



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Meet Dr Vishnu Vardhan Reddy

AIIMS DOCTOR TO DUBAI CONSUL GENERAL



DUBAI: Long before taking charge of one of India's busiest overseas missions, Dr Emmadi Vishnu Vardhan Reddy had trained for a very different career — medicine.

The AIIMS-trained doctor later joined the Indian Foreign Service, beginning a career that would take him to diplomatic missions in Madrid and Geneva, India's passport administration and senior investment-promotion roles in Telangana.

Dr Reddy is from Warangal district in Telangana. He studied medicine at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi before choosing a career in diplomacy and joining the IFS in 2008. Dubai assignment would be his first diplomatic posting in the Gulf region. Dr Reddy has served at Indian missions in Madrid and Geneva.

At the MEA headquarters in New Delhi, he worked in the Europe West, Latin America and Ca-

ribbean and External Publicity divisions. Official MEA documents from 2013 also identify him as an Under Secretary in the External Publicity Division. Dr Reddy later moved into a role that brought him into direct contact with thousands of passport applicants. He took charge as Regional Passport Officer in Hyderabad in Feb 2017 and went on to head both the Regional Passport Office and the MEA Branch Secretariat in the city until 2020.

Saudi makes skills test mandatory for private car driver visa applicants

MUMBAI: The Royal Consulate of Saudi Arabia in Mumbai has announced that a mandatory job skills test will now be required for all applicants seeking a new Saudi work visa for the post of Private Car Driver (House Driver).

According to an official circular issued to licensed recruitment agencies, the new requirement forms part of the Kingdom's ongoing Skill Verification Programme, aimed at ensuring that foreign work-

ers possess the necessary professional competencies before entering Saudi Arabia.

Under the revised guidelines, the occupation Private Car Driver (Occupational Code: 9141055) has been brought under the Skill Verification Programme. The new regulation came into force on Tuesday, August 4, and applies to all fresh visa applicants under this category.

The circular states that applicants must successful-

ly pass the prescribed skills assessment before their visa stamping or electronic endorsement can be completed through the Munasana platform. Without obtaining the required certification, the visa process will not proceed.

The Saudi Consulate has instructed recruitment agencies to ensure that candidates fully comply with all requirements of the Skill Verification Programme before initiating visa processing. Agencies

have also been directed to strictly adhere to the procedures and guidelines outlined in the official handbook issued by the Saudi authorities.

The move is expected to improve the quality of

overseas workforce deployment, enhance road safety standards and ensure that private drivers recruited for employment in Saudi Arabia meet the Kingdom's prescribed professional benchmarks.

Riyadh Air launches daily direct Mumbai-Riyadh flights

MUMBAI: Saudi Arabia's newest national carrier, Riyadh Air, has officially entered the Indian market with the launch of its first scheduled service between King Khalid International Airport and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

The inaugural daily non-stop flight departed on August 4, marking a significant milestone in strengthening air connectivity between Saudi Arabia and India. The route is



Riyadh Air inaugural function held at Riyadh airport.

operated by the airline's state-of-the-art Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, offering passengers enhanced comfort and modern on-

board amenities.

The new service is expected to benefit business travellers, tourists, and the

(Cont. on page - 6)

Ex-Ethiopian Airlines CEO heads Air India

MUMBAI: Air India has appointed former Ethiopian Airlines Group chief Tewolde Gebremariam as its CEO and MD, replacing Campbell Wilson.

The move comes as the Tata Group-owned airline enters an expansion phase after completing its initial turnaround efforts. Gebremariam brings nearly four decades of aviation experience and a track record of leading Ethiopian Airlines' global growth.

Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrasekaran said that having completed the initial phase of stabilisation, integration, and fleet commitments under Camp-



Tewolde Gebremariam, New CEO and MD, Air India

bell's guidance, the airline is now entering a critical execution and expansion era.

Gebremariam said Air India carries an incredible legacy, and the opportunity to build a world-class global airline that reflects India's extraordinary economic potential is uniquely exciting.

(Cont. on page - 6)



SC acts on cybercrime

The Supreme Court has done a yeoman service to the people by ordering Reserve Bank of India to frame cyber fraud safeguards and freeze mule accounts. The court issued a series of nationwide directions, asking the apex bank to frame a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) within four weeks for freezing all mule accounts linked to cyber-related offences, including accounts used to receive proceeds from digital arrest scams and extortion. With the Union government not doing anything serious to prevent cyber frauds, the order by the Supreme Court is welcome, though belated. Day after day, newspapers carry reports of cyber frauds which deprive gullible people their hard earned money. Hardly anybody has been sentenced in such cases so far.

