



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Consul General of Saudi Arabia His Excellency Sulieman Bin Alottaibi, Chief Protocol Officer of Maharashtra Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar and consul generals of other GCC countries at the Saudi National Day celebrations at Trident in Mumbai on October 1.

One lakh free visas for foreign tourists under 'Chalo India' announced

NEW DELHI: Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat revealed that one lakh free visas would be issued to foreign tourists under "Chalo India" campaign.

"Today, the world's curiosity to explore India is at an all-time high," said Shekhawat. "Under Chalo India campaign initiated by our Prime Minister, the tourism ministry will offer one lakh free visas to international travellers, allowing them to experience our incredible destinations.

This initiative aims to further the reach of the Incredible India brand globally," he added, saying that more details will be shared by the ministry soon.

Notably, the prime minister launched the "Chalo India Global Diaspora Campaign" with an aim to inspire the Indian diaspora to become Incredible India ambassadors and promote tourism to India. The campaign was launched based on the clarion call of the PM, wherein he requested Indian diaspora members to

encourage at least five NRI friends to travel to India.

Speaking further, Shekhawat emphasised the importance of a united effort from various government departments to drive tourism growth. "The tourism sector has seen tremendous benefits from the whole of government approach. Other ministries will soon collaborate to create a comprehensive master list for the development of new destinations. This list will be a milestone in

(Cont. on page-2)

Sunil Kumar back as TAAI President for 2024-26 term



MUMBAI: Sunil Kumar has been elected as the President of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) for the 2024-26 term, having previously served for two terms from 2015 to 2019. The announcement was made following the election held at ITC Grand Maratha in Mumbai, after TAAI's 73rd Annual General Meeting.

The presidential post was contested by Sunil Kumar, outgoing President Jyoti Mayal, who served the association for the past five years and Harmandeep Singh Anand. Sunil Kumar secured 304 votes, Jyoti Mayal received 177 votes and Harmandeep Singh Anand garnered 286.

Joining Kumar in the leadership team are Lokesh Bettiah, appointed as Vice President with 417 votes, Shreeram Patel as Honorary Secretary General with 344 votes, and Paras Lakhia as Honorary Treasurer. The Managing Committee for the 2024-26 term

includes Gopal Unadkt, Manav Soni, Amish Desai, Lalit Kumar Jain, Hema Chander, Sameer Karnani and Rajan Sehgal.

Speaking about his immediate plans, Sunil Kumar stated: "We will soon have a managing committee meeting to create a collaborative plan. All of us must be aligned to take collective responsibility for this plan, which will focus on Mission: Members First. It will require significant time from the office bearers and the Managing Committee. To elevate TAAI to the next level, leadership needs to be highly active, inspiring the entire organisation to engage with and support these initiatives."

Reflecting on the elections, Sunil remarked: "We have never had this kind of attendance before. As many as 768 members casting their votes is a remarkable achievement. Members travelled from across the country to participate, demonstrating their eagerness for progress. We must live up to their expectations. People have the right to choose their leaders, and we accept the verdict of the general body."

Special drive to register RAs in Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, HP, J&K, Ladakh

CHANDIGARH: In an effort to streamline and facilitate the Recruiting Agent (RA) registration process under the Emigration Act 1983, a special drive is initiated for three months from Oct 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025.

The drive will be conducted to provide guidance and support to individuals,

agencies and entities based in Chandigarh (UT), Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir (UT) and Ladakh (UT) who are interested in obtaining a valid RA licence for recruiting Indian citizens for overseas employment.

SPECIAL DRIVE SCHEDULE: In person registration assistance: Every Monday

and Tuesday till Jan 1, 2025 from 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM. Location: The office of the Protector of Emigrants, Chandigarh.

During this time, POE officials will be available to guide and assist individuals and agencies with the process of RA registration and Emigration Act 1983.

WEBINARS : Every Monday from 3pm to 4

PM. Platform: virtual/online (Interested individuals/entities to send WhatsApp messages to +919530641790 with their name and address.

