



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Kochi Shines on Global Map: Queen of the Arabian Sea Named a Must-See Destination for 2026

KOCHI: Kerala has earned yet another feather in its tourism crown, with Kochi being featured among the top ten trending destinations to visit in 2026, according to the world's leading travel platform, Booking.com. Significantly, Kochi is the only Indian city to make it to this prestigious global list. Set along Kerala's scenic coast, Kochi stands as a vibrant mix of history, art, and culture — a city where centuries of maritime trade have left a rich multicultural legacy.

From the colonial-era charm of Fort Kochi and its iconic Chinese fishing nets to the artistic buzz of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale that transforms heritage buildings into contemporary art spaces, the city captivates every kind of traveler. Food enthusiasts can indulge in everything from fiery seafood dishes to coconut-rich Kerala curries, while the state's famed backwaters, misty hills, and serene beaches are just a short drive away.

Tourism Minister P. A. Moham-

Panoramic view of Kochi, Chinese fishing nets and Kerala Tourism Minister P.A. Mohammad Riyas



UK updates travel advisory for India after Delhi attack

LONDON: The British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has shared an update and called on its nationals in Delhi to follow the advice of the local authorities.

media," reads the FCDO update for India. The FCDO country-based advisory is a guidance on travel rather than a government-imposed regulation. It is intended to flag risks for travellers in order to make "informed decisions" and could lead to travel insurance being invalidated if the advice is overlooked.

India, Saudi Arabia Sign Hajj 2026 Pact; 1.75 Lakh Pilgrim Quota Fixed

NEW DELHI: India and Saudi Arabia have signed the Bilateral Hajj Agreement for 2026, confirming a quota of 175,025 Indian pilgrims for the annual pilgrimage. The agreement

was signed in Jeddah by Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah. During his official visit to Saudi Ara-



Oman expat residency card validity extended to 10 years

MUSCAT: Oman has announced a major change to its residency regulations, extending the validity of the expatriate residency card from three to 10 years. The decision, issued by Lt. Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, amends the executive regulations of the Civil Status Law.

Under the new rules, residency cards will now be valid for up to 10 years. Cardholders must renew their IDs within 30 days of expiry. The regulation also sets the issuance and renewal fees at five Omani ri-



als per year, with a replacement fee of 20 rials for lost or damaged cards. Previously, in a decision issued last Aug, residency cards were valid for one, two or three years only.



55th OMAN NATIONAL DAY

20th & 21st November 2025

We are very pleased to announce that, **one** is coming out with a special **Oman National Day** supplement along with the regular issue on **21st November, 2025.**

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Hail unified GCC visa

At last, the Unified GCC Visa seems to become a reality soon. Originally approved by the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries in 2023, the GCC Grand Tourist Visa will be introduced next year. This visa gives the option to visit all the six GCC countries using one visa and is a collaborative effort to promote tourism across the region. According to Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb, the initiative has reached a major milestone after four years of co-ordinated work among Gulf governments.

The GCC countries involved are currently finalising the logistics and regulatory framework for the visa, and although the full details of the visa are not available, it is thought that the Unified GCC Tourist Visa will offer extended validity, allowing travel across multiple countries for longer periods. It is assumed

that the visa will cover activities such as tourism and visiting family and friends. Saudi Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb recalled that the initiative has reached a major milestone after four years of co-ordinated work among Gulf governments.

Modelled on the lines of the Schengen visa, GCC unified visa will be launched in 2026 and this GCC Grand Tours Visa will allow travellers to visit the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman using a single application. Travellers are expected to be given the choice between access to a single country or all the six, with validity ranging between one and three months. Costs are expected to be lower than securing individual visas for each destination.

Observers see it as a central piece of the region's economic diversification strategy, expected to attract international visitors who want multi-country itineraries without repeated paperwork, separate fees and varied entry rules. Travellers are expected to be given the choice between access to a single country or all six, with validity ranging between one and three months.

