that it has advertised for multiple roles as it rebuilds

its project book after a harrowing five years or financial restructuring. "The vacancies are mostly to fill senior positions, including a general manager for our oil and gas sector projects," said a spokesperson. "Plus, we already had multiple job roles filled in recent months as the UAE project market continues to thrive." (Drake & Scull, incidentally, also confirmed a new CEO in Muin Al Saleh recently.)

More Indians renouncing their citizenship

NEW DELHI: An Indian 23-year-old IT engineer who earns around Rs 1 lakh per month sparked discussions on Reddit about his future plans. He feels inferior to his friends who are pursuing higher studies abroad and questions whether her staying in India is better than settling abroad.

There has been a growing interest among Indians in renouncing citizenship to settle abroad. According to the Ministry of Exter-

nal Affairs (MEA), 1.75 million Indians voluntarily surrendered their passports between 2011 and June 2023. From Antigua & Barbuda, Brazil, Iceland and the Vatican to the US, UK, France and Germany, Indians have given up citizenship to emigrate to about 135 countries worldwide. Currently, India does not have a dual citizenship policy. Dual citizenship is not permitted as per the provisions of Article-9 of the Constitution of India read with Section-9 of the Citizenship

Act, 1955. As per the information available with the ministry, the number of Indians who renounced their Indian citizenship was 1,63,370 (in 2021); 2,25,620 (in 2022) and 2,16,219 (in 2023), 87,026 (till June, 2023).

For reference purposes, data was 1,22,819 (in 2011); 1,20,923 (in 2012); 1,31,405 (in 2013); 1,29,328 (in 2014); 1,31,489 (in 2015); 1,41,603 (in 2016); 1,33,049 (in 2017); 1,34,561 (in 2018); 1,44,017 (in

2019) and 85,256 (in 2020).

The data shows that in 2019, as many as 1,44,017 Indians renounced their citizenship while the number grew to a record high in 2022 and till June 2023, nearly 87,026 had surrendered their Indian passport. The highest number surrendering their Indian passports was in 2022 when 2,25,620 Indians adopted foreign citizenship for opportunities abroad.

Country where Indians

renounced Indian Citizenship in 2022: USA: 71991, Canada 60139, Australia 40377, UK 21457, New Zealand 7911, Italy 3839, Germany 3179, Netherlands 2345, Singapore 2695 and Sweden 1970.

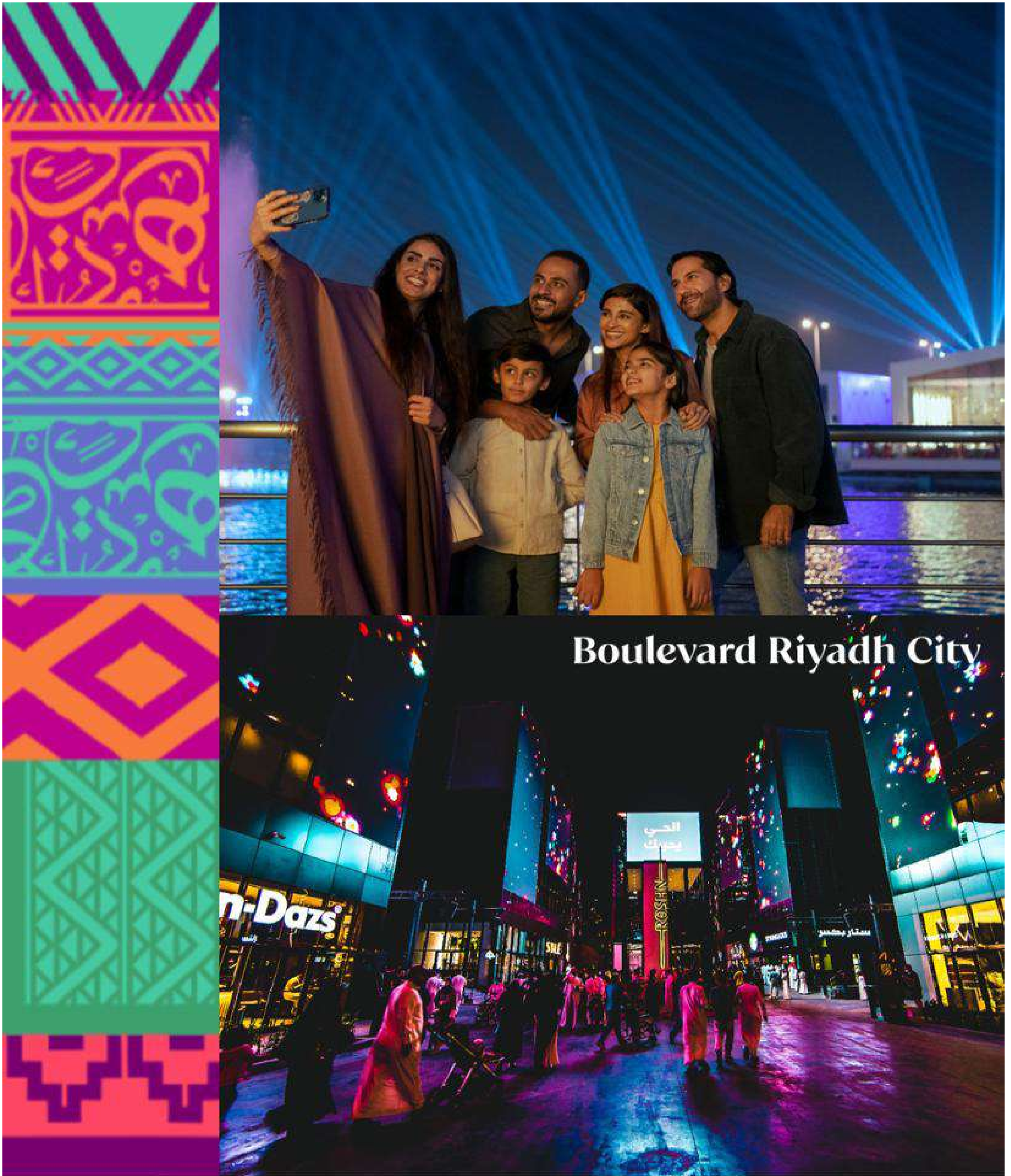
However, according to the Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2023, India's wealth exodus has decreased to third place after the UK, with only 4,300 millionaires expected to leave the country in 2024.

