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## Oman to build dedicated AI zone in economic diversification push

**MUSCAT:** Oman plans to build a new economic area centred on developing its artificial intelligence capabilities, as the sultanate steps up its technology sector to boost its economy. The Special Artificial Intelligence Zone, which will be created in the governorate of Muscat, will grant incentives and benefits to projects that will be established within it in accordance with free zone laws, the Oman News Agency said.

"The board of directors of the Public Establishment for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones shall appoint those re-

sponsible for managing, operating and developing the zone in co-ordination with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology," it said.

Building out a strong AI

infrastructure is one of the main pillars of Oman's Vision 2040 strategy, a plan that, much like its Gulf neighbours, is aimed at diversifying its economy from oil and developing more sustainable means

of growth. The hydrocarbon industry plays a key role in Oman's modern and expansive infrastructure, including electric utilities, roads, public education and medical services, according to the US

International Trade Administration.

In March, the ministry launched the sultanate's most comprehensive push yet to develop a self-sustaining digital economy, whose contribution to gross domestic product is planned to reach 10pc by 2040. Also last month, the Oman Investment Authority, through its subsidiary Ithca Group, announced that chip companies GSME, Lumotive and Movandi will be starting operations in the sultanate, at a combined investment of OR14.63 million (\$38 million) to help the coun-

( Cont. on page - 2 )

### Consul General HE Mahboob Issa Al-Rais hails AI City



Consul General His Excellency Mahboob Issa Al-Rais

'Oman has officially launched its first AI city in Muscat, following Royal Decree 50/2026 issued on April 30th, 2026. This project will operate under the umbrella of Oman's Special Economic Zone and Free Zones offering business-friendly conditions for AI companies. As a result, it will become a hub for innovation attracting global tech firms and creating high-skilled jobs. In the future, it is expected to diversify Oman's economy, reduce its dependence on oil and place the country at the forefront of the global digital economy.'



## Air India to cut nearly 100 flights till July

**MUMBAI:** Air India will trim almost 100 domestic and international flights till July as it grapples with heavy losses caused by ris-

ing jet fuel prices, airspace restrictions and expensive overseas routes. CEO Campbell Wilson informed ( Cont. on page - 2 )

## UAE-India airfares set to rise further as jet fuel prices surge

**DUBAI:** Airfares for Indian expats in the UAE and wider Gulf are likely to rise as fuel costs surge, with airlines warning of knock-on disruptions in the weeks ahead. Travellers could also face reduced flight frequencies if Indian carriers cut capacity, as well as less flexibility when book-

ing during peak periods.

India has held jet fuel prices steady for domestic flights while sharply increasing rates for international operations, offering limited relief to airlines already warning of a potential shutdown. State-run Indian Oil Corporation, which sets benchmark fuel prices, said on its web-

site it would keep domestic aviation turbine fuel (ATF) unchanged at about Rs 104,927 (Dh4,060) per kilolitre. However, prices for international routes have been raised to roughly Rs 1,42,425.40 (Dh5,530) per kilolitre, reflecting rising global costs, Bloomberg has reported.

( Cont. on page - 2 )

## Haryanty Abu Bakar appointed as Director, Tourism Malaysia's Mumbai office

**MUMBAI:** Tourism Malaysia has appointed Haryanty Abu Bakar as Director, Tourism Malaysia's office in Mumbai.

In her new role, she will lead Malaysia's tourism promotion and market development efforts across Western and Central India, as well as the Maldives. Haryanty brings extensive experience across internation-



al and domestic tourism markets. She previously served as Director of Tourism Malaysia in Sabah, where Haryanty

Abu Bakar contributed to positioning the destination as a leading nature and adventure hub. Prior to that, she held the role of Deputy Director in Jakarta, strengthening trade partnerships and driving inbound tourism from Indonesia.

In her current capacity, Haryanty will lead strategic initiatives to position ( Cont. on page - 2 )

## Passenger services must be aligned with airport charges: Minister Naidu

**NEW DELHI:** K Rammohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation, chairing a review meeting on developing a uniform, tariff-linked performance oversight mechanism for major airports, stressed on aligning service benchmarks with India's growing role as a global transit hub.