A weekly webinar will be conducted to provide comprehensive guidance on the step by step walk-through of the RA registration process documentation for obtaining a RA licence, open Q&A session for participants

for asking doubts. Participants are encouraged to review the RA registration guidelines and documentation requirements available on the eMigrate portal (www.emigrate.gov.in) before attending the session.

For details contact: Protector of Emigrants (Chandigarh) Phone: 0172-2741790, e-mail: poechd@mea.gov.in



More airports on anvil

In the modern world, air connectivity is a paramount necessity. For this, we need a large number of well designed and well equipped airports with modern amenities. Most of the airports in India can now handle wide-bodied large aircraft and all important airports have more than one runway. What's more, metro cities are now getting second airport which changes the dynamics of air connectivity. Most cities in the US have three or four airports which help continuous air connectivity even during emergencies.

Air travel is no more considered a luxury in India. In a fast developing and very vast country like ours, air travel is a necessity. Now domestic connectivity to remote places

Editorial
By EL Vaidyanathan

is possible, thanks to the government's modern thinking. As far as inbound travel is concerned, it

has significantly increased with almost seven crore people traveling to India today compared with 4.6 crore in 2014. Airports are considered as the "gateways" underscoring the need for warm hospitality and enhanced facilities to attract more foreign tourists.

Today, we have 157 civil airports (apart from a string of military and private airports) , but by 2047, when we envision a fully developed India, this will increase to 350. Not only B-class cities, but even C-class cities will get airports. It is worth mentioning here that the government's UDAAN scheme, which has connected previously unserved and underserved airports, bringing air travel closer to the common man. The government also plans to improve seaplane and helicopter connectivity, further boosting access to remote areas.

In this scenario, it's really heartening to note that the Rs 16 700-crore Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will hit a milestone when the first trial landing of aircraft takes place on Saturday, Oct 5 in the presence of our prime minister. For the trial landing, two aircraft will be used---- the C-130J, a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft and the Russian built Sukhoi Su-30, a twin-engine super manoeuvrable fighter aircraft. These advanced aircraft will demonstrate the airport's runway capabilities. The airport, which has been under development for several years, aims to kick off domestic operations by March 2025, followed by international services in June same year.

Last month, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) successfully completed the Instrument Landing System (ILS) testing at NMIA, marking a crucial step in ensuring the airport's readiness. The ILS is used to guide aircraft during landing, especially in low-visibility conditions. Following this, a report was submitted to develop the airport's instrument approach procedure, a key step before obtaining the necessary licensing and approvals for the runway.

During its initial phase, the airport will have a capacity of 20 million passengers per annum and 0.5 million tonnes of cargo per year. The first and second phases will feature one runway, a single terminal building and a passenger capacity of 20 million. The subsequent phases 3, 4, and 5 will introduce a second runway, four additional terminals, and an increased passenger capacity of 90 million.

Chennai will have its second airport in two or three years. The present Kamaraj International Airport has constraints due to heavy traffic and the proposed Parandur Greenfield Airport project is a necessity . More the merrier!

LIPSYNCH

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

– Albert Einstein



India's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika called on H.E Omar Saud Al-Omar, Minister of State for Communication Affairs of Kuwait and discussed ways to tap potential avenues of co-operation between the two countries in the fields of ICT, digital and emerging technologies.



India's Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika called on Lt Gen Pilot Bandar Salem Abdullah Al Muzain, Chief of General Staff of Kuwait. They discussed various aspects of bilateral defence co-operation between the two countries , including forthcoming visit of three Indian naval ships to Kuwait.

One lakh free visas for foreign tourists under 'Chalo India' announced

(Cont. from page-1)

shaping India's tourism landscape over the next three years," Shekhawat added.

