



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025 • VOL. NO. 2 • Issue No. 51 • DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 8 PAGES

TAFI Western India hosts grand educational FAM trip to Thailand



Mr Trevor May, Multi Property GM, Phuket Marriott Resort and SPA-Merlin Beach, Mr Shannon Creado, Market Director of Sales and Distribution-South Thailand and Cluster Director of Sales and Marketing of Marriott International and Samer Alhaj, GM, Courtyard by Marriot Phuket, Patong Beach Resort being honoured by TAFI-WI office-bearers and delegates in conclusion of the FAM trip.

PHUKET/THAILAND: recently concluded a highly successful and enriching four-day Educational India Chapter (TAFI WI) FAM Trip to Thailand. This



Delegates at the TAFI-WI in Phuket being welcomed by the Marriott sales heads and team.

grand initiative brought together 20 handpicked top-performing tour operator members of TAFI WI, offering them an exclusive opportunity to experience the best of Thai hospitality.

Hosted graciously by the Marriott Group of Hotels, the delegates were welcomed and accommodated at their premium properties in Phuket and Khao
(Cont. on page - 2)

Saudi gives 30-day grace period for visa violators

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has announced a grace period for people with visitor visas, granting them an additional 30 days to leave the country. The General Directorate of Passports (Jawazat) in a statement declared that all visitors in Saudi Arabia, who stayed beyond their visa validity, will get a 30-day window to leave the country.

Which visas are covered under the extension?

All categories of visitor visas are covered under the 30-day grace period, and includes: Family visit visa holders, business visit visa holders. multiple-entry or single-entry visit visas and Saudi visitor visa grace period. The grace period began July 26, 2025 and is valid for only a period of 30 days.

(Cont. on page - 2)

FIMCA calls for urgent action against illegal immigration consultants and platforms

MUMBAI: The Federation of Indian Emigration Management Councils and Associations (FIMCA) has expressed its serious concern over the growing menace of illegal recruitment agents and unlicensed immigration consultants, who continue to exploit vulnerable Indian citizens—particularly youth—under the guise of offering

overseas employment, internships and study opportunities.

In a letter to the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, FIMCA has pointed out the two recent incidents reported in national media underscore the gravity of the situation:

In Surat, a young Indian man was de-
(Cont. on page - 7)



IATO CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN PURI

IATO aims 25pc increase in inbound tourism to Puri

MUMBAI: The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) aims to achieve a 25pc increase in inbound tourism to Puri in Odisha through its annual convention, which is projected to generate Rs 8,000 to Rs10,000 crore in annual benefits for the local economy.

This target is part of a broader strategy to re-



vive and strengthen India's inbound tourism sector, with a focus on aggressive global marketing and addressing barriers such as visa rigidity.

The 40th IATO Annual Convention will be held from Aug 20 to 25, 2025, in Puri. Odisha is the host state and in addition to its participation, the Union ministry of tourism along with 15-18 other states, are expected to attend the convention. Ravi
(Cont. on page - 2)



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A big boost to GDP

The recently signed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom could boost India's economic growth by at least 25 basis points over the next five years, a Bloomberg report quoted Elara Capital. Economist Garima Kapoor told Bloomberg TV that the pact could deliver an immediate 10 to 15 basis point jump in GDP growth over the next two years. In fact, nobody questions this estimate. The agreement is projected to enhance bilateral trade by an estimated \$34 billion each year.

The landmark agreement between the two countries aims to reduce tariffs on a range of goods including textiles, whisky and cars, while improving market access for businesses on both sides. Two-way trade between India and the UK stood at \$21.9 billion in 2024. Economist Kapoor stated that India's key advantage will lie in labour-in-



tensive exports such as textiles and footwear, giving it an edge over regional competitors like Bangladesh and Vietnam. "The benefits will be staggered, but significant over time," she said. The economist also noted that the deal could serve as

a blueprint for future trade negotiations, including a potential agreement with the US and the immediate agreement planned with Oman. While the FTA opens up India's automobile sector, areas like agriculture and dairy remain protected under the current framework.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds formally signed the free trade agreement in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and his UK counterpart Starmer. The India-UK FTA marks a major milestone in India's trade relations with developed nations. "UK rolls out the red carpet for Made in India," Goyal claimed.

The provisions on intellectual property in the India-UK free trade agreement may be tilted in favour of patent holders as they bring the issuance of compulsory licences – a critical tool to ensure access to affordable life-saving medicines – under greater scrutiny and constraints, intellectual property (IP) rights experts have said. The government rebutted the concerns and affirmed that the IP chapter represents a balanced and forward-looking approach— fully aligned with India's legal framework, TRIPS flexibilities and public health priorities.

Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner, but usually by paying a royalty. It is usually issued when the patent holder is not adequately meeting the needs of the public, such as in cases of national emergencies or public health crises. "The explicit preference given to voluntary licences over compulsory licences in the IP chapter leaves access to medicines in the hands of market forces and undermines the role of the government in facilitating access to medicines," pointed out Biswajit Dhar, Distinguished Professor, Council for Social Development.

Of course there were criticisms also. Some experts also criticised the FTA provision allowing disclosure of commercial working of patents once in three years, instead of annually, and not putting it in the public domain. "This relaxation limits the ability to prove that demands are unmet because of the patents, which is the main ground for compulsory licence," pointed out KM Gopakumar, Co-Convenor of the Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment. Overall, this FTA is a boost to India.

LIPSYNCH

"Do more of what works and less of what doesn't."
 --- Steve Clark

TAFI Western India hosts grand educational FAM trip to Thailand

(Cont. from page-1)

Lak. The FAM trip included insightful site inspections of nine Marriott's luxurious offerings, allowing members to gain firsthand knowledge of the brand's world-class facilities and services.

The entire programme was meticulously curated and coordinated by Mr. Shannon Creado, Marketing Director of Sales & Distribution – South Thailand, and Cluster Director of Sales & Marketing, Marriott International, along with Mr. Satbir Narula, Treasurer – TAFI WI, and his team at Pyramid DMC Thailand. From smooth logistics to curated experiences, the trip was planned to perfection.

Highlights of the trip included a spectacular cultural evening and dinner hosted at the renowned Siam Niramit Show, and a thrilling adrenaline-pumping experience at SkyRockZipline in Khao Lak – a 27-stage adventure zipline opened for the first time ever to tour oper-



TAFI delegates exploring the attractions of the Phuket region of Thailand.

ators, thanks to the efforts of TAFI WI. The journey ended on a rejuvenating note with a luxurious two-hour spa therapy sponsored by the Tourism Au-

More Pics on page -8

thority of Thailand at the award-winning Oasis Spa, Phuket. TAFI WI extends its sincere gratitude to Mr. Agnel Pinto, Vice President

& Director – Sales, Indigo Airlines, for supporting the trip with a special airfare, helping make this event a seamless and grand success. The TAFI WI Chairman and Managing Committee thank all sponsors, partners & Media for their invaluable support in making this FAM trip a truly memorable and productive experience.

IATO aims 25pc increase in Inbound...

(Cont. from page-1)

Gosain, Vice President of IATO, stated: "We anticipate around 900 to 1,000 delegates from across the country, including senior officials from the ministry of tourism, government of India, state representatives, industry leaders, tourism and hospitality professionals and travel trade media. Post-convention tours will also be organised to showcase Odisha's tourism potential, promoting it in both domestic and international markets."

Over the three-day convention, various business sessions will address pressing industry issues, featuring expert speakers from multiple fields. In addition to the discussions, the event will include the IATO Run for Responsible Tourism, with awards presented in various categories for winners and runners-up.

Swosti Premium Beach Resort, Puri, has been designated as the venue hotel, where all key activities-including registration, the inaugural function, business ses-

sions, and evening programmes-will take place. Taj Puri Resort & Spa, ITC Fortune Beachfront, Mayfair Heritage & Mayfair Waves, Sterling, Regenta Central, and Empires Hotel are the partner hotels for the event.

Saudi gives 30-day grace...

(Cont. from page-1)

What fines are involved for overstaying? The extension for the Saudi Arabia visitor visa is conditional on the payment of any outstanding fines and fees in line with Saudi regulations. How to apply for the extension? In a statement, the General Directorate of Passports mentioned that eligible individuals can request departure through the "Tawasul" service on the Ministry of Interior's digital "Absher" platform. Visitors in Saudi Arabia have been urged to make

use of the extended window to arrange their departure within the specified timeframe and avoid further penalties. Why the grace period? The introduction of the grace period for visitor visas is part of Saudi's broader effort to regulate residency and ensure smoother departure processes for visitors who remain in the kingdom beyond their visa validity. The initiative aims to streamline exit procedures and promote compliance with the kingdom's residency and immigration rules.

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Canadian Dollar	62.81	64.26
Australian Dollar	56.36	57.61
Norwegian Krone	8.43	8.68
Swedish Krona	8.9	9.16
New Zealand Dollar	51.51	52.69
Hong Kong Dollar	10.92	11.26
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Day 4 Agatti to Bangaram

After breakfast, transfer to Bangaram by speedboat (1 hour). Welcome drink and check-in at resort.



