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US-IRAN PEACE BREAKTHROUGH: HISTORIC DEAL SIGNALS PERMANENT END TO MILITARY HOSTILITIES

ISLAMABAD: In a major diplomatic breakthrough, the United States and Iran have reportedly finalised a landmark peace agreement aimed at bringing a permanent end to military hostilities between the two longtime rivals.

The announcement has sparked cautious optimism across the international

community, raising hopes for greater stability in West Asia and relief for global energy markets.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced on X that a peace deal between Washington and Tehran "has been reached" and that an official signing ceremony is scheduled for June 19 in Switzerland.

The statement was soon followed by a post from US President Trump on Truth Social declaring, "The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete. Congratulations to all!" If formally signed, the agreement could mark one of the most



significant diplomatic achievements in recent years, potentially reducing regional tensions, improving maritime security in

the Gulf, and strengthening prospects for economic co-operation. World leaders and markets are expected to closely monitor

developments ahead of the Switzerland signing ceremony, which could usher in a new chapter of dialogue and stability in the region.

Al Hind Tours to handle Indian passport, visa in UAE from July

ABU DHABI: The embassy of India in Abu Dhabi has announced a change in the outsourced service provider for Indian passport, visa and consular services in the UAE. It said the current service providers, BLS International Services and SGIVS Global, will continue to handle applications until June 30, 2026.

Following completion of the tendering and selection process, Al Hind Tours and Travels LLC has been appointed as the new outsourced service provider for the acceptance and processing of passport, visa and consular applications in the UAE.

The transition will take effect from July 1, 2026 and all applications submitted on or after this date

will be processed through designated centres operated by Al Hind Tours and Travels LLC.

The embassy said detailed information on service centres, operating hours, appointment procedures, service charges and contact details will be issued separately through official channels.

Applicants have been advised to continue using existing BLS International and SGIVS Global centres until June 30, and to follow only official updates for transition-related information.

The embassy of India in Abu Dhabi and the consulate general of India in Dubai urged applicants to rely exclusively on official websites and verified so-

(Cont. on page - 2)

TOURISM WILL BE AFFECTED

Do not close Srinagar airport in Oct, pleads Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR: Fearing a setback to Kashmir's tourism industry at a crucial time, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met top Union ministers in New Delhi and pressed for a review of the proposed October closure of Srinagar Airport, arguing that uninterrupted air connectivity is vital during the Valley's peak tourist season.

Omar separately met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu in New Delhi and raised concerns



over the proposed closure of Srinagar International Airport from Oct 1 to 16, scheduled under Phase III of the runway resurfacing project.

During the meetings, the chief minister underscored the importance of

maintaining uninterrupted air connectivity to Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during the peak tourism season when the valley attracts a large number of visitors from across the country. While acknowledging that the resurfacing works are essential for operational safety and fully respecting the operational assessment of the Indian Air Force, Omar expressed concern over the timing of the final phase of the project, which coincides with one of the busiest periods

(Cont. on page - 2)

Saudi Arabia's flyadeal to start daily Riyadh- Hyderabad flights from July 1

RIYADH: Saudi Arabian low-cost carrier flyadeal is launching daily flights from Riyadh to Hyderabad on July 1, marking its debut in the Indian market.

The airline, a sister company of Saudia, plans further expansion in In-

dia, with a second destination to be announced soon. This move aligns with Saudia Group's long-term strategy for the Indian market.

The Jeddah-based airline, a sister company of Saudia, said the route will be operated using Airbus



A320neo aircraft configured with 186 economy-class seats. flyadeal has been operating for

more than eight years and currently runs services from Riyadh, Jeddah, Madinah and Dammam to

multiple destinations.

flyadeal Acting CEO Sanjiv Kapoor said Hyderabad is the first step in the airline's planned expansion in India and added that a second Indian destination will be announced soon. "India is a key part of Saudia Group and flyadeal's long-term strategy," Kapoor said. "Our promise of friendly, efficient, low-fare and on-

(Cont. on page - 2)

Calcutta Airport embarks on expansion

KOLKATA: The city airport has expanded passenger capacity, upgraded washrooms and taken steps to reduce carbon emissions in recent years, officials said.

At a campaign in the run-up to the Yatri Suvidha Divas (Passenger Amenities Day) the authorities shared details of the upgrades since 2014. They also outlined some of the projects being undertaken.

"We have undergone an extensive renovation and maintenance of washroom

facilities across the airport to improve passenger comfort and hygiene. Of the 28 washroom blocks, 27 have been renovated. The other one will be renovated very soon," said Calcutta airport director Vikram Singh.