In a bid to involve private stakeholders, the government will make this master list public,

encouraging industry participation in the development of these destinations. Shekhawat pointed to India's infrastructure boom, including the development of 1.5 lakh km of new roads, over 500 new

aviation routes, and more than 150 airports, as a foundation for future tourism growth. He noted that new high-speed railways are also contributing to India's status as a world-class destination.



At the Saudi National Day celebrations hosted by His Excellency Consul General of Saudi Arabia Sulieman Bin Alottaib at Trident in Mumbai, IPEPCIL delegates greeted the consul general.

AI Express-AIX Connect complete merger

MUMBAI: Marking a significant consolidation in the Indian airline space, Air India Group has completed the merger of low-cost carrier AIX Connect with Air India Express and the merged entity's fleet is expected to cross 100 planes by the end of March next.

The merger -- completed in less than a year, will see the entity operating under the name "Air India Express" and airline code IX -- and Air India chief Campbell Wilson de-

scribed the completion of the integration as an "important milestone" in the transformation journey.

"Effective Oct 1, 2024, all aircraft of AIX Connect have been transferred seamlessly onto the Air Operator Certificate (AOC) of AIX, ensuring that airline operations of the combined entity continue without disruption to ensure a safe and smooth passenger experience," DGCA said in a release.

Both airlines are part

of Tata Group, which will also be merging Vistara with Air India next month. The merged entity's fleet, which currently stands at 88 planes, is expected to cross 100 aircraft by the end of this financial year.

"The number of routes AIX operates has risen from 74 to 171 and passenger carriage has increased by over 400 percent since the take over of Air India by Tata group in early 2022," Air India Group said.

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| US Dollar | 84.81 | 83.75 |
| Euro | 93.42 | 92.36 |
| Australian Dollar | 58.43 | 57.27 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.59 | 0.56 |
| Canadian Dollar | 62.91 | 61.85 |
| Singapore Dollar | 65.64 | 64.58 |
| Swedish krona | 9.14 | 7.35 |
| UAE Dirham | 23.36 | 22.71 |
| Swiss Franc | 99.78 | 98.28 |
| British Pound | 111.57 | 110.51 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 53.17 | 51.81 |
| Thai Baht | 2.64 | 2.51 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 11.77 | 10.46 |
| Saudi Arabian Riyal | 22.88 | 22.13 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 229.98 | 214.98 |
| Chinese Yuan | 12.82 | 10.42 |
| Danish Krone | 12.91 | 11.919 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 280.88 | 265.88 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 20.92 | 19.72 |
| Omani Rial | 224.05 | 212.05 |
| Qatari Riyal | 23.81 | 22.06 |
| South African Rand | 5.26 | 4.32 |

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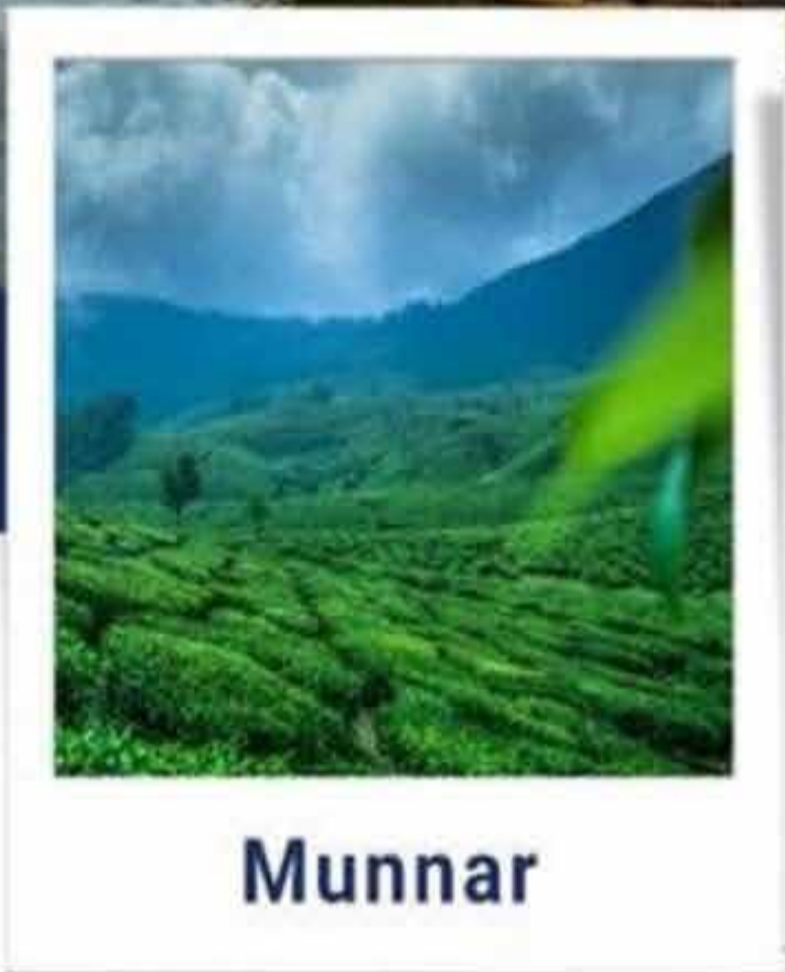