"Passenger facilitation must be embedded within airport charges transparently while encouraging operational excellence," Naidu said, directing Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) to ensure accountability and improved service standards across airports through structured tariff frameworks.



Civil Aviation Minister

K Rammohan Naidu



## Shankh Air to handle its own ground operations

**LUCKNOW:** Upcoming carrier Shankh Air has finalised its operational strategy for ground handling as it prepares to join the increasingly competitive Indian skies. The airline will manage its own ground operations at its primary base in Lucknow, while outsourcing these services to specialised agencies at all other regional and metro airports.

Shankh Air became one of the three airlines to have secured the NOC from the Ministry of Civil Aviation in Dec last year. The airline is

now in the final stages of obtaining its air operator's certificate (AOC) from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

A senior airline executive exclusively said that the carrier will handle its own operations at its base in Lucknow by deploying its own staff and equipment to manage check-in, baggage handling and ramp services.

This self-handling model is expected to provide Shankh Air with greater flexibility in turnaround ( **Cont. on page - 6** )

## Haryanty Abu Bakar appointed as...

( **Cont. from page - 1** ) Malaysia as a preferred destination for Indian travellers, highlighting the country's diverse offerings, from vibrant cityscapes and luxury shopping to tranquil beaches, family-friendly attractions and rich cultural heritage. With improved connectivity and tailored travel experiences, Malaysia continues to offer exceptional value and memorable journeys for visitors from India.

million international visitor arrivals in 2025, marking an 11.2pc increase over 2024. India remains a key source market, contributing significantly to this growth as the destination gears up for Visit Malaysia 2026.

The continuation of visa-free entry for Indian nationals has further boosted accessibility and travel confidence.

Connectivity between India and Malaysia continues to strengthen, with 237

## Oman to build dedicated AI zone in economic...

( **Cont. from page - 1** ) try play a bigger role in key industries such as consumer electronics and electric vehicles.

In January, Oman approved its national budget for 2026 and launched the next phase of its economic programme that aims for four per cent growth through 2030. Also that month, the sultanate approved the creation of an international financial centre, giving the sultanate a new tool to attract capital.

Also, S&P Global Ratings had said in March that Oman's fiscal health and strategic location will help it withstand the effects of the Iran war, as it affirmed the country's credit rating and stable outlook. The MF expects the sultanate to grow by 3.5pc in 2026, bucking the regional trend.

To man has largely been unaffected by the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz, as it is the only Gulf state whose exports do not depend on the waterway.

# Noida International airport to start commercial flights from June 15

**NEW DELHI:** Noida International Airport (NIA) will begin commercial flight operations from June 15, marking a key milestone in the long-awaited greenfield aviation project in UP.

IndiGo will operate the first passenger flight from the airport, followed shortly by Akasa Air and Air India Express. The commencement of operations comes after its inauguration by Prime Minister Modi and the receipt of approval for the Aerodrome Security Programme (ASP) from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.

The approval confirms that the airport's security framework, systems and operational procedures are in compliance with

weekly direct flights from 14 Indian cities, offering over 43,000 seats to gateways including Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Langkawi. Since the introduction of visa-free entry in Dec 2023, Indian arrivals have grown by 15.8pc, surpassing 1.5 million visitors in 2025.

( **Cont. from page - 1** ) employees that the airline had already cut operations in April and May, with additional reductions now extended to June and July due to rapidly deteriorating conditions.

Wilson has already announced that he will step down later this year.

Wilson told employees that the company had already reduced certain overseas operations in April and May. He further stated that additional cuts will now extend into June and July because of deteriorating conditions.

"We have reduced some flying for April and May... massive rise in jet fuel prices which, together with airspace closures and longer



regulatory requirements ahead of the start of commercial services. Further details on flight schedules, destinations and passenger facilities will be announced in due course.

Developed to cater to

## UAE-India airfares...

( **Cont. from page - 1** )

The move comes as airlines worldwide face a jet fuel crunch driven by the MidEast conflict and supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz. Oil prices have surged, with Brent crude rising to about \$111 a barrel on Friday — up sharply from around \$65 before the conflict escalated — amid stalled efforts to resolve the war.

