



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Over 6,700 Indians rescued from fake job rackets in Southeast Asia

NEW DELHI: The Centre informed Parliament that it has rescued more than 6,700 Indian nationals trapped in cyber-fraud and fake job rackets operating across Southeast Asia, after being lured through deceptive recruitment schemes circulating on social media.

In a written response in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said the government has taken "serious note" of cases in which fraudulent firms enticed Indians — including software engineers and young job seekers — to countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR, only to force them to work in scam centres engaged in cybercrime and financial fraud.

According to Singh, these individuals typically reached scam centres "on their own volition" through unscrupulous recruitment agents, online advertisements and illegal travel routes, making it difficult for authorities to determine the total number of Indians still stranded. The scams, operating out of remote locations in Southeast Asia, have expanded rapidly over the past two years, often targeting unemployed youth through Telegram channels, WhatsApp groups and social media job posts.

The minister said India has repeatedly raised the issue at the political level with the governments of the affected countries. Indian embassies in Cambodia, Myanmar and Lao PDR have been actively co-ordinating with local ministries — including foreign affairs, immigration, home affairs and law enforcement — to enable rescue and repatriation. As per the data shared, the number of Indians rescued so far includes:

- *2,265 from Cambodia

(Cont. on page - 6)

BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY-2025 HISTORY OF BAHRAIN

Bahrain has roots deep and a sea transit point in the past, going back to more than 5000 years, as it was home to the civilizations: Dilmun, Tylos, and Awal. Throughout history, it was called "the Land of Immortality" or "the Great Paradise" as it was known for fresh water springs and palm tree fields. Bahrain 1961, and is considered one of the pioneer Arab leaders that built their countries based on justice and stability. He consolidated the Arabism and independence of the country under the peoples validation, as it

BAHRAIN PHOTO FEATURE ON PAGE -7

was a vital link between the Phoenicians in the Levant, Mesopotamia in ancient Iraq, the Nile Valley in Ancient Egypt. Excavations and historic evidence prove Bahrain to be a commercial hub

(Cont. on page - 6)



His Majesty
King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa
KING OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Congratulations and Best Wishes on the Occasion of National Day



اليوم
الوطني
البحرين

16 TH DECEMBER NATIONAL DAY KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

Oman Air presents Sunil VA with Lifetime Achievement Award

MUMBAI: Sunil VA, Regional Vice President, ISC, Commercial Sales, has been honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by Oman Air in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the company and decades of dedicated service to the airline and the aviation industry.

The award was presented by Oman Air's CEO Con Korfiatis during the Commercial Global Conference -2025 held on at The Kempinski Hotel, Muscat. With a career spanning more than 31 years, he has been an integral part of Oman Air and spearheads the airline's operations for the Indian sub-continent region comprising India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Over the years he has led, guided and motivated people, thereby inspiring generations of colleagues, partners and community members. A true pioneer in the airline industry, Sunil has held key leadership roles across various industry bodies and organisations, leaving a legacy on both the industry and the people it serves. He has been at the helm of affairs in many travel and tourism organisations over the years.

Receiving this award, Sunil shared: "it truly is an honour to receive a lifetime achievement award from the organisation which has been part of my life. A big Thank you to all my chiefs, colleagues over the years, patrons of Oman Air and well-wishers for all



the support and for being there."

On this occasion Ahmed Ali Al Mahrouqi, Vice President – Sales of Oman Air, commented: "It was truly an honour to see you receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. This recognition is a testament to your unwavering dedication, hard work and the incredible impact you have

made on Oman Air over the years. Your passion and commitment continue to inspire all of us, and I am personally grateful for the invaluable contributions you've made to our success.

Please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated, and this award is just a small reflection of the respect and admiration you

have earned."

Oman Air (WY) began operations in 1993. Initially founded to serve important domestic routes, it has since undergone rapid growth and is today recognised as a major international carrier connecting cities around the world to Oman's stunning nature, rich heritage and welcoming culture.