The airport's annual passenger handling capacity will soon increase from 26 million to 28 million, Singh said. At present, the airport handles nearly 21 million passengers a year.

To cater to future growth, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has expanded



the domestic departure area by 993sqm (around 10,000sqft) and is adding another 300sqm to the international departure

section. The expansion is expected to boost the airport's overall capacity.

When the new integrated terminal became operational in 2013, it was designed to handle 20 million passengers annually, said Singh. The secondary runway, nearing completion, will ensure uninterrupted 24x7 operations during the maintenance of the primary runway, said an official.

"Two new taxi tracks

have facilitated the operations of wide-body aircraft and improved aircraft movement on the ground. Other major developments over the years include the new ATC Tower, Metro connectivity and the advanced CAT III airfield landing system," he said. The airport is upgrading its signage system across the terminals. Digital standees will be installed to provide clear information on boarding gates, airport facilities and passenger services. A dedicated signage committee has been formed to review and improve directional signs throughout the airport. Special attention is being given to signage related to Metro connectivity and newly added passenger facilities. Metro Railway reached the airport in Aug 2025, with the Jai Hind station being operational.

Jobs outlook to turn sluggish in Sept

NEW DELHI: India's employment outlook is expected to soften in July-Sept 2026 compared with the June quarter, with employers likely to scale back hiring plans amid economic uncertainty and geopolitical concerns.

Around 59pc of Indian employers of the 3,100-plus surveyed in the latest ManpowerGroup Employment Outlook Survey anticipate an increase in hiring in the Sept 2026 quarter, down from 74pc in the June quarter. As many as 29pc expect to maintain

current staffing levels in July-Sept 2026 up from 19pc in April-June, 11pc anticipate a decrease and one per cent are unsure of their hiring plans.

The utilities and natural resources sectors have the strongest hiring intentions, with an NEO of 61pc, followed by finance and insurance sectors with 56pc and construction and real estate at 55pc.

While the finance and insurance sectors have seen the most improved YoY outlook, on a quarter-on-quarter basis, near-

ly all sectors have seen a decline in outlook. Hospitality is the only sector expected to record quarterly growth, with hiring expectations rising by six points since the June quarter.

Al Hind Tours to handle...

(Cont. from page - 1)
cial media handles for accurate information.

It said the transition is aimed at ensuring a smooth and seamless shift while maintaining efficient and high-quality consular services for the Indian community in the UAE. The centres will be operated by Alhind Tours and Travels. The locations of 16 new Indian consular service centres across the UAE have been revealed following the formal signing of an agreement between Alhind Tours and Travels and the Indian

missions in the country. According to Alhind's UAE Operations Manager Arun Radhakrishnan, the new network will include six centres in Abu Dhabi, located in Al Khalidiya, Al Reem Island, Musaffah, Madinat Zayed, Ghayathi and Al Ain. Dubai will have two centres in Bur Dubai and Dubai Investment Park (DIP), while Sharjah will be served by centres in Al Majaz and Rolla. The remaining centres will be located in Ajman (Al Jurf), Fujairah, Umm Al Quwain, Khor Fakkan (Corniche), Kalba and Ras Al Khaimah.

Udhampur civil airport to function soon

UDHAMPUR: Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the proposed Udhampur civil airport is expected to become operational in the coming months, with terminal construction set to begin after completion of formalities.

Addressing a public outreach programme and welfare camp in Udhampur, Singh said the tender (Cont. on page - 2)

Saudi Arabia's flyadeal...

(Cont. from page - 1)
time service builds on parent Saudia Group's long established presence in India since 1964 through our sister airline Saudia," he added. The airline currently operates a fleet of 46 Airbus A320 family aircraft.

The move marks flyadeal's entry into one of the Gulf region's busiest aviation markets, where millions of Indian expatriates travel frequently between the Gulf and India for work, family visits and religious travel. The airline said tickets are now available through its website, mobile app and travel agents. Hyderabad becomes flyadeal's first destination in India. The airline also indicated that a second Indian route will be

announced soon. The city is a major technology and business hub in southern India and has strong travel links with the Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE, due to its large expatriate population. The Saudi budget carrier is strategically positioning itself to tap into the high-volume travel corridor between India and Saudi Arabia, driven by about 2.5 to 2.7 million Indian expatriates living in the Kingdom, alongside a continuous flow of religious pilgrims.

Until now, flyadeal had only operated special Haj and Umrah flights between India and Saudi Arabia. The Hyderabad route will be its first regular scheduled passenger service connecting the two countries.

Do not close Srinagar airport...

(Cont. from page - 1)
for the tourism sector.