"The airline industry in India is under extreme stress and on the verge of

the growing demand for air travel in the National Capital Region and western UP, the airport has been designed with modern terminal infrastructure, efficient operations and

( **Cont. on page - 6** )

closing down or stopping operations," the Federation of Indian Airlines said in a letter to the government.

The body, which represents major carriers including Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, warned that any further increase in fuel prices could lead to aircraft being grounded and flights being cancelled. Fuel accounts for up to 40pc of an airline's operating costs, making the sector highly vulnerable to price shocks.

## Air India to cut nearly 100...

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"We have reduced some flying for April and May... massive rise in jet fuel prices which, together with airspace closures and longer

flying routes, have caused many of our international flights to become unprofitable to operate," Wilson said in his message to staff.

The company operates nearly 1,100 flights on a day-to-day basis and will reduce operations to Europe, North America, Australia and Singapore in June.

The airline was forced to divert flights on several international sectors due to airspace curbs caused by the conflict, increasing journey time and fuel burn. Wilson said that the combination of these factors has created an extremely difficult operating environment for the loss-making airline. He said there was now little alternative but to

reduce schedules further through July.

"We very much regret the disruption to our customers' plans and our crew's rosters and hope that the MidEast situation settles - and the Strait of Hormuz opens -soon so that we can get back to a more normal state," he said. Wilson has already announced that he will step down later this year.

Global average jet fuel prices surged to 179.46 dollars a barrel in the week ended April 24, an 80 per cent jump from 99.40 dollars at the end of February. Air India Group is estimated to have posted a Rs 22,000 crore loss for the financial year ending March 31, 2026.

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Canadian Dollar	68.67	70.23
Australian Dollar	67.09	68.59
Norwegian Krone	9.97	10.26
Swedish Krona	10.05	10.34
New Zealand Dollar	54.83	56.08
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## DMK, TMC, CPM on way out, Vijay creates history in Tamil Nadu

**NEW DELHI:** In closely contested elections in different states, the outcome turned out to be shocks and surprises.

Tamil Nadu, one of the largest states, witnessed a Vijay wave which swept away the ruling DMK. Cinema Star Vijay Joseph literally swept the polls and is close to form the government, though officially no result has come.

The fact that chief minister MK Stalin is trailing from his stronghold of Kothur in Chennai is a stark indicator of the broader trend.

In West Bengal the counting trend is more or less on the lines of the exit poll. The BJP is leading in about 200 seats and Mamata Banerji's fate is



sealed.

In Kerala, the 10-year-old left front government is out and the Congress (UDF) is all set to form the government, as per the trends. In Assam The BJP is leading with a huge margin with more than 98 seats while the Congress is leading in around 26

seats. Assam has 126 assembly seats and a party or coalition needs 64 seats to win. Assam has gone to BJP and Puthucherry remains with the NDA front.

In assembly by-elections, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar is leading by over 2.18 lakh votes in the Baramati .

## Sensex jumps 650 points in early trading

**MUMBAI:** Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Monday amid easing oil prices and improving global sentiment, with Asian markets also trading higher.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 657.80 points to 77,571.30 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 213.35 points to 24,215.10.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Maruti surged four per cent after the car market leader reported a record total sales of 2,39,646 units in April, a 33.29pc year-on-year growth, making a strong start to the new fiscal with its small cars showing robust growth.

Hindustan Unilever, L&T, Adani Ports, Asian Paints and M&M were also among the biggest gainers.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, Eternal, Tata Consultancy Services and Titan were the laggards from the pack.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.27 per cent lower at US\$107.9 per barrel. "Today's market action may be unduly influenced by the state election results with focus on West Bengal. But it is important to note that this will be only a very short-term sentimental impact," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, GeojitInvestments said.