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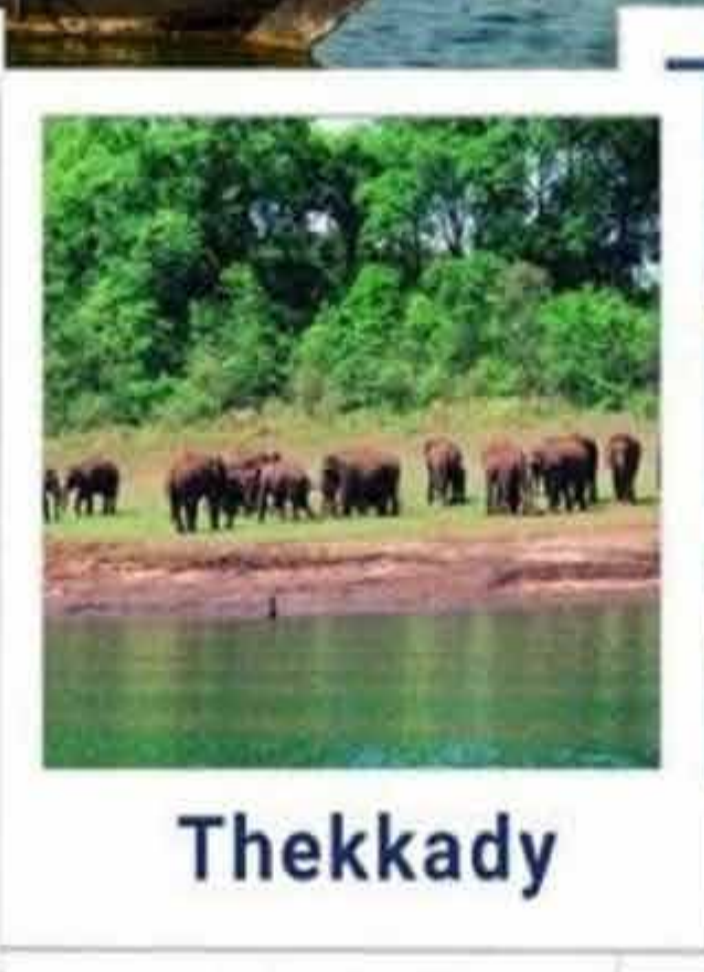