The apex court also directed the Centre, states and Union Territories (UTs) to operationalise grievance redressal and money restoration modules in their respective jurisdictions, along with the “e-Zero FIR” registration system, to ensure prompt registration of complaints relating to cyber frauds instead of waiting for jurisdictional police officers to register an FIR (anyway, police stations are reluctant to file such complaints taking into account the inter-state and international reach of these cases—most of these accounts are handled from Nigeria). States and UTs were further directed to give wide publicity to the grievance redressal and money restoration modules, which will function under the overall supervision of the ministry of home affairs’ Indian Cyber Crime Co-ordination Centre.

The court also directed the Registrars General of High Courts across the country to place these measures before the respective High Courts and other adjudicating authorities dealing with the freezing of bank accounts in cyber fraud cases to facilitate effective handling of such matters.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana passed the directions in the suo motu proceedings initiated last year following letter petitions addressed to the chief justice of India and public interest litigations concerning the rising incidence of digital arrest scams. The apex court said the authorities concerned must take all necessary and prompt steps to ensure the expeditious disposal of cases involving the freezing of bank accounts arising from cyber-related financial frauds.

It further directed that the inter-departmental committee constituted by the Union government should hold regular consultations with officials of RBI, banks and other intermediaries to consolidate technological measures aimed at preventing digital arrest scams, recovering defrauded amounts and ensuring quick and timely investigations.

Digital adoption has advanced faster than digital literacy and, as a result, data presented in Parliament indicates that Indians lost about Rs 22,845 crore to cyber fraud in 2024, a 206pc annual rise. The Meta H1 2026 Adversarial Threat Report notes that Indians are now the second-most targeted population in cybercrimes globally. What was once scattered deception has evolved into a corporate-style criminal industry. Fraud networks operate using social media, encrypted messaging services and AI-generated content to identify, profile and exploit victims. In 2025 alone, Meta removed 10.9 million accounts linked to scam centres. Criminal networks increasingly conduct targeted operations resembling spear-phishing or whaling attacks where scammers research specific individuals, craft personalised approaches and often target those perceived to be wealthy or socially influential. Cybercrime has moved from opportunistic deception to systematic exploitation.

LIPSYNCH

“It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required.”

...Winston Churchill



MOROCCO: WHERE ANCIENT TRADITIONS MEET TIMELESS BEAUTY

By Prince Manjalil

From the Blue Atlantic Coast to the Imperial Cities, Morocco offers an unforgettable journey through history, culture and colour.

Nestled at the crossroads of Europe and Africa, Morocco is a captivating destination where centuries-old traditions blend seamlessly with modern hospitality.

From bustling medieval markets and majestic mosques to Atlantic beaches and the edge of the Sahara Desert, Morocco promises an unforgettable experience for every traveller.

Casablanca -- Morocco's Modern Gateway

Casablanca, Morocco's largest city and econom-



Fez

and tranquility. The iconic Hassan Tower, the grand Mausoleum of Mohammed V and the picturesque Kasbah of the Udayas reflect the country's rich royal heritage. Beautiful gardens, oceanfront promenades and well-preserved histor-

time. Home to one of the world's oldest universities, Al Quaraouiyine, Fez is renowned for its UNESCO-listed medieval medina, where narrow alleys are lined with traditional workshops, colourful souks, artisan tanneries and centuries-old architecture. The city remains Morocco's cultural and spiritual heart, preserving traditions that have endured for generations.

Marrakesh – The Red City of Wonders

Marrakesh dazzles visitors with its vibrant energy and exotic atmosphere. The legendary Jemaa el-Fnaa Square comes alive after sunset with storytellers, musicians, food stalls and entertainers. The city's magnificent palaces, tranquil gardens, bustling souks and luxurious riads offer an authentic Moroccan experience. Nearby, the snow-capped Atlas Mountains provide opportunities for hiking and adventure.

A Feast for the Senses

Moroccan cuisine is a delightful fusion of Arab, Berber and Mediterranean influences. Signature dishes such as tagine, couscous, pastilla and (Cont. on page - 3)



Casablanca

ic powerhouse, combines contemporary life with historic charm. The city's crown jewel is the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, one of the world's largest mosques, dramatically overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Visitors can stroll along the scenic Corniche waterfront, enjoy vibrant cafés and experience a cosmopolitan atmosphere that inspired the classic Hollywood film Casablanca.

Rabat - The Elegant Capital

Morocco's capital, Rabat, is a city of elegance

Fez – The Spiritual and Cultural Heart

Stepping into Fez feels like travelling back in



Marrakesh



Rabat

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Morocco - **Fez**



Wander **Marrakesh's**
majestic palaces &
historic mosques

Casa Blanca



Rabat



Meknes



Fez



Marrakesh

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can rely on



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GULF FAQs

How to pay Dubai traffic fines in instalments?

