



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

## PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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# OTOAI holds convention in Moscow with focus on promoting destination, partnerships

**MOSCOW:** The Out-bound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI) officially inaugurated its much-anticipated convention in Moscow, with a strong emphasis on promoting Moscow as a premier travel destination for Indian tourists.

The event saw an impressive turnout of over 200 travel agents from Moscow and India, signaling robust confidence in Moscow's appeal as a safe, culturally rich, and vibrant city.

The convention commenced with inspiring opening speeches by Himanshu Patil, President of OTOAI, who highlighted the city's charm, describing Moscow as "beautifully rich and culturally amazing," with

warm hospitality that makes it a must-visit destination. He expressed pride in choosing Moscow for this year's convention, emphasizing the city's unique blend of history, culture, and



**Mr VS Abdulkareem , CMD, of Fly Creative group, along with other delegates at the OTOAI convention in Moscow.**

modernity that continues to attract travellers from India. Following Himanshu Patil's speech, Evgeny Kozlov, First Deputy Head of the Office of the Mayor and the Government of Moscow, Chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee. He reaffirmed Moscow's position as a safe and attractive destination for Indian travellers, highlighting the ease of visa processes and the welcoming environment that Moscow offers.

The programme then transitioned into a series of business sessions featuring distinguished OTOAI and Moscow City



**OTOAI executive committee member and Joint Managing Director of Fly Creative Online Ltd MrAdl Karim felicitated Head of Business Tourism (Moscow city) Anastasia Popova by presenting a memento at the OTOAI convention in Moscow.**

# India offers five-year e-visa for Kuwaiti nationals

**KUWAIT CITY:** The government of India has officially launched the five-year e-visa facility for Kuwaiti nationals, allowing them to apply for Indian visas entirely online.

The announcement was made by Indian Ambassador to Kuwait

diately, eliminates the need to visit visa centres or embassies. Kuwaiti citizens can now complete the entire process from home through the Indian government's official visa portal, making travel planning faster and more accessible.

The e-visa is available under five categories: tourist, business, medical, AYUSH/yoga, and conference. It supports multiple entries and offers durations ranging from six months to five years.

Visa fees vary by duration, with a five-year visa costing US\$ 80 and shorter durations starting at \$40. Processing typically takes three to four days, and biometric data is collected upon arrival in India. Ambassador Swaika described the move as a significant step forward, stating: "This fulfills a long-standing request from Kuwaiti nationals.

(Cont. on page-2)



**India's ambassador in Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaika.**

HE Dr. Adarsh Swaika, during a press conference held at the Indian embassy.

The initiative, effective imme-



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

## PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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# GLIMPSES OF OTOAI MEET IN MOSCOW

**(Cont. from page-1)** speakers. These sessions focused on the theme of the convention – Future Fast Forward which talked about various opportunities in the travel tourism market globally to tourism growth, market strategies, and destination promotion, offering valuable insights to travel professionals.

The lively sessions underscored Moscow’s potential as a thriving destination and ex-

plored innovative ways to boost India – Moscow tourism co-operation. As the convention progresses, industry leaders and travel experts are expected to discuss new opportunities, fostering stronger partnerships and encouraging more Indian travellers to experience Moscow’s charm.

Another announcement during the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between OTOAI and VFS Global.

This agreement will provide OTOAI members, who must be registered members with exclusive discounts and commissions on visa booking services, further strengthening co-operation between the organisations. The event is ongoing and it not only highlights Moscow’s appeal as a top travel destination but also marks a significant step forward in India-- Russian travel relations, promising a bright future for tourism between the two nations.



Delegates and office-bearers at OTOAI convention in Moscow.

## India offers five-year e-visa for Kuwaiti nationals

**(Cont. from page-1)** It makes the process faster, more affordable and much more convenient.”

He highlighted that over 8,000 Kuwaiti tourists visited India last year and the new system is expected to boost tourism, business and health-care-related travel. It also supports India’s strategic goal of deepening bilateral relations through easier and more frequent people-to-people exchanges.

Regarding air connec-

tivity, the ambassador confirmed there are currently 12,000 seats per week available in each direction, with direct flights connecting Kuwait to nine Indian cities.

These flights are operated by Kuwait Airways, Jazeera Airways, IndiGo, Air India Express and Akasa Air.

While the digital system is designed for simplicity, paper visas will still be available through Indian Visa Application Centres

for those less familiar with online services.