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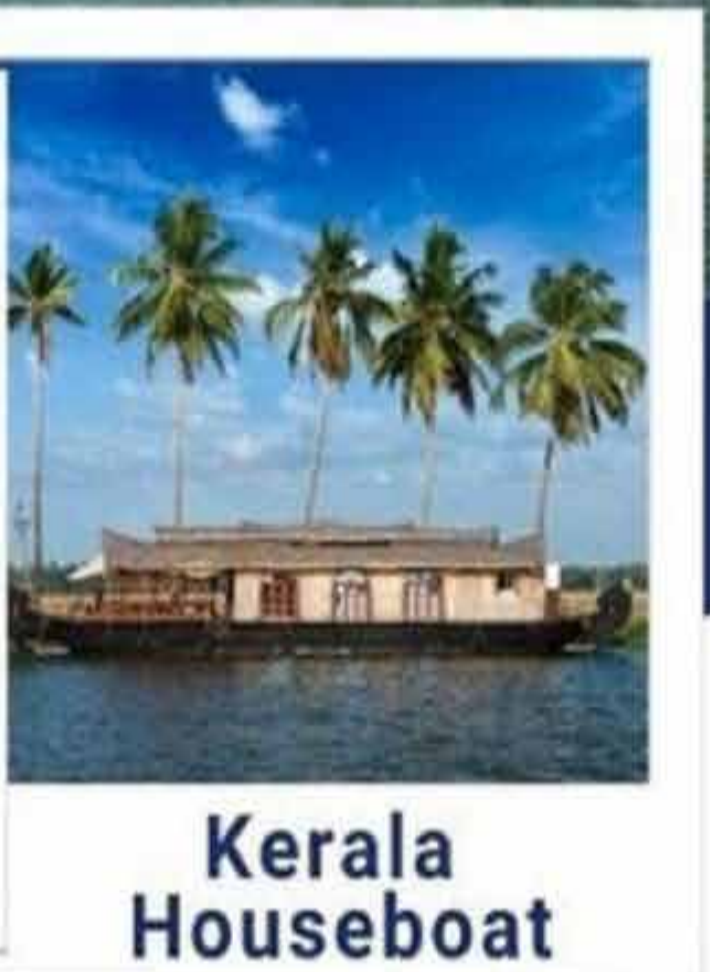
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GULF FAQs

Up to two years jail, fines over Dh5,000 for incorrectly signing cheque

I sold my car to someone who paid with a post-dated cheque. But the cheque bounced because the buyer's signature was wrong. It seems he did it intentionally. What are my rights in this case?

In the UAE, the essential elements required for a cheque include the following: the word "cheque" written in the same language as the instrument; an unconditional order to pay a specified amount; the name of the drawee (the person obliged to make payment); the payee (the person receiving the payment); the place of payment; the date and location of the cheque's issuance and the signature of the drawer are outlined in the Article 627 of the Federal Decree-Law No. 50 of 2022 Issuing the Commercial Transactions Law, which states:

"The following particulars shall be contained in the cheque:

1. The word cheque is written in the body of the instrument in

the language in which the instrument is written.

2. Unconditional order of payment of specific amount of money.
3. Name of the person obliged to make payment (drawee)
4. The person to whom payment or to whose order the payment should be made.
5. Place of payment.
6. Date and place of execution of the cheque.
7. Signature of the cheque executor (drawer)."

Furthermore, a person shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a period not less than six months and not more than two years and/or pay a fine of not less than 10pc of the value of the cheque, with the minimum amount of Dh5,000 and not exceeding the double of the value of a cheque for intentionally signing a cheque incorrectly. This is discussed under Article 675 of the UAE Commercial Transaction Law, which states:

"Everyone who commits either of the following actions shall be sen-

tenced to serve prison for a period of not less than six months and not more than two years and/or pay a fine of not less than (10pc) of the cheque value, of minimum Dh 5,000 and shall not exceed the double of the value of the cheque:

- a. Instructs or requests the drawee, before the drawing date, to dishonour a cheque issued thereby in other than the cases set out in Articles (651) and (656) hereof.
- b. Closes the account, withdraws the whole balance therein or knows of closing of the account before the issue of cheque or before the presentment of the cheque to the drawee for drawing, or intentionally causes the freezing thereof.
- c. Intentionally executes or signs the cheque in a way that prohibits honouring thereof."