INMECC HONOURS KERALA ENTREPRENEURS



Kerala Industries Minister P Rajeev lighting the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of Salute Kerala 2024, jointly organised by Indo Gulf and Middle East Chamber of Commerce (INMECC) and the department of industries of the Kerala government. The function honoured successful entrepreneurs of Kerala. The winners of the Salute Kerala 2024 with Finance Minister KN Balagopal and Principal Secretary Industries Mohammad Hanish, INMECC Chairman Dr NM Shara-fudeen, Secretary General Dr. Sureshkumar Madhusudhanan and Leader of opposition VD Satheesan.

The award winner are: Dr P Gokulam Gopalan (Gokulam Group), VK Mathews (IBS Software), Dr KV Tolin (Tolins Tyres), K Muraleedharan, (Muralya and SFC Group), VK Razak (VKC Group), Sheela Kochouseph (V Star Creations), PK Mayan Mohamed (Western Plywoods) and Dr AV Anoop (AVA Medimix Group).

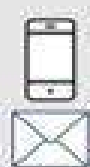


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Telangana : Telangana is the link between the North and South of India.

Andhra Pradesh : Andhra Pradesh is famous for its rich cultural heritage, stunning temples, and picturesque landscapes

Karnataka : Karnataka is famous for temples, majestic architecture, and princely vibe.



GULF FAQs

UAE family visa: How a single mother can sponsor her child in Dubai?

Can you please explain the rules about family visa in UAE?

The UAE's residency law allows both fathers and mothers to sponsor family visas, giving either parent the equal opportunity to support their children's residency status. In case of a change in marital status, a divorced or single mother can also sponsor her children's visas, provided she meets certain eligibility criteria, including having valid employment and a residency visa.

A single mother can sponsor her children if they are employed and hold a valid residency visa. She must meet the minimum salary requirement set by the UAE government of Dh4,000 per month or Dh3,500 if the employer provides accommodation.

Some key documents are required if you are a single mother wanting to sponsor your child. This article will serve as a guide for you to navigate the paperwork and sail through the process.

Documents required

Application form: Fill out the form online or through a registered typing office. For each family member, an Emirates ID application form must be submitted along with the residency visa application.

Passport copies: Submit everyone's passport copies, including yours and your children.

Emirates ID: Mother needs to provide a copy of her UAE resident ID card (Emirates ID).

Medical clearance: Medical clearance certificate for children above 18 years.

Salary statement: Salary certificate from the employer stating the mother's monthly salary.

Bank statement: If you have bank account statements, it's a good idea to include them.

Tenancy contract: It is recommended that proof of accommodation be provided with the rental agreement. It must be attested through the Ejari online Real Estate Regulatory Authority (rera) system.