The CM informed the Union ministers that air services to the valley have already been curtailed since April, owing to the earlier phases of the resurfacing programme. He noted that a complete suspension of flights during the first half of Oct would adversely affect tourism, hospitality, transport, handicrafts and allied sectors that sustain thousands of livelihoods across Jammu and Kash-

mir. Highlighting the broader economic implications, Omar said the proposed closure could lead to large-scale travel disruptions and cancellations, causing inconvenience to residents and visitors alike while impacting business activity during a crucial tourism season.

In his meeting with the Defence Minister, the Chief Minister requested that the Indian Air Force examine the possibility of shortening

or phasing the final stage of the runway works without compromising safety or operational requirements. He further requested that, in the event a complete closure of Srinagar Airport becomes unavoidable, minimal civil flight operations, commensurate with the operational capacity of the Awantipora Air Base, may be permitted from the air base during the closure period to ensure essential air connectivity for the region.

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Currency	Bill Buy	Bill Sell
US Dollar	94.11	95.34
British Pound	126.52	128.28
Euro	108.84	111.13
Japanese Yen	58.8	59.72
Swiss Franc (CHF)	118.02	120.63
Canadian Dollar	67.08	68.6
Australian Dollar	66.45	67.88
Norwegian Krone	9.81	10.09
Swedish Krona	9.94	10.22
New Zealand Dollar	54.79	56.01
Hong Kong Dollar	11.86	12.22
Kuwaiti Dinar	315.469	295.96
Singapore Dollar	73.12	74.74
Saudi Arabian Riyal	24.75	25.53
U A E Dirham	25.35	26.08

Peace deal drives Sensex up by over 1100 points

MUMBAI: Indian markets surged on Monday with Sensex up over 1,100 points and Nifty gaining more than 300 points, driven by a global rally after the US-Iran peace deal and a sharp fall in crude oil prices. Lower oil prices boosted sectors like banking, oil marketing, infra, and autos, lifting investor sentiment

1,110 points or 1.47pc to 76,638, while the Nifty rose 320 points or 1.35pc to 23,942.

Broader markets also participated in the rally, with the Nifty Smallcap 100 and Nifty Midcap 100 indices advancing 1.62pc

and 1.43pc, respectively. All sectoral indices on the NSE were trading in positive territory.

HDFC Bank led gains among heavyweight stocks, rising two per cent. Analysts noted that RBI's new NRI deposit scheme

could benefit the bank by attracting long-term foreign currency inflows, improving liquidity and easing margin pressure.

Infrastructure major L&T gained 3.2pc, supported by its significant exposure to West Asia.

Noida airport becomes operational, first flight takes off for Lucknow

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rallied sharply on Monday, tracking strong gains in global markets and a steep fall in crude oil prices following a peace agreement between the US and Iran, which ended their 107-day conflict and reopened the strategic Strait of Hormuz. The Sensex surged

NOIDA: The commencement of commercial operations at Noida International Airport is expected to boost regional connectivity, improve passenger convenience and support economic development

Noida International Airport on Monday received its first landing with an IndiGo flight arriving from

Lucknow, officials said.

The event was shortly followed by the first takeoff from the greenfield project by a flight to Lucknow. The plane carried villagers from the Jewar region whose land was acquired by the state government for the first phase development of the airport. IndiGo flight 6E 2278 took off

from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow, at 7.12 am and landed at Noida International Airport at 7.58 am. The arrival marked the beginning of flight operations at the Jewar-based airport, an ambitious project aimed at enhancing air connectivity between western UP, and rest of India.

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GULF FAQs

Can employer keep your passport?

I would like to ask for help or advice on how I can get my passport back because my company does not want to return it. They told me it is company policy to keep our passports and that they will only return them once we complete our contract. what to do?

For many expatriate workers arriving in the UAE, handing over a passport to an employer may feel like a routine or unavoidable part of the onboarding process. It is not. In the UAE, it is strictly prohibited for employers to retain or confiscate an employee's passport without the employee's consent.

Unfortunately, some companies take advantage of new expatriate workers who are unfamiliar with the UAE's labour legislation. That is why understanding your rights as a new employee is not merely advisable, it is essential. According to Dr Hassan Elhais, Legal Consultant at Amal Alrashdi Lawyers & Legal Consultant, Article 13 of Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Labour Relations clearly states: "The employer must not withhold the official documents of the Worker or force him to leave the state upon the end of the labour relation."

In addition, the UAE government's official policy has consistently confirmed that employers may not confiscate workers' passports.



"The prohibition is also reflected in multiple publications issued by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which states that confiscation of a worker's passport is unlawful and that workers do not require their em-

ployer's permission to leave the country," Dr Elhais explained.