The prospective applicants will need a passport with at least six months of residual validity, accommodation details, a passport-size photo, proof of travel insurance, evidence of funds and a return or onward ticket. The full list will be published closer to launch. The application itself is expected to be straightforward, processed through an official online portal where travellers upload documents, pay the fee and receive their digital entry permit via email.

According to statistics, Arab region's four largest airlines carried nearly 150 million passengers last year, yet only 70 million travelled within the Gulf. This gap shows how much untapped demand remains for intra-GCC movement. The region's push for a shared visa reflects a broader trend toward harmonised regulations and unified data systems. Policymakers see streamlined entry rules as a gateway to deeper collaboration in tourism infrastructure, hospitality investment and cross-border mobility. The unified visa is expected to strengthen that trajectory by encouraging longer stays, wider travel patterns and higher spending across multiple cities. It also positions the Gulf to compete more effectively as a consolidated tourism zone rather than six separate markets with varied rules.

LIPSYNCH

"Everything within a limit is good"

---A Greek proverb

Mumbai Airport to Shut for Six Hours on November 20, for Runway Maintenance

Mumbai: Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport will temporarily suspend operations on both its runways on November 20 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM to carry out post-monsoon maintenance work, the airport authorities announced in a press release.

The scheduled closure, planned well in advance, is part of the airport's annual post-monsoon preventive maintenance program to ensure safe and efficient operations. A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)



was issued months ago, enabling airlines to adjust their flight schedules accordingly. The maintenance activities will involve comprehensive inspections, surface repairs, and technical evaluations of

runway lighting systems, markings, and drainage infrastructure.

Normal flight operations are expected to resume promptly after 5:00 PM once the maintenance work is completed.

IndiGo plans codeshare accord with China Southern Airlines

HONG KONG: IndiGo and China Southern Airlines inked a MoU to establish a codeshare partnership and mutual co-operation agreement. The pact is subject to regulatory approvals.

Generally, a codeshare partnership allows an airline to book its passengers on its partner carrier on

a single ticket. "This partnership aims to offer enhanced travel options and integrated travel itineraries to customers travelling between India and China on the joint network of both airlines besides through check-in process, among other benefits," IndiGo said. The latest announcement from IndiGo comes a

day after the airline started direct daily flights from Delhi to Guangzhou. On Oct 26, IndiGo resumed flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou, marking commencement of direct air connectivity between India and China after more than five years.

Direct flights were operational between the two countries till early 2020 before being suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. Indian and Chinese carriers had direct services. The services remained suspended in view of the eastern Ladakh border row. Following the recent diplomatic initiatives, it was decided to resume the direct flights between the two countries.

SpiceJet Soars Higher: Adds 5 Boeing 737s, Expands Daily Flights to 176



Mumbai: In a strong push to expand its network and capacity this winter, low-cost carrier SpiceJet has boosted its operational fleet to 35 aircraft with the induction of five additional Boeing 737s, including one Boeing 737 MAX. According to the airline, this latest addition brings the total number of aircraft inducted in just over a month to 15, comprising 14 damp-leased planes—two of them 737 MAX—and the reactivation of a Boeing 737 MAX from its grounded fleet.

All newly added aircraft have already commenced

commercial operations, enhancing connectivity (Cont. on page - 6)

Akasa Air Eyes Takeoff Boost from New Metro Airports



New Delhi: Akasa Air is banking on the upcoming Navi Mumbai and Noida airports to power its next phase of growth, as the airline struggles to expand operations in India's bus-

iest aviation hubs—Delhi and Mumbai—amid a severe shortage of flight slots.

"For a long time, India's top two markets have been (Cont. on page - 6)

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FOREX RATES
 As on 13th November 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	88.11	89.27
British Pound	115.6	117.29
Euro	101.79	103.95
Japanese Yen	56.95	57.87
Swiss Franc (CHF)	109.83	112.26
Canadian Dollar	62.63	64.06
Australian Dollar	57.63	58.88
Norwegian Krone	8.64	8.9
Swedish Krona	9.22	9.49
New Zealand Dollar	49.59	50.7
Hong Kong Dollar	11.19	11.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	294.97	285.61
Singapore Dollar	67.4	68.94
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.19	23.92
U A E Dirham	23.74	24.42

Tariffs on India to be lowered, says Trump

WASHINGTON: US President Trump has said tariffs on India are very high because it purchases Russian oil but they will be lowered "at some point" as Delhi is putting a stop to the transactions.