When a mother is seeking to sponsor her child in the UAE after a divorce, the following documents are required:

Child custody verdict: The official court decision regarding child custody must be provided. This decision should clearly state that the mother has custody of the child. It should be issued by the relevant court in the country where the divorce took place.

Attestation by UAE Embassy: The UAE Embassy or Consulate in the country where the divorce was finalised should attest to the custody verdict. This step confirms that the document is authentic and has been legally recognised.

Attestation by MoFA in the UAE: After attestation by the UAE embassy, the document must be further attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UAE to ensure it is officially recognised within the country.

Translation into Arabic: The custody verdict and all supporting documents must be translated into Arabic. The translation should be done by a certified translator, as the UAE authorities require documents to be submitted in Arabic.

It is recommended that the mother obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from her ex-husband stating that he is granting his consent to sponsor your children in the UAE to be on the safe side. In the event your ex-husband

disagrees, he may apply for a travel ban for the children.

Here's a breakdown of the documents you may need to provide as a single mother:

Custody verdict from court: If a court has granted you custody of your child, you can submit the official court decision or verdict. This should clearly state that you have custody of your child.

Certificate from local authority: In some cases, a certificate from the local authority in your home country (such as a government office or child welfare agency) may suffice to prove that you have custody or legal guardianship over your child. This certificate should confirm that you're the sole custodian or legal guardian.

Affidavit from your consulate: You may also submit an affidavit from your home country's consulate or embassy in the UAE, affirming your legal guardianship and your right to sponsor your child.

Attestation Requirements: If the documents are issued in your home country, they must be attested by the UAE Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in the UAE.

Translation into Arabic: If they are in another language, all documents must be translated into Arabic by a certified translation service.

A Dh2,500 security deposit must be submitted for each child. According to Amer Centre, an authorised visa and immigration service provider, this amount is refundable after the visa is cancelled.

NOC from biological father: Whether an NOC from the biological father is required in the case of a single mother sponsoring her child depends on certain circumstances. Here

are the main scenarios:

If the father is not present or involved in the child's life, an NOC from the biological father is generally not required. In such cases, the mother can usually proceed with the sponsorship process without needing any consent from the father.

If the child is born out of wedlock, the mother may still be able to sponsor the child, but the birth certificate must clearly state the mother as the sole guardian. Additional documentation to confirm the child's legal status and guardianship might be required.

If the biological father is present is alive and living in the UAE, an NOC from the father may be required. This is especially the case if the father has legal guardianship rights or if the parents were married at the time of the child's birth. Even if the father is not actively involved in the child's life, his legal rights (in the case of marriage) could still require his consent for the child to live in the UAE.

Submit application: The application is submitted to the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) in Dubai or the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security (ICP) or the respective immigration office in the emirate where you reside.

You can either submit the documents in person or in some cases, online, depending on the emirate's rules. Applicants can also visit the nearest Amer Centre or typing centres to apply for a residence permit.

Medical fitness test: A medical fitness test is required if the child is 18 years and above. The fitness tests includes blood tests and a chest X-ray

to check for any contagious diseases (like tuberculosis). The medical test can be done at any of the approved clinics or hospitals.

Emirates ID: Once the residency visa is approved, your children will need to apply for an Emirates ID, which is mandatory in the UAE. They are required to submit their biometric data, such as fingerprints and a photograph.

Residence visa issuance: Once the visa is approved and stamped, your children will officially be a resident of the UAE, sponsored by you.

How much is the visa fee?: Once the residency permit application is submitted, you will be required to pay the visa processing fees.

The family visa fees in the UAE can vary depending on the emirate and the type of visa. For Dubai, according to the GDRFA website, the fees for a family visa are typically as follows:

Residence permit fee: Dh200, Knowledge fee: Dh10, Innovation fee: Dh10, Fee inside the country: Dh500, Delivery: Dh20

Note: The issuance fee increases by Dh100 annually whenever the residency is over two years.

Application fees: Dh100 Issuance fees: Dh100 for each year eChannel services fee: Dh100

It's advisable to cross-check with the GDRFA, the ICP, or the relevant immigration authorities in the emirate where the mother resides, as requirements can vary depending on specific circumstances. They may also provide necessary guidance as per specific circumstances.

Diaspora and the development of India

(Continue from Issue No. 82: NOV 26, 2024)

Govt of India's efforts to engage with the Diaspora

Our Indian government is obviously excited to see the Diaspora contribute to India's success story and believes that they have a lot of potential. The government of India has two-pronged initiatives for the Diaspora.