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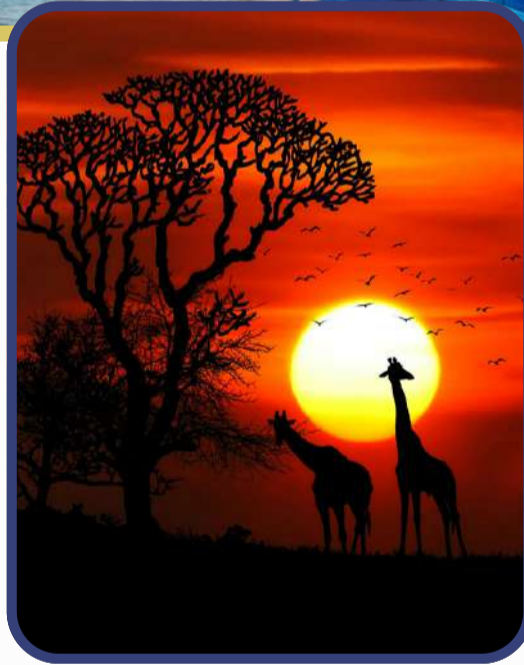
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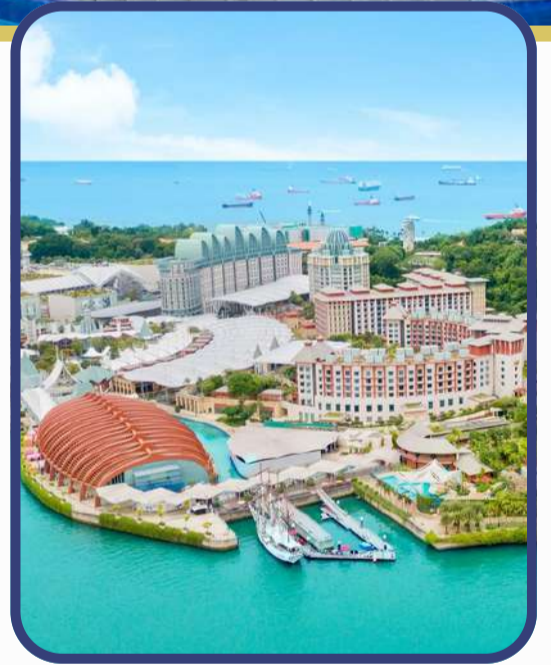
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# GULF FAQs

## How to report lost items in Dubai?

**How to report lost items in Dubai and increase our chances of recovery?**

Losing a phone, wallet, passport or even a valuable piece of jewellery can be stressful. In Dubai, however, there is a formal system in place that allows residents, visitors and citizens to report lost belongings and track them if they are found. Dubai Police manages the emirate's Lost and Found service, which enables people to report missing items and apply for an official Lost Certificate. This certificate records details of the item and the date it was lost, and can be used if the item is later recovered or if proof of loss is required. What items can be reported as lost? Through the Dubai Police Lost and Found service, you can re-

port a wide range of items, including official and unofficial documents, certificates, vehicle number plates, personal belongings and valuables such as jewellery or electronic devices. A Lost Certificate is an official document issued by Dubai Police confirming that an item has been reported missing. It includes a description of the lost item and the date of loss, and helps facilitate follow-up if the item is found or handed in.

Before filing a report, it is recommended to retrace your steps, as this may help you recover the item yourself. If the item cannot be

**HOW TO REPORT LOST ITEMS IN DUBAI**  
and increase your chances of recovery!

- 1 LOST SOMETHING?**  
It happens to anyone.  
Stay calm. Check the last place you visited.
- 2 TAKE QUICK ACTION**  
Report and share details.  
Report on Dubai Police App or Website  
Provide accurate information (item, place, time)  
Inform staff at the place you lost it  
Act fast. The sooner you report, the better!
- 3 INCREASE YOUR CHANCES, GET IT BACK!**  
Stay positive and reachable.  
Stay positive. We'll contact you when your item is found.

Provide clear details | Keep your contact information active | Follow up regularly | Keep notifications on and respond when contacted | Lost today, Found tomorrow.

found, you can apply for a Lost Certificate through the Dubai Police app. The app is available on both IOS and Android devices and allows you to complete the process digitally.

Step 1: Access the Lost Certificate service: Open

the Dubai Police app and tap on Services at the bottom of the screen. Scroll down until you find the Lost Certificate option.