Receiving a traffic fine is frustrating, especially when several violations accumulate over time. Can you please tell me how to pay the Dubai traffic police fines on instalment basis?

To make payments more manageable, Dubai Police offers an instalment service that allows eligible motorists to spread the cost of their traffic fines over several months without paying interest. Here's how the Dubai Police traffic fine instalment scheme works, who is eligible, how to apply and the benefits of paying fines in instalments.

Dubai Police allows vehicle owners to pay eligible traffic fines through monthly instalments using a credit card or direct debit arrangement, subject to the terms and conditions of participating banks. The service is designed to help motorists settle outstand-

ing fines without having to make a large one-off payment. Depending on the bank and approval criteria, fines can be di-

vided into interest-free instalments over a period of three, six or 12 months. All payments required to be completed within one year.

What is the minimum amount required? To use the Dubai Police instalment service, the total value of the traffic fines must

be at least Dh 3,000. Motorists with fines below this threshold will need to settle the amount through the standard payment meth-

ods available via Dubai Police.

For many drivers, paying traffic fines in instalments can provide greater fi-

Debit Instalments" option and enter the required information, including your Emirates ID and bank details.

The system will then display participating banks that support the instalment programme. Once you submit your request, it will be reviewed by the selected bank. If approved, your fines will be divided into monthly instalments according to the agreed repayment period.

Before applying, ensure that your fines meet the eligibility requirements and confirm that your bank participates in the programme. Before applying, motorists should be aware of several important conditions:

Minimum fine

The minimum fine amount must be Dh 3,000. The service is available only for traffic fines issued by Dubai Police. Traffic fines issued in other emirates or GCC countries are not eligible. The Emirates ID used for the application must belong to the registered vehicle owner. Bank approval is required before the instalment

All Dubai Police fines linked to the vehicle owner must typically be settled together when using the instalment service. Which banks support Dubai Police fine instalments? Several UAE banks participate in the Dubai Police traffic fine instalment programme. These may include major institutions such as First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), Emirates NBD, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank (ADCB) and other participating UAE banks. As participating banks and eligibility criteria may change, motorists are advised to contact their bank directly or check the latest information on the Dubai Police website before applying.



Can a lawyer recover full fees even after losing case?

I had a professional agreement with a lawyer; I paid half of the charges and lost the case. The lawyer wants to file a case against me to recover the full charges. Does he have the right to recover all the charges even though I lost the case?

Losing a lawsuit does not in itself void a lawyer's right to be paid, because legal fees compensate for professional services and representation, not for a guaranteed winning outcome and thus, a lawyer is generally entitled to receive the agreed fees for the professional work performed within the scope of the power of attorney and may also recover expenses necessarily incurred in handling the case.

However, the client may request the court to reduce the agreed legal fees if they are excessive in light of the effort expended by the lawyer and the

benefit obtained by the client. This is provided under Article 52 of the Federal Decree Law No. (34) of 2022 Regulating the Legal Profession and Legal Consultation Profession which states that:

"The lawyer shall receive his / her fees according to the retainer agreement with the client. In addition, the court that hears the case shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to reduce, at the client's request, the agreed fees of the lawyer, if the court is convinced that such fees are overestimated compared with the effort of the case and the benefit generated by the client. Moreover, the court may increase the value of the agreed fees at the request of the lawyer if the latter makes effort and dedicates time for the underlying case in excess of the effort and time initially estimated as being required from the lawyer under the agreement".

financial flexibility and help avoid budget pressures associated with a large lump-sum payment.

Some of the key benefits include: Interest-free repayment options through participating banks. Flexible payment periods of three, six or 12 months. Improved cash flow management, allowing motorists to spread costs over time. Avoidance of payment delays, which could impact vehicle-related transactions and services. By breaking down larger traffic fine amounts into manageable monthly payments, motorists can settle their obligations while maintaining better control over their finances.

Motorists can apply for the instalment service online through the Dubai Police website - www.dubaipolice.gov.ae Simply visit the Traffic Fines Inquiry and Payment service, enter your vehicle or number plate details and view your outstanding fines. Select the fines you wish to pay, choose the "Pay via Direct

NRIs urge Indian govt to revise increase in passport fees

DUBAI: Indian expats in the UAE are hopeful that their government will revise the steep increase in passport fees after the Delhi High Court recently directed the Union government to consider a petition challenging the revised charges within three weeks.

Members of the community group Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC), which moved the Public Interest Litiga-

tion (PIL), said the court's direction has renewed hopes among overseas Indians, especially low-income workers who they say have been hit hardest by the higher passport fees that came into effect on July 1.