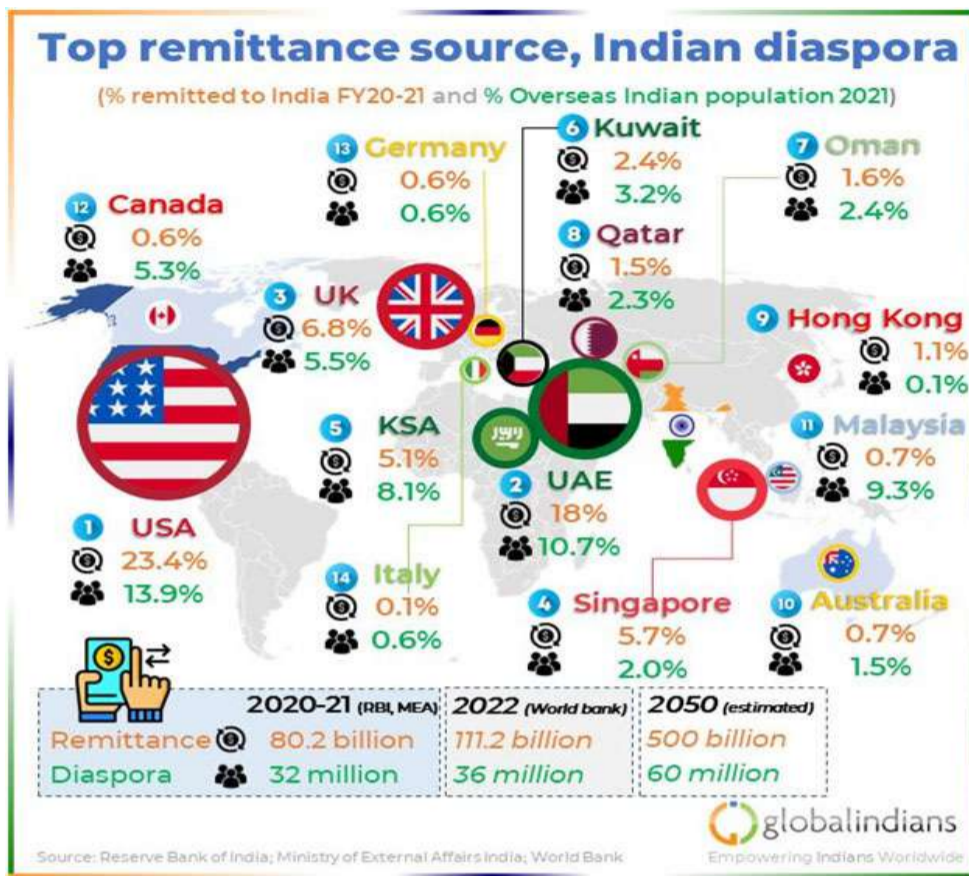
First, they provide consular services and protection to NRIs and OCIs, and they engage with them through outreach. Simultaneously, they develop policies that encourage the Diaspora to support India's development through investments in innovation, knowledge transfers, philanthropy, and support for projects. The Modi government has repackaged old programmes like the "Know India Programme" (KIP) and launched a number of initiatives in light of this. To minimise culture shock and train future employees on pertinent skills, training facilities and orientation programmes are offered to those wishing to travel overseas.

Since Head Post Offices were established as passport offices three years ago, thousands more people have been able to apply for passports.

In order to safeguard the interests and welfare of Indians living overseas, several policies were announced. The most important of these was the introduction of the e-migrate system by the Ministry of External Affairs in 2015, which mandates that all foreign employers register in the database. Further, Indian workers employed as labourers, cleaners, domestic helpers, and industrial workers saw their minimum wages raised by the Minimum Referral Wages (MRW), which was only applica-

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By Sajan MS



ble in countries where Emigration Checks were required. Also, nurses can now only be hired to PravasiBharatiya Divas (PBDs) in previous years. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has developed

Which contemporary Diaspora is the largest?

The Indian Diaspora is the largest Diaspora in modern times. There are more than 35.4 million Indians living abroad who call India their home. The importance of Diaspora communities as development agents and their ability to strengthen social, economic, and cultural ties between their home and host nations are becoming increasingly acknowledged and as a result India has currently become largest remittance-remitting nation in the world.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs report updated on 21 May 2024, there are 35.4 million non-resident Indians (NRIs) and People of Indian Origins (PIOs) (including OCIs) residing outside India. The Indian Diaspora comprises the world's largest overseas Diaspora. Every year, 2.5 million (25 lakh) Indians immigrate overseas, making India the nation with the highest annual number of emigrants in the world (Source: WIKIPEDIA).

with CSO (Country Specific Order) approval, which helps to mitigate the risk of vulnerability from fraudulent contracts. Though some nations have criticised these policies, they are a positive step.