Step 2: Enter your personal details: If you have an Emirates ID, you will need to enter your ID number and email address. Visitors should provide their passport number, date of birth, nationality and email address.

Step 3: Provide details of the lost item: Select the type of item you have lost from the drop-down menu. You will be asked to choose a category, such as jewellery and then a sub-category, for example a ring, necklace or bracelet. If available, you can upload

an image of the lost item.

Step 4: Add the date and location of the loss: Enter the date and time the item was lost, then provide the location. You can either type in the address or pin the location on the map, along with a brief description of the place.

Step 5: Submit and pay the fee: Complete the captcha and submit your application. You will then be asked to pay the service fee using a credit or debit card. Once payment is completed, you will receive a transaction number that can be used for follow-up.

The Lost Certificate will be sent to your email address, along with the payment receipt. How much does it cost?

The cost of applying for a Lost Certificate is as follows: Service fee: Dh50, Knowledge and innovation fees: Dh20. If the application is submitted in person at a police station, an additional fee of Dh100 applies.

## Have heirs legal right to receive both blood money, compensation?

**Our father was killed after being hit by a vehicle while crossing the road. The driver was under the influence of alcohol and was found guilty in a criminal trial. We demanded diya (blood money) and compensation from the driver's insurance company. The insurance company refused to pay compensation on the grounds that it is not permissible to combine blood money and compensation. Is this true?**

The insurance company is obligated to pay blood money and to compensate the heirs for any material and moral damages they suffered as a result of the death of the deceased because the prohibition mentioned in Article 299 of the Civil Transaction Law is related to the deceased for the harm he inflicted upon himself.

compensation shall be payable for any harm caused to a person, provided that in cases in which diya or arsh (Sharia damages for personal injury not resulting in death) are payable, they shall not be payable in addition to such compensation unless the parties agree to the contrary.

It is settled in Civil Cassation No. 7/2023, dated 23/3/2023, that there is nothing to prevent the heirs of a deceased person from claiming compensation for the material or moral damages they suffered as a result of the death, in addition to their right to collect the legal blood money due to them by law, which was awarded against the person responsible for the harmful act that caused the death. This is because the prohibition on combining blood money with compensation, stipulated in Article 299/2 of the Civil Transactions Law, is limited

to compensation due to the deceased for the harm inflicted upon himself.

Compensation due to the heirs personally remains governed by the provisions of Articles 282, 292, and 293 of the same law, which conclude that any harm done to another shall render the actor liable.

## Eviction after collapse: what are the rights of the tenant?

**I rent a shop in a mall. Four months ago, the first floor and the basement of the east side of the mall collapsed. The landlord is now asking me to vacate the shop until the portion is fixed. However, my shop is located on the west side of the mall. Does the landlord have the right to evict me, and do I have the right to request compensation?**

According to the law in Dubai, a landlord may request eviction of a tenant before expiry of the lease contract if the property is likely to collapse, provided that he proves this with a technical report issued by or certified by Dubai Municipality.

However, the tenant has the right of first refusal to return to the property once it is reconstructed, renovated or restored.

The tenant must exercise the right of first refusal within 30 days of being notified by the landlord. So, in case the landlord has a technical report from Dubai Municipality, you have to leave, unless you can prove in court that your shop is far away from the collapsed area and is not affected by the reconstruction.

In such cases, you have to refer the matter to an expert to prove that your shop is not affected. If the court rules that you must vacate, you can claim compensation. The court will decide on eviction and compensation based on the documents submitted.

Article 299 states that

# Ravi Gosain hails easier OCI access, move to boost inbound travel and diaspora connect

**NEW DELHI:** India has revised Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) rules expanding eligibility while tightening compliance norms and streamlining application processes.

The move aims to simplify access for people of Indian origin while im-

proving transparency and regulatory oversight. The changes are expected to strengthen diaspora engagement and support inbound travel growth, said Ravi Gosain, President, IATO.