In addition, if an instrument (cheque) issued by a drawer to a payee is dishonoured on grounds of incorrect signature with malafide intent and

is confirmed by the relevant authority in the UAE, such act by a drawer is considered a criminal act on grounds of breach of trust.

This is by Article 453 of the Federal Law by Decree No. (31) of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law, which states, "A penalty of incarceration or a fine shall be imposed on anyone who embezzles, uses or dissipates funds, written instruments or any other movables, in such a manner as to cause harm to persons entitled thereto, whenever such funds, instruments or movables have been handed to him by way of trust, lease, mortgage, loan for use or proxy. In the application of this provision, any partner in joint property any agent of necessity concerning the property of the concerned party and any person to whom an object is handed to be used for a specific matter for the benefit of its owner or another, shall be treated as a proxy."

Thus, an incorrect sig-

nature on the cheque, different from the specimen signature registered with the drawee bank of the account holder who issued the cheque for withdrawal, may constitute a crime that is penalised in the UAE. Under the provisions above, if you have received a cheque from the buyer of your car with an incorrect signature, you may initially contact the buyer of your car and request that he issue a cheque with his correct signature registered with his bank.

However, if the incorrect signature was made deliberately or with malicious intent by the individual who purchased your car, you may initiate legal action to recover the amount owed under the aforementioned provisions of the law. This may involve filing a complaint with the court of the competent jurisdiction in the UAE and initiating a civil and/or criminal lawsuit against the buyer of your car

Is rent increase every year allowed in Sharjah?

I have lived in an apartment in Sharjah for five years and my landlord has been increasing rent yearly. I just learned that landlords in Sharjah can increase rent only after three years. Can you explain the law and whether a landlord can raise rent for five years on a trot?

In Sharjah, landlords may not increase rent until the completion of the first three years of a tenancy contract unless both parties mu-

tually agree to increase rent. If a tenant agrees to a rent increase during these three years, the landlord cannot raise the rent again for an additional two years. This is by Article 16 of Law No. 5 of 2024 regarding Real Estate Leasing in the Emirate of Sharjah.

"1.The landlord may not increase the agreed rent value before the expiry of three years from the date of the start of the rental relationship, unless the parties to the lease agreement agree

otherwise. If the tenant agrees to increase the rent value before the expiry of three years, the landlord may not increase it again until two years have passed from the date of the increase.

2. The increase in the rent value after the expiry of the periods referred to in Clause-1 of this Article shall be at the value of the fair rent and the executive regulations of this law shall determine the controls for the fair rent and how to calculate it.

3. The Council (Executive Council of the Emirate of Sharjah) may, by a decision thereof, amend the periods specified in Clause-1 of this Article."

Based on the provision above, your landlord may not increase the rent until three years from the time of the tenancy contract unless both parties mutually agree to a different arrangement. Given that you have been subject to annual increases in rent each year during the last five years, you may address

this issue with your landlord directly. If necessary, you may approach the Sharjah Municipality, which handles disputes between landlords and tenants. However, recently, the Ruler of Sharjah has issued Law No. 6 of 2024 on the establishment and organisation of the Rental Disputes Centre in the Emirate of Sharjah wherein in future, all disputes between a landlord and a tenant in the emirate of Sharjah shall be decided.

The importance of SOFT SKILLS

“SKILLS GURU” reminders: Passion for work is the energy to work. Never make excuses about this passion for work. You need to find meaning and purpose in your work. Those who are passionate about their work get out of bed every morning feeling energised and alive. You are fully engaged and lost in your work. You should always be thinking about how you can do more, be more and contribute more – and work hard to achieve those goals. You must be committed to your projects and your company. You must constantly learn and grow. Only then can you truly say, “I am passionate about my work.”)