Diaspora Tourism

The government is actively considering Diaspora Tourism or homeland visits in the hopes that they will benefit the home nation. To strengthen the Indian Diaspora's involvement in nation-building, youth-focused outreach initiatives are introduced, including scholarships for undergraduate study at accredited University Grants Commission universities in India. The Diaspora has been successfully drawn

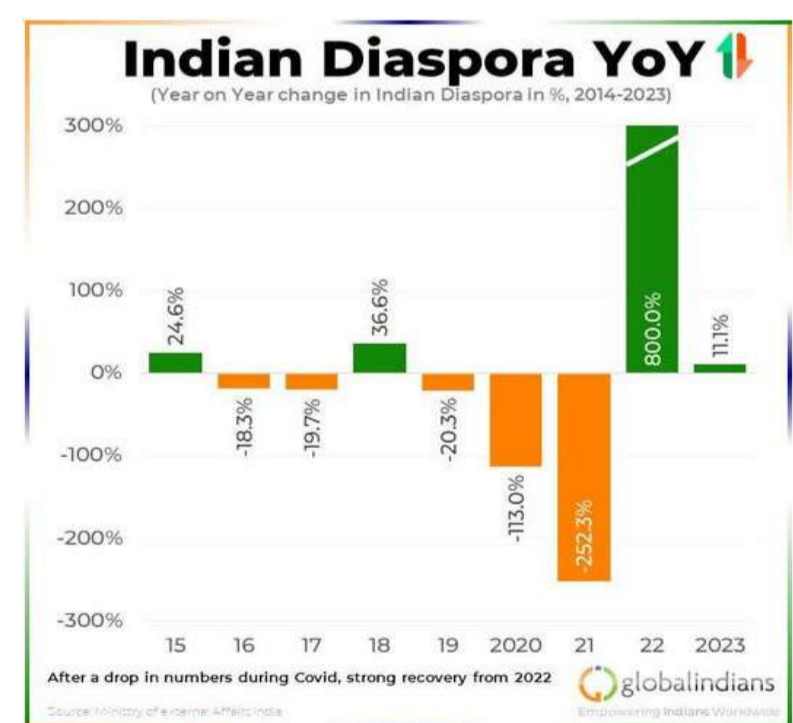
into a programme that draws influential Diasporas who are genuinely making contributions to India. The government has dedicated a building in New Delhi called the PravasiBharatiya Kendra to the Diaspora, which highlights the significance of their contributions. These subtle strategies are having an effect on the Diaspora, who frequently feel ignored.

Remittances are one of the main advantages of interacting with the 35 million and more Indian Diaspora. The largest remittance-remitting nation in the world is currently India. This remittance aids governments in enhancing rural development, improving healthcare, improving

schools, lowering poverty and stimulating the labour market. Remittances from the Diaspora have affected every area of the economy. The Diaspora finds it easier to invest in India as a result of the government's decision to treat NRI/OCI holders' investments as domestic investments rather than foreign direct investment (FDI); the nation benefits because the money earned cannot be readily repatriated abroad. The economy will grow as a result of a rise in the inflow of foreign exchange remittances and increased investment. However, a

India to support them in their time of need. It will be necessary to resolve the conflicting attitudes of the Indian government and the Diaspora. Millions of rupees have been spent by India in recent years to rescue Indians from foreign crises. The economic downturn in some Middle Eastern countries also resulted in the termination of many Indians' contracts; this created challenges for Indian missions there because the affected workers had to return to India. Even though saving these workers is expensive, India still fulfills its obligation.

India's Diaspora has historically benefited the country. Until recently, Diaspora policies have been inconsistent and poorly implemented. Strong outreach to the Indian Diaspora is a prominent aspect of the government's foreign policy strategy today. The Diaspora has many opportunities to contribute, as a large portion of India's foreign policy seeks to convert collaborations into advantages for important initiatives like Swachh Bharat, Clean



greater emphasis on the Diaspora has its own set of difficulties. The Diaspora's support is neither constant nor automatic, and their interests need not be India's priorities. The possibility that remittances will not always be put to good use presents another difficulty. Furthermore, it is unjust of the Diaspora to expect

Ganga, Made in India, Digital India, and Skill India. One of the main goals of the Ministry of External Affairs' policy has been to forecast the changes that are taking place in India. The Diaspora can take the initiative and serve as Indian "ambassadors" overseas! The present government is steadfast in its commitment to giving the Diaspora top priority because they are a strategic asset to India. (To Be Continued)