“The revision of OCI rules is a positive and

progressive step towards strengthening India’s engagement with its global diaspora. The move to widen eligibility and simplify application processes will make it easier for people of Indian origin to stay connected with India. At the same time, strict-

er compliance norms will ensure better regulation and transparency, which is important for maintaining the integrity of the system. For the inbound tourism sector, this is particularly significant as easier access and streamlined processes will encourage more frequent visits by the Indian diaspora, contributing to



higher inbound travel and stronger emotional connect with India,” Gosain added.

## Noida International airport to...

(Cont. from page - 2) multi modal connectivity. The airport aims to ensure a seamless passenger experience while providing airlines with cost-efficient

and reliable operational facilities.

The beginning of commercial operations would significantly boost regional connectivity and support

economic growth, trade, tourism and investment in the broader region, according to officials.

The facility currently includes one runway and one passenger terminal with an annual capacity of 12 million passengers. According to its long-term master plan, the airport is likely to scale up its capacity to handle over 70 million passengers annually in phases over the concession period. The facility blends Swiss efficiency with Indian hospitality and will offer a wide range of passenger services and commercial amenities.

## Shankh Air to handle...

(Cont. from page - 2) passenger service. For its wider network, which will include major hubs like Delhi and Mumbai as well as smaller regional airports, the airline is currently in the process of vetting and hiring third-party ground handling agencies.

ly without the immediate capital expenditure of stationing heavy equipment and large teams at every destination.

The move is seen as a strategic effort to maintain high service standards and control costs at its home turf while leveraging the existing infrastructure of established ground handling agencies elsewhere.

## Akasa Air leads passenger load factor in March at 90.5pc



**MUMBAI:** Akasa Air recorded the highest passenger load factor (PLF) among domestic carriers at 90.5pc in March 2026, according to the DGCA data. The airline maintained strong seat occupancy levels despite growing capacity, outperforming competitors. IndiGo followed with 83.5pc while Air India Group reported 82.3pc. The figures highlight sustained demand across key routes, with newer airlines like Akasa demonstrating strong network optimisation and efficient capacity utilization.

## KNOW YOUR PASSPORT

**MUMBAI:** A passport is more than just a travel document — it is an identity card for the world. In India, passports are not one-size-fits-all. Depending on the traveller’s purpose, profession and official status, the Government of India issues passports in different colours and categories. While most people are familiar with the standard blue passport, there are lesser-known variants designed for diplomats, government officials, and specific employment-related travel requirements.

tion, work assignments or family visits abroad.

The Ministry of External Affairs issues this passport, which is valid for 10 years for adults and for five years or until the holder turns 18—for minors.

**White:** The white passport is not commonly seen because it is issued strictly to individuals travelling abroad on official government duty. Reserved for officers representing the Indian government in an official capacity, this category is granted exclusively to government officials.

Unlike ordinary passports, the white passport clearly identifies its holder as someone undertaking a state-related assignment. This distinc-

tion often helps streamline immigration procedures and ensures due recognition of the traveller’s official status while overseas.

**Maroon:** The maroon passport, also known as the diplomatic passport, is issued to Indian diplomats, high-ranking government officials and diplomatic couriers.

This category comes with certain privileges during international travel. Diplomatic passport holders may receive easier visa processing, dedicated immigration counters and diplomatic immunity in some circum-

stances, depending on international agreements. However, diplomatic passports are not issued for personal convenience. They are strictly linked to the holder’s official role and responsibilities. Once an official assignment ends, the passport may need to be surrendered.

**Orange:** ECR status: The Orange passport in India was proposed for citizens with Emigration Check Required (ECR) status typically those with less than a 10th-grade education as a measure to protect them from exploitation abroad.

However, in Jan 2018, the Ministry of External Affairs decided against issuing separate orange-coloured passports. While

the colour distinction was scrapped, the ECR status continues. Such individuals are issued the standard blue passport, but without the last page, which earlier contained address and guardian details.

**Why these distinctions matter:** Passport colours are not chosen randomly. They help foreign authorities quickly identify the traveller’s role and the purpose of travel. Immigration systems worldwide rely on visual cues for faster verification.

For India, these colour distinctions also create a clear separation between ordinary citizens, official delegations and diplomatic representatives. As global travel evolves, passports are becoming smarter, more secure and digitally integrated paving the way for the next generation of travel documents.