Skal felicitates Sunil VA for bagging Oman Air Lifetime Achievement award



MUMBAI: President Sk. Burjis and the Managing Committee of Skal International Bombay 144 conducted its Christmas and New Year event hosted by Oman Air and Court Yard Marriott.

The highlight of the evening was the felicitation of Member "Sk. Sunil VA" for him being presented with a well deserved Lifetime

Achievement Award by Oman Air. This event was very well attended by industry stalwarts from travel, tourism, aviation, hospitality and cruise Industry.

The event brought together travel and tourism, hospitality and aviation fraternity for networking and celebrating and exchanging season's greetings.

IATO workshop on certified AI applications for tourism management held in Mumbai

MUMBAI: This immersive workshop was to help participants discover how Generative AI can transform your business from simplifying daily work to boosting your digital visibility and brand impact globally.

Members benefited from the workshop session to make future ready features to innovate their operations.

*Simplify repetitive back-office work like quotations and reports.

*Boost your digital marketing with creative, consistent content.

*Learn hands-on from experts in AI and travel innovation.

*Earn a Certificate of Participation from IATO.

Let's make Indian tourism future-ready, efficient, and globally admired.

The workshop covered: ease in, network and connect with fellow travel professionals. AI and Global use cases in tourism. Understand how the world's top tourism brands are using AI to attract travel-



lers, create stunning campaigns and streamline operations.

Discover and practise tools: Write sharper, more engaging content, create eye-catching presentations automatically, design infographics for mailers and brochures, generate engaging digital content for social media and brand recall, build your own personal AI assistant (Perplexity, Comet, etc.)

Experience Sharing (15 mins): Participants share quick wins and learnings.

•Prompt Engineering

— The Power Skill! Learn how to talk to AI tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini and Claude to get exactly what you need—from itineraries and proposals to creative campaigns. Work on five real use cases relevant to travel operators.

* Solve a Real Problem. Apply what you've learned to a real use case from your organisation.

•Guidance Session. Quality control, ethics, and cultural sensitivity while using AI - the essentials for responsible innovation.

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FOREX RATES

As on 15th December 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	90.24	91.4
British Pound	120.56	122.27
Euro	105.56	107.78
Japanese Yen	58.15	59.06
Swiss Franc (CHF)	112.91	115.33
Canadian Dollar	65.26	66.72
Australian Dollar	59.79	61.07
Norwegian Krone	8.82	9.07
Swedish Krona	9.65	9.92
New Zealand Dollar	51.92	53.08
Hong Kong Dollar	11.44	11.79
Kuwaiti Dinar	301.8831	284.7291
Singapore Dollar	69.63	71.2
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.74	24.48
U A E Dirham	24.31	25



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT


PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Providing information about overseas projects and job opportunities for job-seekers.




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Always contact licensed recruitment agents registered with the government. List available on www.emigrate.gov.in

ADVISORY TO OVERSEAS JOB ASPIRANTS FROM POEs

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Illegal agents bypass regulations, risking exploitation, fraud and unregulated practices that harm emigrants.

Illegal Agents

Avoid dealing with unregistered agents or brokers to prevent fraud.

Lulu plans to open 50 stores in UAE, Saudi, other GCC countries

ABU DHABI: Lulu plans to open 50 stores in UAE, Saudi, other GCC countries over next three years. Lulu Retail Holdings reported that net profit increased 7.5pc year-on-year in the first nine months of 2025 to \$163 million and plans to open 50 outlets over the next three years. The largest pan-GCC full-line retailer opened six new stores in Q3 2025, taking the total to 13 in the first nine months. Three more were opened in Oct 2025.Over the next three years, it plans to open 50 outlets split roughly equally between the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other GCC



markets. “Lulu continues to selectively expand our store network in high-potential catchments, while simultaneously scaling our own e-commerce platform. In addition, a number of strategic initiatives have been launched, including smarter promotional mechanics, reducing wastage in our fresh food category, and pursuing cost optimisation across the network. Additionally, we are expanding partnerships with aggregators to widen our reach and customer proposition,” it said .