Sources indicate that India, which is planning to welcome Russian President Vladimir Putin next month to strengthen its economic and strategic partnership with Moscow, will continue to resist linking its trade deal with the US to limitations on its relationship with Russia.

"Well, right now, the tariffs are very high on India because of the Russian oil and they've stopped doing the Russian oil. It's been reduced very substantially. Yeah, we're going to be bringing the tariffs down...At some point, we're going to be bringing them down..." Trump said.

Trump was responding

to a question on how close the US was in clinching a trade deal with India and if he was willing to consider lowering the current 50pc tariffs on the country.

The Trump administration imposed 25pc reciprocal tariffs on India, effective Aug 7, and then another 25pc tariffs as penalty for buying Russian oil on Aug 29, taking the total tariffs to 50pc. The tariffs have made most of India's exports, especially labour-intensive goods like textiles, gems & jewellery and marine products, lose their competitiveness in the US market as competing countries such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia face tariffs of 19-20pc. Trade negotiating teams from both countries, which met face-to-face last month before Diwali in the US, made substantial progress in settling the details of

increased market access for US goods in India in various sectors. But Washington's insistence on rolling back the 25pc penalty only after it stopped purchasing Russian oil have been acting as a spoiler, a source tracking the matter said. "Singling out India and asking it to stop purchasing Russian oil is not a legitimate demand and the country will not agree to such arm-twisting. Delhi has been respecting all restrictions so far and there is no logic behind pushing it to make commitments that go beyond that," the source said.

But it is important for India to strike a deal with the US as it is its largest export destination with exports growing 11.6pc (year-on-year) to \$86.51 billion in FY25. However, following the tariffs imposed in Aug 2025, India's exports to the US fell 12pc to \$5.46 billion.

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GOLD (ADULT)	RS.23,000	RS.10,500	33,175
GOLD (CHILD)	RS.23,000	RS.7,000	31,500

VOYAGE DATES

02 Oct	06 Oct 2025 (Advanced Schedule)
11 Oct	15 Oct 2025
17 Oct	21 Oct 2025
23 Oct	27 Oct 2025
29 Oct	02 Oct 2025
04 Nov	08 Nov 2025
10 Nov	14 Nov 2025