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GULF FAQs

Fake job offers, raffle wins, UAE banks warn against scams

I live in Dubai and I get a lot of calls offering jobs and asking my bank account number and other details. Is it safe to share such vital information to unknown people on the phone?

When browsing online, illegal websites might appear sometimes on search engines that imitate real sites. Residents have been advised to always ensure that the link or domain name are authentic and to look for security locks and certifications. Customers should always reconfirm the amount and currency of the recharge and the merchant's name before verifying any transactions.

Banks urge customers to avoid accidentally transferring funds to scammers

by always making sure that IBAN matches to the account name that they are transferring funds to. Sometimes, residents get messages from scammers who offer to earn \$500 (Dh1,835) a day, which is quite substantial for many people.

Some scammers send out messages to residents

offering them reward points which will expire "today". They ask residents to log in to certain websites to claim it. Banks in the UAE ask customers to be vigilant against SMS or messages claiming that the customer has accumulated points that are expiring soon. Fraudsters can scam people out of

money or personal information when they log in to redeem these points.

Sometimes, imposters pose as companies or suppliers and try to extract personal information and bank details of residents to credit money in their accounts. Therefore, bank customers should always verify this request with authorised people of the relevant company before taking any action.

Of late, a new scam has been targeting UAE residents by tricking them into believing that their passports have been suspended and requesting them to share their residential addresses to avoid fines. Customers are advised to block and report such messages always. Banks

advise customers to be careful and not to expose themselves to social engineering fraud. When people reply to unknown people on social media, and share their personal data with them such as their one-time password (OTP), they are exposing themselves to financial losses and other personal data.

Some scammers call customers claiming to be bank officials and seek details related to their accounts. The banks will never call and ask customers about their account and fund details. Therefore, customers should immediately hang up the call and alert the bank or authorities because frauds hide behind fake calls and big wins.



How to change visit visa to residency permit after getting a job offer?

I am currently in the UAE on a visit visa and actively looking for employment in the country. A company has extended a job offer, which I am happy to accept. What are the next steps? Can I start working on a visit visa immediately after receiving the offer or must I wait until my work visa is issued? Could you please explain how this process works and what legal requirements I need to fulfil before beginning employment?

An employer in the UAE cannot employ an individual without obtaining a valid work permit. This is under Article 6(1) of the Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations, which states: "No work may be performed

in the UAE, and no employee may be recruited or employed by any em-



ployer without obtaining the work permit from the Ministry (of HR and Emiratization), by the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations."

Furthermore, an expatriate should not engage in any employment without a valid work permit and UAE residency visa. This is in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Federal Decree Law No. 29 of

2021 Regarding Entry and Residence of Foreigners, which states: "An alien is

obligated not to engage in any activity or work except by the legislation in force in the state."

Based on the type of work, an employer and an employee may mutually agree to obtain a work permit as stipulated by the Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratization (MoHRE). The type of work permit may include, but is not limited to, full-time

work permit, part-time work permit, temporary work permit, freelance work permit, as mentioned in Article 6 of the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the Implementation of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Employment Relations.

In the event that an employer employs an individual without a valid work permit and UAE residency visa, it may be penalised with a fine of up to Dh1 lakh.

This is under Article-1 of the Federal Decree Law No. 9 of 2024, revising some provisions of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 Concerning Employment Relations, which states related to the amendment of Article 60(1)(a) of the Employment Law. The said law

reads as follows:

"Individuals who commit the following violations shall be fined a minimum of Dh1 lakh dirhams and a maximum of Dh1 million: Employment of an employee without obtaining a work permit."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, you should not work while you are on a visit visa in the UAE. Instead, you may request your prospective employer to obtain a work permit and UAE residency visa. Your prospective employer should apply for a work permit with MoHRE and an entry permit related to UAE residency. Once the work permit is issued, your prospective employer should make necessary arrangements to change your UAE residency visa status from visit to resident.

FIMCA calls for...

(Cont. from page - 1) ported from Zurich after his agent forged visa documents, leaving him stranded and criminalised abroad.

In another incident, a Dubai-based Indian was accused of running a Rs 4 crore work permit scam targeting Indian youth through deceptive online campaigns. These cases reflect a much wider problem. Despite Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, clearly mandating that only registered recruiting agents (RA) may conduct overseas recruitment, illegal operators continue to flourish—especially through unregulated posts on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, WhatsApp and Naukri.com, where no verification of RA licensing is enforced.

FIMCA has urged the ministry and PGE to use

Nightmare for Punjabi 'emigrant bachelors'

LUDHIANA: A mother-daughter duo from Punjab's Ludhiana district found a novel way to dupe prospective bachelor emigrants to Canada by exploiting their eagerness to settle abroad.