When can an employer hold your passport? There are limited situations where an employer may need to take possession of an em-

ployee's passport for administrative purposes, such as: visa renewals, work permit issuance, work permit renewals. However, this does not give employers the right to keep the passport indefinitely. "While an employee may voluntarily hand over a passport to the employer for a specific administrative purpose such as visa processing or renewal procedures, the passport must be returned immediately upon completion of that purpose, as the employer cannot retain it as security for debts or employment obligations or to prevent the employee from leaving employment," he said.

Can a worker get their passport back? Yes. A worker whose passport is being unlawfully retained by an employer is entitled to seek its

return and report the matter to the relevant authorities. How to report an employer for withholding a passport? Dr Elhais recommends the following steps:

1. Request the passport in writing

The worker should formally request the return of the passport from the employer, preferably in writing, so there is a record of the request and the employer's response.

2. File a complaint with MOHRE:

If the employer refuses to return the passport, the worker may file a complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE), which regulates labour relations in the UAE private sector.

MOHRE can attempt to resolve the dispute and take appropriate action regarding labour law violations.

3. Contact your embassy or consulate

The worker may seek assistance from their embassy or consulate, especially if the passport has been lost or damaged or its whereabouts are unknown.

You can visit the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs website to find contact details for foreign embassies and consulates in the UAE - www.mofa.gov.ae/missions/foreign-missions-in-uae

Can you work on your husband's visa?

Is it legal to work in a company with husband's visa? Are there any procedures the employee should do for that purpose?

Yes, it is legal to work under your husband's visa, provided your employer obtains a valid work permit (formerly labour card) from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE). You do not need to cancel your residency to work;

The employer must apply for the work permit. The employee must provide the documents needed which

are usually her passport, visa copy, husband's passport/visa, NOC from the husband, and education certificates (if required) and a NOC from your husband which is a simple letter from your husband stating he has no objection to you working for the company.

A formal employment contract must be signed between you and the employer. Working without this permit is illegal and can lead to fines of at least Dh100,000 up to Dh 1,000,000 according to Article (60) of the Labour Law No. 33 of 2021 and its amendments.

Can you legally pay a relative a lifetime annuity?

I have a relative whom I want to pay for her a periodic life annuity until her death. Is it possible as per UAE law and what are its conditions?

You can legally undertake to pay your relative a periodic life annuity including but not limited to (education, treatment or maintenance) without consideration according to articles (948), (949), (950), (951) and (952) of the Federal Decree by Law No. (25) of 2025 Promulgating the Civil Transactions Law. For such life annuity to be valid and enforceable in the UAE, the following rules should be considered:

The obligation for an annuity may be

for the life of the obligor (the person paying), the obligee, (the person receiving) or any other person. The obligation shall be made in writing. The obligation shall be extinguished by the death of the obligor or his/ her bankruptcy or insolvency.

If the obligor fails to fulfil the obligation, the obligee may seek performance of the contract. If the obligor died before the obligee, the obligee shall be entitled to a portion of the annuity that is proportionate to the period that has elapsed until the death of the obligor and may claim it from the estate by way of a bequest, unless otherwise agreed.

How to submit a labour complaint in the UAE?

Workers can submit labour complaints through MOHRE's official channels, including its website, mobile application, call centres and labour dispute services. A worker may also file an order on petition through the urgent matters courts. Before filing a complaint, ensure you have a valid labour contract and any supporting evidence relating to your claim.

MOHRE website and mobile app - Private sector and domestic workers can register complaints through MOHRE's website - mohre.gov.ae or mobile applica-

tion. MOHRE Call Centre - Workers can contact MOHRE on 600590000.

Labour Claims and Advisory Call Centre - Workers seeking assistance with labour-related grievances or legal matters can contact MOHRE's Labour Claims and Advisory Call Centre on the toll-free number 80084.

Dubai Police app - Workers who hold a Dubai residence visa and are employed in the emirate can also submit complaints through the Dubai Police app regarding wages, working conditions, health and safety concerns.

Air New Zealand sees opportunity for direct India flights

BENGALURU: Air New Zealand is assessing the viability of direct flights to Indian cities and the recent free trade agreement between New Zealand and India provides increased opportunities for people to people connectivity, according to the airline's CEO Nikhil Ravishankar.

Born in Bengaluru, Ravishankar took over the reins of Air New Zealand in Oct 2025. His parents moved to New Zealand when he was around 14 years old.

"We are thinking about how to better connect the two countries... we are working closely with Singapore Airlines and Air India around servicing and connecting with India,"

Ravishankar said. Ravishankar also said that Air New Zealand has a code-share partnership with Air India.