The following are the characteristics / advantages of e-visa facility:

- (i) Fully digital and can be applied from anywhere
- (ii) Different types of e-visa - Tourist, Business, Medical, Medical Attendant/ AYUSH & AYUSH attendant & Conference.
- (iii) Longer duration visa at lesser visa fee - Tourist visa upto five years at \$80 Business visas upto one year; e-Medical

Visa (60 days), e-Medical Visa (30 days Single Entry)

- (iv) Visa (60 days): Biometrics will be done at Indian port of arrival and no need to visit Indian Consular Application Centres for the same
- (v) E-visa processing would generally take three to four working days

The following is the process for application of e-visa:

- (1) Apply directly

through the official Indian government portal: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/>

To apply for an e-Visa, applicants must ensure the following: A passport with at least six months validity and two blank pages, a recent passport-size photograph. Additional documents based on visa category:

- Business Visa: Invitation letter from an Indian company.
- Medical Visa: Letter

**(Cont. on page-7)**



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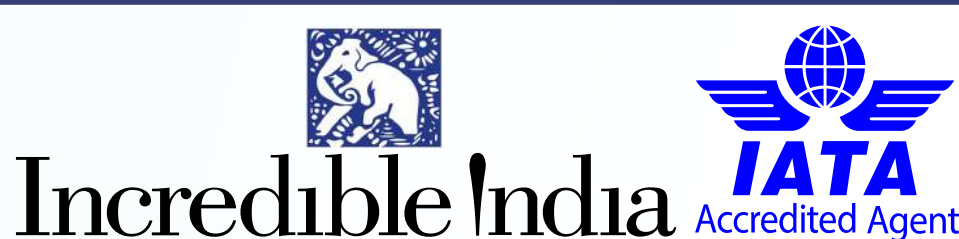
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### Day 2 Agatti – Water Sports & Sightseeing

Enjoy water activities followed by island sightseeing – visit the jetty, desalination plant, Lagoon Beach, and Archaeological Museum.



### Day 3 Kalpitti Island Excursion

Morning boat trip to Kalpitti Island and return. Overnight at Agatti.



### Day 4 Agatti to Bangaram

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



### Day 5 Bangaram – Water Sports & Optional Island Tour

Indulge in water sports. Optional day trip to Thinnakara & Parali Islands (INR 1200 extra per person).



### Day 6 Departure

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# GULF FAQs

## WhatsApp divorce, is it legal?

**I am a working lady. I am living alone here in UAE and my husband is in his home country. Due to personal differences, he sent me a divorce in a voice note on WhatsApp. Please let me know what the UAE law says about divorce on WhatsApp?**

It is assumed that you and your husband are Muslims and earlier your husband was a resident of the UAE.

Furthermore, it is assumed that you intend to accept the divorce pronounced by your husband. In the UAE, a divorce is defined as the dissolution of the marriage contract by the will of a husband through words indicating such separation. This is in accordance with Article 53 of the UAE Personal Status Law, which states, "Divorce is the dissolution of the marriage contract by the will of the husband through the word indicating it. There are two types of these words: 1. Explicitly, which is the word of divorce or a derivative thereof.

Metaphorically, which is a word that may mean divorce or something else if the husband intends to divorce by it." A divorce is recognised in the UAE if a husband pronounc-

es it to his wife either by speech or writing. This is in accordance with Article 54(1) of the UAE Personal Status Law, which states, "Divorce is pronounced by the husband by speech or writing by any means, and if he is unable to do either, then by a comprehensible signal."

However, a husband is required to document the divorce in the competent court within 15 days of the pronouncement of divorce. This is in accordance with the Article 58 (1) of the UAE Personal Status Law, "The husband shall document the divorce before the competent court within a maximum period of 15 days from the date of its occurrence, and this does not prejudice the wife's right to file a case to prove the divorce."

An individual may file a civil or personal case against his or her spouse, even though the spouse does not have residency in the UAE. This is in accordance with Article 4(2) of the UAE Personal Status Law and Article 20(4) of the UAE Civil Procedure Code, which reads as follows:

Article 4(2) of the UAE Personal Status Law -- Competence of Courts in

Cases Filed Against a Foreigner Who Has No Domicile in the State says: "If the case is related to a request to revoke or annul a marriage contract, or to divorce or repudiation, and the case is filed by a state citizen wife or a wife who has lost the citizenship of the state, provided that she has a domicile or place of residence in the state, or if it is filed by a



wife who has a domicile or place of residence in the state against her husband who had a domicile, place of residence or place of work in the state, provided that the husband has abandoned his wife and made his domicile or place of residence or place of work abroad, has been deported from the state or if his domicile abroad is unknown."