The PIL, filed by the Kerala chapter of Pravasi Legal Cell (PLC), challenges the revised passport fee structure introduced through the Passports (Amendment)

Rules, 2026. The petition argues that the higher charges introduced by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) place a disproportionate burden on overseas Indians, particularly blue-collar workers and seeks either the quashing of the revised fee structure or its reconsideration.

On July 22, the Delhi High Court had heard the petition and directed the Union of India to treat the

PIL itself as a representation, consider the grievances raised and take an appropriate decision, preferably within three weeks.

The court also directed that its decision be communicated to the petitioner before disposing of the case.

With less than 10 days left before the Centre's court-set deadline, members of Pravasi Legal Cell's UAE chapter say they remain hopeful that the government would revise the steep hike in passport service fees.

TN Krishna Kumar, president of Pravasi Legal Cell's Dubai wing, said the or-

ganisation has been fighting issues affecting overseas Indians for more than a decade. Founded by Adv Jose Abraham, who is also the Global President of the organisation, Pravasi Legal Cell describes itself as a group of retired judges, advocates, social activists and inspired citizens of India dedicated towards empowering people with the power of law. "Since 2009, we have consistently raised issues concerning Indian expats.

Whenever the authorities did not respond to genuine concerns, we approached the courts and have received favourable verdicts on many occasions." Krishna Kumar said the organisation now expects the MEA to review the revised fee structure in light of the court's order.

From Abu Dhabi new destinations added to Air India Express

DUBAI: Travellers flying from Abu Dhabi to India now have four more direct destinations to choose from, as Air India Express expands its network from Zayed International Airport.

The airline has launched non-stop services to Navi Mumbai, Indore and Lucknow, while direct flights to Guwahati in north-eastern India are set to begin on Aug 7, Abu Dhabi Airports.

Ahmed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports, said the new routes reflect the airport's continued efforts to grow its destination network.

"The addition of these new routes by Air India Express underlines our commitment to expanding Zayed International Airport's destination network



and serving the growing demand between the UAE and India." He added that strengthening partnerships with regional airlines would provide passengers with more travel choices while supporting Abu Dhabi's tourism and economic

"The UAE is one of Air India Express' most important international markets and Abu Dhabi continues to play a key role in our growth journey," says Nipun Aggarwal, Chairman of Air India Express. He said the airline's expanding network and growing fleet would offer travellers greater choice, convenient

schedules and direct connections while strengthening Air India Express' position as India's leading value airline.

Several new India-UAE routes are being introduced during Aug 2026, further boosting connectivity between the two countries. Across all airlines, hundreds of flights operate every week between India and the UAE, reflecting strong demand from tourists, business travellers and the large Indian expatriate community.

Ex-Ethiopian Airlines CEO heads...

(Cont. from page - 1)

While announcing the appointment, Air India said Gebremariam is widely recognised as one of the most successful aviation chief executives. The executive transition marks a pivotal juncture in the airline's transformation journey to become a world-class, leading global airline.

"During his decade-plus tenure as CEO of Ethiopian Airlines Group, he spearheaded a multi-bil-

lion-dollar expansion, transforming a regional carrier into Africa's largest, most profitable and decorated airline group -- growing revenue by more than fourfold and fleet size nearly three-fold," Air India said in a release.

According to the release, his unique strength lies in managing complex operational landscapes, driving cultural transformation, building competitive global hubs and developing world-class MRO (Mainte-

It may also simplify rules for overseas investment funds operating in India. The government hopes these steps will make the country a more attractive destination for global capital and strengthen economic growth.

Foreign suppliers providing products or components to Indian electronics manufacturers could also receive extended tax exemptions. Similar benefits may be considered for data centres and companies involved in diamond mining.

nance, Repair, and Overhaul) and aviation training infrastructure.

"Tewolde's track record in building one of the world's most efficient and profitable airline groups makes him uniquely suited to lead Air India.

"His operational expertise, commitment to safety, and vision for hub development will be instrumental as we establish Air India as a premier global carrier and a source of national pride," he said.

Riyadh Air launches daily direct...

(Cont. from page - 1)

large Indian expatriate community living in Saudi Arabia. Passengers flying from Mumbai will also gain seamless onward connections via Riyadh to several destinations across Europe and the Middle East, further enhancing travel convenience.

In addition to passenger services, the new route will bolster air cargo op-

erations by utilising the Dreamliner's belly-hold capacity, facilitating faster movement of high-value and time-sensitive freight between the two countries.

The launch reflects the growing aviation and economic ties between India and Saudi Arabia, while supporting the Kingdom's broader vision of developing Riyadh into a major global aviation hub.