Generally, a codeshare partnership allows an airline to book its passengers on its partner carrier on a single ticket. To a query on whether direct air connectivity between New Zealand and India is an option, Ravishankar replied in the affirmative. "Work is underway to assess the viability of those direct routes..." he said. Recently, India and New Zealand entered into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).



Ravishankar noted that the FTA is quite exciting for both countries in terms of improving trade as well as people-to-people connections. In New Zealand, the third largest ethnic group is the Indian diaspora and both countries have com-

mon interests, including cricket. Interestingly, Air India's outgoing CEO and MD Campbell Wilson is a native of New Zealand. Air New Zealand has a fleet of around 115 aircraft comprising jets and turboprops. There are wide-body Boeing 777s and 787s. Besides, the New Zealand carrier is working with In-

dian companies, including Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and IBS Software, for various services, Ravishankar said.

Air New Zealand, Air India and Singapore Airlines are part of the airlines' grouping Star Alliance. In March last year, Air India and Air New Zealand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that includes having a new codeshare partnership on 16 routes between India, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Consulate in Toronto warns Indians against fraudsters posing as officials

TORONTO: The Consulate General of India in Toronto has issued a fresh advisory cautioning Indian nationals residing in Canada against fraudulent telephone calls from scammers masquerading as diplomatic officials.

According to the mission,

continuous reports are being received regarding spoofed calls concerning Canadian visas, permanent residency (PR), immigration status and job offers, with fraudsters falsely asserting that they represent the Indian consulate.

The diplomatic mission

noted that certain callers have introduced themselves as officials of the Consulate General of India in Toronto in an attempt to extract personal information or money from unsuspecting victims.

Clarifying its jurisdiction, the mission explicitly stat-

ed that it does not adjudicate matters connected to Canadian visas, PR applications, immigration status or employment offers. The consulate has strongly urged Indian nationals to refrain from entertaining such communications, warning them against sharing sensitive personal details or transferring funds in response to telephonic demands.

For individuals who have already fallen victim to or received these scam calls, the advisory recommends reporting the matter immediately to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, alongside local police authorities. The mission further explained that its operational mandate remains strictly limited to consular matters, specifying services such as passports, police clearance certificates, OCI cards, attestation services and powers of attorney.

Nithya Raman makes narrow lead in Los Angeles mayoral race

LOS ANGELES: Indian-American Nithya Raman is narrowly leading the race for the second spot in the Los Angeles Mayor elections scheduled for November, after a vote update. According to CNN, Raman secured about 40pc of the nearly 48,000 votes Los Angeles County reported, thus winning 10,000 votes more than Pratt and leaving her about 3,000 votes ahead.



Andhra Varsity warns against job racket

VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra University (AU) has cautioned unemployed youth against falling prey to individuals allegedly collecting money by falsely promising jobs in the university.

Responding to reports of such activities, AU Registrar Prof K Rambabu said the university had not received any formal complaints so far. He assured that action would be taken if any victim approached

the university with evidence of such fraud.

The Registrar warned that strict action would be initiated against anyone misusing the university's name for personal gain. He stated that proceedings would be taken against any university employee found to be involved in such activities.

Rambabu appealed to individuals who may have been affected to approach university author-

ities directly and lodge complaints. He stated the administration would investigate any such allegations and take action. He mentioned all appointments at AU are carried out transparently in accordance with government norms.

The Registrar advised job seekers not to trust middlemen, agents or touts who claim they can secure employment at AU in return for money.

Udhampur civil airport to function soon

(Cont. from page - 2) for construction of the airport terminal was floated nearly three weeks ago. He added that the work order would be issued once the remaining formalities are completed.

The proposed airport is initially being planned for ATR aircraft operations and is expected to improve regional air connectivity

across Jammu and Kashmir. According to the minister, the project is likely to boost tourism, trade, investment and employment opportunities in the region. Singh said discussions are currently underway with the Jammu and Kashmir government for the transfer of additional land to support future expansion of the facility. The

proposed expansion aims to develop the airport on the lines of the existing Jammu airport, allowing it to handle higher traffic volumes and larger operations in the future.

The minister said the airport project forms part of a broader infrastructure push that has transformed connectivity in the region over the past decade.

Highlighting recent developments, Singh referred to the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel on the Chenani-Nashri stretch, which has significantly reduced travel time and strengthened all-weather connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir.

He also said approval has been granted for an additional twin-tube tun-

nel parallel to the existing structure to improve traffic flow, road safety and highway capacity.

The minister cited several major projects, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, Vande Bharat train services to Jammu and Kashmir, widening of the Dhar Road and tourism-focused development initiatives in Mantalai.