Article 20 (4) of the UAE Civil Procedure Code says: The courts shall have jurisdiction over a foreigner who has no place of residence or domicile in the State in the follow-

ing case: If the legal proceeding is instituted by a wife who has a place of residence in the state against her husband who had a place of residence therein".

Additionally, a notarised foreign document may be enforced in the UAE. This is in accordance with Article 224 under Chapter-4 of Execution of Foreign Judgments, Orders and Instruments of the UAE Civil Procedure Code, which states: "1. An order may be made for the enforcement in the State of notarised documents and Memoranda of Composition certified by the Courts of a foreign country on the same conditions laid down in the laws of that country for the enforcement of similar instruments issued in the state. 2. An application for an enforcement order in Clause (1) of this Article shall be requested by means of a petition submitted to the Execution Judge with the same procedures and conditions stipulated in Clause (2) of Article [222] of this Code. No order for enforcement may be made until after it has been ascertained that the conditions for the enforceability of the document or memorandum have been satisfied in accordance with the law

of the country in which it was notarised or certified and that it contains nothing contrary to morals or public order in the state."

Based on the above, a divorce pronounced by your husband via voice notes over WhatsApp outside the UAE may be valid if it fulfills the tests laid down in the provisions of UAE law mentioned hereinabove. If you have a consensus on the divorce pronounced by your husband, who is outside the UAE, you may request him to obtain a notarised document confirming the contents of the voice notes over WhatsApp sent to you, if the same is a valid procedure in his home country. Thereafter, once the said document is attested by the UAE embassy in the home country of your husband, it should be attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UAE. On completion of this procedure, you need to legally translate the divorce confirmation document mentioned above and attest it from the Ministry of Justice in the UAE.

For further clarification on this matter, you may seek legal advice from a legal counsel practising in the UAE, or you may approach a Personal Status Court in the UAE to seek more clarification on this matter.

### 'We will cancel your visas,' US embassy warns Indians

NEW DELHI: The US visa holders to ensure they follow all US laws and immigration rules – and we will revoke their visas and deport them if they don't."

Previously, the US had issued an advisory requiring visa applicants to submit their social media account details, which were monitored for any content or opinions contrary to US laws.

## What's US Visa Integrity Fee?

\*On top of regular fees, any person applying for a non-immigrant visa — tourist, student or work — must pay this charge.

\*How much is it?:

The fee will be at least \$250. However, if the Secretary of Homeland Security decides to raise the amount, he can do so.

\*From 2026, the fee will be adjusted every year, on

the basis of inflation which will be calculated using the Consumer Price Index.

\*Can it be waived?:- No, the charge cannot be waived. It can, however, be reimbursed in some cases.

\*How does reimbursement work? To be eligible for fee reimbursement, one must meet certain criteria. Here's the cri-

teria: The person should have followed all visa rules, including not working illegally and or , The person should have left the US in five days after their visa expired without requesting an extension.

The person must have received an extension or become a green card holder during the visa's validity.



## SAUDI PROPERTY BUYING RULES

## What expats, investors need to know

**RIYADH:** Starting Jan 2026, Saudi Arabia will permit foreigners with valid residency to purchase property in designated zones like Riyadh and Jeddah. The Real Estate General Authority (REGA) will define these zones and issue detailed rules within 180 days. Mecca and Medina will remain restricted to long-term leases and a five real estate transaction tax will apply.

**SAUDI PROPERTY BUYING RULES:** What expats and investors need to know: Foreigners will be allowed to buy property in key Saudi cities like Riyadh and Jeddah from Jan 2026 under new regulations aimed at boosting investment and diversifying the economy.

Valid Iqama or Premium Residency required to purchase. Five per cent real estate transaction tax applicable on purchases. Foreign companies and individuals can both buy. Property purchases to be completed via digital platforms like Absher and registered under REGA.

**WHO CAN BUY:** Foreign individuals and companies will be allowed to buy property. You'll need to meet specific conditions, but you won't need to be a Saudi citizen. If you're a Premium Residency holder or a GCC

national, you're already allowed to own property under certain conditions.