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CHINA VISA NOTICE



The China Embassy in India has officially launched the **China Online Visa Application System**, effective 22nd December 2025. The platform digitises application form-filling and document submissions During the system maintenance and upgrade phase, **17th December-19th December**, the Centre will not accept new applications; only passport collection services will be available. Those who have completed forms on the existing website must submit their documents before 17th December.

For a quick and flawless China Visa Application, contact below.

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GULF FAQs

Is it possible for a single mother to sponsor her child in Dubai?

The UAE's residency law allows both fathers and mothers to sponsor family visas, giving either parent the equal opportunity to support their children's residency status. In case of a change in marital status, a divorced or single mother can also sponsor her children's visas, provided she meets certain eligibility criteria, including having valid employment and a residency visa.

A single mother can sponsor her children if they are employed and hold a valid residency visa. She must meet the minimum salary requirement set by the UAE government of Dh4,000 per month or Dh3,500 if the employer provides accommodation. Some key documents are required if you are a single mother wanting to sponsor your child.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: Application form: Fill out the form online or through a registered typing office. For each family member, an Emirates ID application form must be submitted along with the residency visa application. Passport copies: Submit everyone's passport copies, including yours and your children.

Emirates ID: Mother needs to provide a copy of her UAE resident ID card (Emirates ID).

Medical clearance: Medical clearance certificate for children above 18 years.

Salary statement: Salary certificate from the employer stating the mother's monthly salary.

Bank statement: If you have bank account statements, it's a good idea to include them.

Tenancy contract: It is recommended that proof of accommodation be provided with the rental agreement. It must be attested through the Ejari online Real Estate Regulatory Authority (rera) system.

When a mother is seeking to sponsor her child in the UAE after a divorce, the following documents are required:

Child custody verdict: The official court decision regarding child custody must be provided. This decision should clearly state that the mother has custody of the child. It should be issued by the relevant court in the country where the divorce took place.

Attestation by UAE Embassy: The UAE Embassy or Consulate in the country where the divorce was finalised should attest to the custody verdict. This step confirms that the document is authentic and has been legally recognised.

Attestation by MoFA in the UAE: After attestation by the UAE Embassy, the document must be further attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the UAE to ensure it is officially recognised within the country.

Translation into Arabic: The custody verdict and all supporting documents must be translated into Arabic. The translation should be done by a certified translator, as the UAE authorities require documents to be submitted in Arabic.

It is recommended that the mother obtain a NOC from her ex-husband stating that he is granting his consent to sponsor your children in the UAE to be on the safe side. In the event your ex-husband disagrees, he may apply for a

travel ban for the children.

Here's a breakdown of the documents you may need to provide as a single mother:

Custody verdict from court: If a court has granted you custody of your child, you can submit the official court decision or verdict. This should clearly state that you have custody of your child.

Certificate from local authority: In some cases, a certificate from the local authority in your home country (such as a government office or child welfare agency) may suffice to prove that you have custody or legal guardianship over your child. This certificate should confirm that you're the sole custodian or legal guardian.

Affidavit from your consulate: You may also submit an affidavit from your home country's consulate or embassy in the UAE, affirming your legal guardianship and your right to sponsor your child.

Attestation Requirements: If the documents are issued in your home country, they must be attested by the UAE Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in the UAE.

Translation into Arabic: If they are in another



language, all documents must be translated into Arabic by a certified translation service.

A Dh2,500 security deposit must be submitted for each child. According to Amer Centre, an authorised visa and immigration service provider, this amount is refundable after the visa is cancelled.

NOC from biological father: Whether an NOC from the biological father is required in the case of a single mother sponsoring her child depends on certain circumstances.

Here are the main scenarios:

If the father is not present or involved in the child's life, an NOC from the biological father is generally not required. In such cases, the mother can usually proceed with the sponsorship process without needing any consent from the father.

If the child is born out of wedlock, the mother may still be able to sponsor the child, but the birth certificate must clearly state the mother as the sole guardian. Additional documentation to confirm the child's legal status and guardianship might be required. If the biological father is present is alive and living in the UAE, an NOC from the father may be required. This is especially the case if the father has legal guardianship rights or if the parents were married at the time of the child's birth.