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GULF FAQs

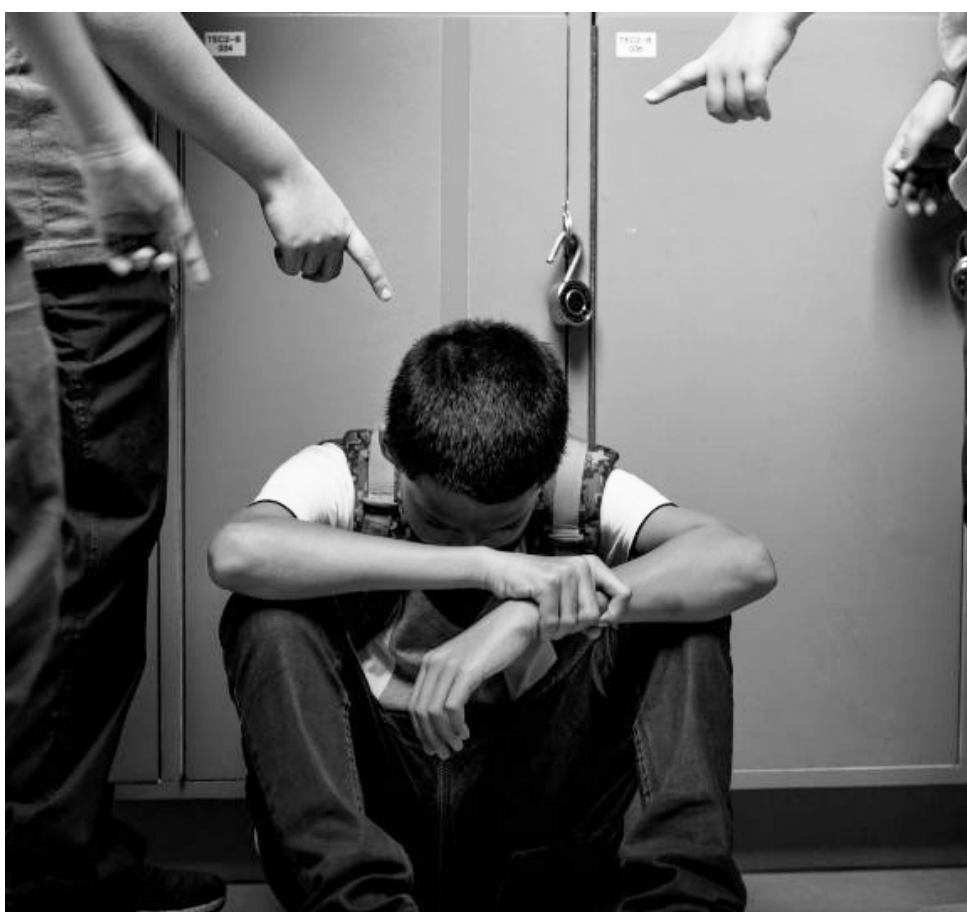
Parents ordered to pay Dh65,000 in bullying cases as kids' behaviours cause injury

Two separate rulings in Al Ain have underscored the serious consequences of school bullying and violence, holding parents financially accountable for their children's actions.

The Al Ain Court for Civil, Commercial and Administrative Claims ordered parents to pay a total of Dh65,000 in compensation after their children were found guilty of bullying and physically assaulting classmates — incidents that left the victims injured and emotionally traumatised. In the first case, a father was ordered to pay Dh30,000 after his

two sons repeatedly bullied, attacked and filmed a classmate at school. The sustained bullying caused the victim fear, mood swings and emotional distress. The minors had already been convicted in a related criminal case that confirmed both their behaviour as well as the physical and psychological harm inflicted.

In a separate case, several guardians were ordered to jointly pay Dh35,000 after their children assaulted another student using sharp tools, leaving the victim with multiple wounds. The criminal con-



victions against the minors the guardians were negligent in supervising their children. The compensation was upheld on appeal, and the court ruled that

tion covered both physical injuries and the emotional trauma suffered by the victim, who was unable to carry out daily activities for several days due to the attack. The court based its decisions on Article 313 of the Civil Transactions Law, which holds guardians legally responsible for damage caused by minors under their care if proper supervision is not exercised. It emphasised that parental responsibility extends beyond the home — to schools and other settings where children's behaviour can cause harm.

Can patients take legal action if insurance company rejects prescribed procedures?

I have a medical condition that requires certain procedures. Although my doctor has deemed these procedures essential, some of them are being rejected by the insurance company. How can I address this legally?

In Dubai, the provisions of the Dubai health insurance law and the administrative resolution are applicable. An insurance company is required to pay for health benefits, cover emergency treatment from out-of-network providers until the beneficiary's life is no longer at risk, and ensure the beneficiary can access all rights granted under the health insurance policy. This is in accordance with Article 13 (1) (2) and (3) of Dubai Health Insurance Law No. 11 of 2013.

"An insurance company must: 1. Pay the cost of health benefits;

2. Pay the cost of the health benefits provided

by a health service provider that is not part of the health service provider network in an emergency case until the beneficiary's life is no longer threatened; 3. Allow the beneficiary to obtain, by all means available, all his rights as determined in the health insurance policy;" The insurance company must pay for the insured person's medical treatment as per the policy. This is in accordance with Article 20 of the Dubai Health Insurance Law.