**WHERE YOU CAN BUY?** The law will allow purchases in places like Riyadh, Jeddah and other areas that will be announced soon. You can't buy property in Mecca or Medina, but long-term leases (up to 99 years) may be possible in those cities.

The Real Estate General Authority (REGA) will release the final list of areas and

rules before Jan 2026. They will also open a public feedback process on a platform called Istitaa.

**HOW TO BUY PROPERTY AS AN EXPAT:** Here's a basic outline of how the process is ex-

pected to work: Check your eligibility — you'll likely need a valid residency permit (Iqama) or a business licence. Choose a property in an approved area: Apply for a permit through Saudi's official digital platforms like Absher. Get clearance from REGA and possibly from the ministry of interior or investment. Sign the deal and register the ownership. Pay a five per cent proper-

ty transaction tax. Keep in mind: rules for financing, taxes, and other approvals may vary depending on the zone and the type of property.

**Why This Matters:** Real estate now makes up a growing part of Saudi Arabia's economy. The new law is meant to boost that even more by attracting outside buyers and encouraging development in major cities. It also brings Saudi rules closer to what's already allowed in countries like the UAE and Qatar, where expats have been able to buy property for years.



## Caution against unlawful foreign tie-ups in campus placements

**NEW DELHI:** Recent reports indicate that some Indian colleges are directly collaborating with foreign-based internship and placement agencies. This practice is not only irregular—it may violate the Emigration Act, 1983, which mandates that only licensed recruiting agents registered with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) are authorised to facilitate overseas job or internship placements.

**Legal Framework & Policy Breach**

Under Section 10 of the Emigration Act, 1983, "No person shall commence or carry on the

business of recruitment for employment abroad unless he is in possession of a valid registration certificate issued by the Protector General of Emigrants (PGE)."

This law ensures that all international placements are conducted through verified and accountable channels, minimising the risk of fraud, trafficking, or exploitation.

Bypassing these safeguards—such as colleges working directly with unregistered foreign entities—violates Indian law and exposes students to serious risk. Legal action under the Act can be ini-

tiated against violators, including educational institutions, intermediaries, and foreign firms.

**What the MEA has reiterated?** The Ministry of External Affairs has repeatedly issued formal advisories warning against unregistered agents and encouraging students to use only licensed Recruiting Agents (RAs). In a Rajya Sabha statement (Dec 5, 2024), the MEA reaffirmed: "No person or agency can function as a Recruiting Agent without a valid licence issued by the Protector General of Emigrants."

Students and institutions can verify the credentials of any recruiting agent or agency through the MEA's official Emigration Portal: <https://emigrate.gov.in>

**Policy Implications for Colleges & Agencies**

**Concern Risk & Consequences:** Direct tie-ups with foreign firms Violation of Emigration Act, exposure to government scrutiny and action, use of unregistered recruiters, legal liability, risk of student fraud, possible FIRs. Institutional misconduct Reputational damage,

regulatory penalties, potential lawsuits

Campus placement cells engaging in offshore recruitment without RA involvement

High "placement fees" charged by co-ordinators or third-party agents. Foreign firms offering internships or jobs without MEA registration. Lack of documentation or clarity on visa, contracts, or employment terms. we strongly urge all educational institutions, colleges, and training centers to ensure full legal compliance and ethical practice in international placements. Institutions must: Partner only with MEA-licensed Recruiting Agents]

1. Avoid unauthorized collaborations with foreign-based firms.

2. Educate students about the risks of unverified overseas offers

Promote transparent, compliant recruitment that safeguards student futures Compliance is not optional—it is a legal and moral responsibility.

Protecting Indian students and job seekers must remain the top priority.

## India offers five-year e-visa...

(Cont. from page-2)

from a recognised Indian hospital.

Conference Visa: Invitation from event organiser, political clearance from Ministry of External Affairs, and event clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs. For more information on instructions on eligibility, requirements, filling-up of the e-Visa forms, etc., please visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/>

Fees to be paid online using credit/debit card / payment wallet.

When visa is approved, an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) will be sent to Email address provided by the applicant. Print ETA and after landing in India present it at Immigration Check Post where eVisa will be stamped on the Passport. Application and payment of fees should be done at least four days prior to the

date of travel.

4. e-Visa is valid for entry through designated 32 Airports and five seaports (the list can be checked here: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>). However, the foreigner can take exit from any of the authorized Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India. For more details please visit the following webpage: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>