Even if the father is not actively involved in the child's life, his legal rights (in the case of marriage) could still require his consent for the child to live in the UAE.

HOW TO APPLY FOR VISA IN DUBAI: Submit application. The application is submitted to the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) in Dubai or the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security (ICP) or the respective immigration office in the emirate where you reside.

You can either submit the documents in person or, in some cases, online, depending on the emirate's rules. Applicants can also visit the nearest Amer Centre or typing centres to apply for a residence permit.

Medical fitness test: A medical fitness test is required if the child is 18 years and above. The fitness tests includes blood tests and a chest X-ray to check for any contagious diseases (like TB). The medical test can be done at any of the approved clinics or hospitals.

EMIRATES ID: Once the residency visa is approved, your children will need to apply for an Emirates ID, which is mandatory in the UAE. They are required to submit their biometric data, such as fingerprints and a photograph.

Residence visa issuance : Once the visa is approved and stamped, your children will officially be a resident of the UAE, sponsored by you.

How much is the visa fee? Once the residency permit application is submitted, you will be required to pay the visa processing fees.

The family visa fees in the UAE can vary depending on the emirate and the type of visa. For Dubai, according to the GDRFA website, the fees for a family visa are typically as follows:

Residence permit fee: Dh200

Knowledge fee: Dh10

Innovation fee: Dh10

Fee inside the country: Dh500

Delivery: Dh20

Note: The issuance fee increases by Dh100 annually whenever the residency is over two years.

According to ICP website: Application fees: **Dh100, Issuance fees:** Dh100 for each year, **eChannel services fee:** Dh100

It's advisable to cross-check with the GDRFA, the ICP, or the relevant immigration authorities in the emirate where the mother resides, as requirements can vary depending on specific circumstances. They may also provide necessary guidance as per specific circumstances.

Kerala to host international Ayurveda, wellness conclave in Kozhikode

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala, has entrusted the Ayurveda Promotion Society (APS) Kerala with organizing the state's first International Ayurveda & Wellness Conclave, scheduled to take place in Kozhikode in Feb 2026.

The groundbreaking event promises to bring together key stakeholders from India and abroad to strengthen Kerala's position as a world leader in Ayurveda, wellness tourism and medical value travel.

The conclave has been designed with several core objectives in mind. According to organisers, the event will highlight the scientific relevance and global significance of Ayurveda while positioning Kerala as the premier destination for authentic wellness experiences. The state's estab-

lished leadership in medical value travel, wellness tourism and yoga-based retreats will take centre stage.

The conclave expects to facilitate extensive business-to-business networking among approximately 200 Kerala-based sellers, 200 Indian and international travel agents and tour operators, 50 yoga operators and 50 international and domestic bloggers and media representatives. Organisers anticipate hosting around 300 buyers and visitors in total.

Major Ayurveda institutions including Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, Thykkat Moose, Sreedhareeyam and Sanjeevanam Ayurveda are expected to participate as exhibitors and sellers, alongside numerous prominent Ayurveda and wellness resorts and centers from across the state.

Saudi to launch air taxis

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has taken a major step towards the future of urban mobility by announcing a partnership with US-based Archer Aviation, a global leader in vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) air-

craft, aimed at introducing air taxi services in the Kingdom.

The agreement was signed during the CoMotion Global Summit in Riyadh, where senior Saudi officials outlined the vision.

Over 6,700 Indians rescued from fake job rackets in Southeast Asia

(Cont. from page-1)
* 2,290 from Lao PDR*
2,165 from Myanmar

The time span for these rescue operations was not specified. Multiple helplines and platforms for distressed Indians. Singh said the government has established several ways for Indians abroad to seek help, including:

Walk-ins at Missions/ Posts, email and multilingual emergency helplines

WhatsApp hotlines, MADAD grievance platform, CPGRAMS, eMigrate portal, Social media chan-

nels. The MADAD platform, launched in 2015, provides support for diaspora in distress, while CPGRAMS enables citizens to file grievances 24x7 with government departments.