"Without prejudice to his right to have recourse against the entity legally responsible for payment of the cost of health benefits, the coverage provider will bear the cost of the health benefits provided to a beneficiary in accordance with the health insurance policy."

Furthermore, the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) is to create a system for resolving disputes related to health insurance, requiring

ing parties to utilise this system before seeking judicial or arbitral remedies. This is in accordance with Article 21 of the Dubai Health Insurance Law.

"The DHA may establish a system for the settlement of disputes arising out of health insurance, and may make it mandatory for health insurance



parties, prior to recourse to the courts or arbitration."

In addition, when filing a complaint with the Dubai Health Insurance Corporation (DHIC), affiliated to the DHA, the complaint must include the personal details of the person mak-

ing the complaint, clearly describe the issue and what the complainant is requesting, be accompanied by all supporting documents, be written in Arabic, or both Arabic and English, follow any additional requirements set by the DHIC. This is in accordance with Article 28 (b) of the Administrative Res-

olution No. (78) of 2022 Issuing the Implementing Bylaw of Law No. (11) of 2013 Concerning Health Insurance in the Emirate of Dubai.

"a.) The DHIC will consider the complaints filed with it regarding

the health services covered by the health insurance system or health insurance policies.

b) A complaint filed with the DHIC must:

1. contain the personal details of the complainant; 2. contain the details of the complaint, including a

clear and precise description of the complainant's requests; 3. be accompanied by all the documents that support the complaint; 4. be written in Arabic or in both the Arabic and English languages; and 5. meet any other requirements prescribed by the DHIC."

Based on the aforementioned legal provisions, if your insurance company has refused to cover essential medical procedures prescribed by your doctor, which are covered in your insurance policy, you may first submit a written complaint to the insurer along with the medical documentation.

If the insurer continues to deny the claim without a valid, lawful justification, you may escalate the matter to the DHA. You may also consider seeking independent legal advice to evaluate whether the insurer's conduct constitutes a breach of its contractual and statutory obligations.

China's 'K-visa', modelled on H-1B, draws interest from IT professionals

HONG KONG: Vaishnavi Srinivasagopalan, a skilled Indian IT professional who has worked in both India and the US, has been looking for work in China. Beijing's new K-visa programme targeting science and technology workers could turn that dream into a reality.

The K-visa rolled out by Beijing last month is part of China's widening effort to catch up with the US in the race for global talent and cutting edge technology. It coincides with uncertainties over the US' H-1B programme under tightened immigrations policies implemented by President Donald Trump.

"(The) K-visa for China (is) an equivalent to the H-1B for the US," said Srinivasagopalan, who is intrigued by China's working environment and culture after her father worked at

a Chinese university a few years back. "It is a good option for people like me to work abroad." The K-visa supplements China's existing visa schemes, including the R-visa for foreign professionals, but with loosened requirements, such as not requiring an applicant to have a job offer before applying.

Stricter US policies toward foreign students and scholars under Trump, including the raising of fees for the H-1B visa for foreign skilled workers to \$1 lakh for new applicants, are leading some non-American professionals and students to consider going elsewhere. "Students studying in the US hoped for an (H-1B) visa, but currently this is an issue," said Bikash Kali Das, an Indian masters student of international relations at Sichuan University in

China. The ruling Communist Party has made global leadership in advanced technologies a top priority, paying massive government subsidies to support research and development of areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors and robotics. "Beijing perceives the tightening of immigration policies in the US as an opportunity to position itself globally as welcoming foreign talent and investment more broadly," said Barbara Kelemen, associate director and head of Asia at security intelligence firm Dragonfly. Unemployment among Chinese graduates remains

high, and competition is intense for jobs in scientific and technical fields. But there is a skills gap China's leadership is eager to fill. For decades, China

has been losing top talent to developed countries as many stayed and worked in the US and Europe after they finished studies there.