For seven aspiring bachelor "emigrants", it was a double delight of getting married and settling in Canada. But it did not turn out to be so. They neither got the bride nor the emigration to Canada but instead ended up losing lakhs of rupees, police investigation has revealed. Sukhdarshan Kaur, who was arrested recently along with two others, would allegedly use the photographs and videos of her 24-year-old daughter Harpreet as a prospective bride for those wanting to get married and settle abroad. Harpreet went to Canada on student visa and was currently there on work permit. According to Doraha SHO Inspector Akash Dutt, seven victims have been identified and have come forward with

their good offices to urgently consider the following actions: Recommendations for Immediate Intervention: Platform Accountability: Hold digital and social platforms legally accountable for

carrying recruitment ads from unregistered entities. Treat them as abetting illegal emigration under Section 10 if they fail to verify RA registration numbers. Mandatory Verification Mechanism: Issue formal guidelines to Meta Facebook/Instagram, LinkedIn, Naukri, and others requiring pre-verification of RA credentials before allow-

IndiGo increases frequency to Amsterdam, Manchester flights

MUMBAI: IndiGo has increased frequencies from Mumbai to Amsterdam and Manchester within a month of launching the new routes. The airline increased weekly frequencies to 6x and 4x for Amsterdam and Manchester respectively.

On Wednesday, IndiGo opened booking for increased flight frequencies on its recently launched long-haul routes connecting Mumbai with Amsterdam and Manchester.

The airline said that it has been encouraged by



the outstanding response to its long-haul flights, starting Sept 20, IndiGo has announced to fly six times per week on flight no. 6E-0021 between Mumbai and Amsterdam, and further increase it to daily service from Oct 13.

Similarly, the connectivity on flight no. 6E-0031 between Mumbai

and Manchester will be enhanced to four times a week, with effect from Sept 22. The airline launched operations to Manchester and Amsterdam on July 1 and 2 respectively, using its first Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft taken on damp-lease from Norse Atlantic Airways.

Trump imposes 25pc tariff plus penalty on India

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has announced a sweeping 25pc tariff on India starting Aug 1. "Remember, while

India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country. Also, they have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia and are Russia's largest buyer of energy along with China, at a time when everyone wants Russia to stop the killing in Ukraine.

All things not good! India will herefore be paying a tariff of 25pc, plus a penalty for the above, starting on Aug 1. Thank you for your attention

Trump's reference to India's purchase of Russian oil comes against the backdrop of the Russian Sanctions Act, 2025, which has been introduced in the US Senate and House of Representatives. It proposes to impose 500pc duties on countries that buy oil or other petroleum products from Russia. India and the

US had held the fifth round of talks last week in Washington but failed to reach an agreement. During a media interaction, Trump had hinted that the US was preparing to impose a higher tariff on India.

According to a Fitch report, the large size of India's domestic market, which reduces reliance on external demand, is expected to insulate the country from the US tariff hike, with the economy expected to maintain a growth of 6.5pc in FY26.

Dubai-based man accused of Rs 4cr work permit scam targeting Indian youth

AHMEDABAD: A major scam has surfaced involving a Dubai-based individual who allegedly deceived dozens of Indian youth by promising work permits for the UK and Europe at a cost of just Rs 5 lakh.

According to a complaint filed with the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, Jignesh Shah, a resident of Odhav and 26 others were tricked by Mahesh Prajapati—originally from Ahmedabad but now residing in Dubai. Prajapati claimed he could arrange UK work permits for Rs 5 lakh per person. He demanded an initial payment of Rs

50,000, with the remaining amount to be deducted from the candidates' salaries after they worked in Dubai for six months to a year.

Trusting the scheme, Shah and the others transferred a total of Rs 22 lakh to Prajapati. While some were sent to Dubai on visas, they reportedly never received the promised jobs. When it came time to apply for UK visas, applicants were told they needed to show a bank balance of Rs 20 lakh. For those unable to meet this requirement, Prajapati offered to temporarily arrange the

funds—for a one per cent interest fee.

Believing him, Shah shared the bank account details of his family members. Prajapati then deposited Rs 20 lakh into Shah's accounts and instructed him to withdraw and deposit the funds at a finance firm named P Angadiya in Bapunagar. In total, investigators say he funneled nearly Rs 4 crore through the bank accounts of various youth under the guise of visa processing.

Preliminary findings suggest that this was a front for circulating unaccounted money.

GLIMPSES OF TAFI-WI FAM TRIP TO KHAO LAK-PHUKET