SOFT SKILLS: Part-II
(Continued from Part-I, Issue 66 dated 01-10-2024)

Communication Skills: Proficiency in communication could prove beneficial both during the interview phase and in your professional life. Knowing how to talk to people in various contexts and situations is a necessary part of being able to communicate. For instance, you might have to share your thoughts when you think a plan of action or procedure is flawed when working on a project as a team. Employers value the ability to disagree with coworkers in a tactful and skillful manner without causing conflict. Employers in all industries place a high value on communication, which is one of the most crucial soft skills. Both relationships and productivity can be enhanced by effective communication. It can be communicated verbally, in writing, visually, or nonverbally. **Key communication abilities include:** * **Active listening:** totally concentrating on the speaker, taking in their body language, tone, and words. * **Effective Speaking:**



The great transferability of soft skills across industries is what makes them unique and beautiful. The need for soft skills will increase as businesses adjust to new technologies because they help them manage change. Soft skills are your liquid asset whether you are thinking of changing careers, wanting to advance quickly in your current position, or considering starting your own business. Because of their intangible characteristics that define how you work and interact, soft skills have emerged as the new currency in the workplace. Above all, soft skills are now a significant differentiator in every career field.



speaking with confidence and clarity about ideas and thoughts. * **Non-verbal communication:** communicating attitudes, intentions and feelings through posture, gestures, and eye contact. * **Written communication:** Use written language to communicate concepts and information. * **Oral communication:** Make use of spoken language to communicate concepts and details. * **Presentation:** an everyday ability in communication. * **Constructive feedback:** an essential ability for communication. **Excellent Communication Skills Are Essential for a Successful Career:** Effective communication is essential for professional success. You can increase your chances of getting an interview and advanc-

ing through the selection process by developing your communication skills. Having strong communication skills is essential for performing your job well because it allows you to ask questions, communicate with people, discuss issues and maintain positive human relationships. Here are some tips to improve your communication skills to communicate effectively: * **Listening:** To be a good communicator, it is important to be a good listener. Developing active listening skills is crucial. It is essential to pay close attention to what others are saying and understand more. * **Conciseness:** Use as few words as possible to convey your message. Go straight to the point. Avoid talking too much. Don't use words

that confuse the audience. * **Body language:** When interacting with people, it is critical to practice appropriate body language, make eye contact, use hand gestures, and pay attention to your voice tone. Making eye contact with the other person indicates that you are paying attention to what they are saying. Eye contact is crucial in communication. But be careful not to stare at the person.

faith in your words and your ability to communicate with others. Gaining confidence does not have to be difficult. Do not try to come across as hostile or disrespectful, or make statements sound like questions. * **Open-mindedness:** In circumstances where you disagree with what the other person is saying, it is critical to show empathy for their perspective rather than attempting to convince them of your own. Honour other people's opinions. People who disagree with you should never be belittled. * **Respect:** Respecting and accepting what others have to say is an important aspect of communication. Being respectful to others is very important. By respecting others, you can impress them. * **Using the right medium:** Selecting the appropriate communication channel is crucial, as there are numerous options available. Communicating about a serious matter in person is more appropriate than sending an email on the subject.

(To be continued)

Oil climbs fearing MidEast war

LONDON: Oil prices rose on Thursday as the prospect of a widening Middle East conflict that could disrupt crude oil flows from the key exporting region overshadowed a stronger global supply outlook.

Brent crude futures were up 94 cents or 1.27pc to \$74.84 a barrel at 9:15 am Saudi time. US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were up 99 cents or 1.41pc to \$71.09.

Both benchmarks had jumped over \$1 earlier in the session. “Following the initial jitters from geopolitical risks in the Middle East, we have seen some calm return to global markets, but of course, with market participants still

keeping a side-eye on any upcoming Israeli response,” said Yeap Jun Rong, a market strategist at IG. “The question for oil now is whether Iran’s energy infrastructure will be in Israel’s crosshairs,” said Yeap.

Beirut early on Thursday, killing at least six people, after its forces suffered their deadliest day on the Lebanese front in a year of clashes against Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah.

The strike comes a day after Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel in an escalation of hostilities, which have seeped out of Israel and occupied Palestinian territories into Lebanon and Syria.