NZ raises working hours for international students

WELLINGTON: New Zealand has announced an increase in the working hours for international students. Starting Nov 3, the work hours allowed on student visas have been increased from 20 to 25 hours a week. If your student visa was granted before Nov 3 and allows you to work part-time for 20 hours a week, you can apply for a variation of conditions to increase your allowed work hours to 25 hours a week. International students in New Zealand are allowed to work on a student visa only if their eVisa or visa sticker in their passport shows that they can work or not. Masters by research and PhD students can work as many hours as they like in New Zealand.

Akasa Air Eyes Takeoff Boost from New Metro Airports

(Cont. from page - 2) stagnant due to lack of capacity. These two new airports will be a catalyst for growth, and we are prepared to take advantage of that," said Praveen Iyer, Chief Commercial Officer at Akasa Air.

The low-cost carrier, which entered the Indian skies in 2022, sees the new metro airports as a game-changer. With capacity constraints at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, airlines have found it difficult to expand despite soaring travel demand.

Akasa Air plans to strengthen its footprint in both regions, positioning itself as a strong challenger to the market leader once operations begin at the new airports.

"It's crucial for airlines to have a strong presence

in Delhi and Mumbai, as flights connecting these cities command premium fares driven by high corporate and business travel," Iyer added. With the new airports expected to open in the coming years, Akasa Air's expansion strategy appears to be taking off right on schedule.

AI Boom Fuels 11% Job Growth in India for 2026

MUMBAI: India's job market is set for a strong revival, with hiring activity expected to grow by 11% in 2026, marking a return to double-digit expansion after years of moderate gains. The India Decoding Jobs 2026 report, jointly released by digital recruitment platform Taggd and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), highlights that sectors such as banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), manufacturing, and

infrastructure are driving this hiring momentum.

According to Devashish Sharma, Co-Founder and CEO of Taggd, the trend signals a transition "from recovery to reinvention," powered by digital acceleration, formalisation of the workforce, and regional growth. Insights drawn from over 300 talent leaders across 21 industries show that artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the recruitment landscape.

Strengthening the aviation industry is a key goal under Vision 2030, as the

Saudi airports receive over 103mn passengers in Jan-Sept of 2025

RIYADH: Saudi airports welcomed 103.1 million passengers between Jan and Sept 2025, marking a nine per cent increase compared with the same period last year, official data showed.

According to the General Authority of Civil Aviation, total flight movements reached 7.13 lakh up five per cent, expanding connectivity across more than 170 destinations.

Strengthening the aviation industry is a key goal under Vision 2030, as the

Kingdom works to position itself as a global tourism and business hub by the end of the decade. A key objective of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy is to raise the sector's contribution to the Kingdom's gross domestic product from six per cent in 2021 to 10pc by 2030, boosting annual non-oil revenues by about SR45 billion. Commenting on the latest figures, Abdulaziz Al-Duailej, president of GACA, said: "Saudi aviation is delivering sustained passenger and connectivity growth in support of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 agenda, providing unprecedented investment opportunities for the glob-

al aviation sector." Between Jan and Sept, Saudi airports handled 866,000 tonnes of air cargo, including 567,000 tonnes of origin-and-destination freight and 299,000 tonnes of transit cargo. The Kingdom's re-election to the International Civil Aviation Organisation Council for the 2026-2028 term reflects the strong progress achieved in the sector.

"The recent ICAO Council re-election result reflects the constructive global leadership role Saudi Arabia is playing in aviation, strengthening international partnerships to deliver greater global connectivity and economic prosperity," added Al-Duailej.

SpiceJet Soars Higher: Adds 5 Boeing 737s, Expands Daily Flights to 176

(Cont. from page - 2) across key domestic and international routes.

With the expansion, SpiceJet's daily flight operations have now risen to 176, marking a significant stride in the airline's recovery and growth strategy amid rising travel de-

mand this season.

A company spokesperson said the move underscores SpiceJet's commitment to "strengthening operational reliability and expanding its network reach" as it continues to ramp up capacity across popular sectors.