Government cracks down on cyber-fraud rackets. To strengthen domestic monitoring, the Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the Indian Cybercrime Co-ordination Centre (I4C) to combat cybercrime in a coordinated manner. The government and Indian Missions frequently issue advisories warning job

Air India expands operations to ease pressure on peak travel season

NEW DELHI: India's aviation sector is undergoing key operational adjustments during this Dec 2025 with Air India stepping into address capacity gaps that emerged following regulatory action on another major carrier's winter schedule. After large-scale flight disruptions earlier this



month, aviation authorities directed a temporary reduction in daily winter operations for the largest domestic airline. The decision was taken to restore operational stability and ensure compliance with revised crew duty and safety regulations. In response, Air India announced plans to operate up to 275 additional flights during December to help maintain connectivity and minimise disruption for passengers during the peak holiday travel period.

The additional flights are

aimed at absorbing passenger demand affected by the curtailed schedules, particularly on high-traffic domestic routes and select international sectors that witness heavy bookings in winter. Aviation officials indicated that the move is intended to prevent a supply crunch at airports and sta-

bilise fare volatility during one of the busiest travel months of the year.

The recent disruptions were linked to challenges faced during the implementation of updated Flight Duty Time Limitation norms, which mandate stricter rest requirements and revised crew rostering practices. To ensure safety and operational discipline, regulators imposed capacity controls as a precautionary measure, triggering a ripple effect across the aviation network.

Industry observers note that Air India's expanded operations represent a shift in market dynamics,

where airlines are required to adapt quickly to systemic stress in order to support overall network continuity. Rather than competing solely on capacity, carriers are increasingly being called upon to play a stabilising role during periods of operational disruption.

Passengers are expected to benefit from improved seat availability across major metro and regional markets through the remainder of Dec. Additional flight options are likely to ease booking pressure and offer alternatives to travelers impacted by reduced schedules elsewhere.

However, aviation analysts caution that short-term capacity adjustments alone will not guarantee long-term stability. Sustained resilience will depend on how effectively airlines align crew planning, fleet deployment and scheduling systems with evolving safety regulations and peak-season demand patterns.

As air travel demand in India continues to grow at a rapid pace, the current developments underline the need for stronger co-ordination between regulators and carriers to ensure passenger convenience is protected while maintaining the highest safety standards.

HISTORY OF BAHRAIN

(Cont. from page-1)
voted in the poll organised under the United Nations that Bahrain is and independent Arab state ruled by Al Khalifa. Bahrain was declared independent from the United Kingdom on August 15, 1971, and of the British protectorate on Dec 16 of the same year. During the era of the modern state, Bahrain issued its first constitution in 1973.

When HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa came into reign in 1999, Bahrain en-

tered a new era of reform and development within a constitutional monarchy, in line with the National Action Charter and the amended constitution of 2002. Bahrain have thus made pioneering achievements in development, as well as advanced and continuous political and democratic reforms and positive developments within laws and constitutional institutions which gave Bahrain a prominent position regionally and internationally.

Bahrain: Where Culture Lives On and Modernity Leads the Way



Al Fateh Grand Mosque

At one point, the Al Fateh was one of the world's biggest mosques and by far the most prominent in Bahrain.



Bahrain World Trade Center

Discover the groundbreaking architecture of the Bahrain World Trade Center, a landmark that defines Manama skyline.



Beit Al Quran

Beit Al Quran is one of Bahrain's most prominent and beautiful museums, showcasing Islamic architecture, intricate designs, and elegant Arabic calligraphy.



Diraz Temple

Situated in the village of Diraz along the Budaiya Highway, the Diraz Temple still remains something of a mythic site in Bahrain.



Bab Al Bahrain

Bab Al Bahrain is one of the most historic landmarks left by the British during their time in Bahrain. The building was designed by Sir Charles Belgrave in 1945.



Cathedral of Our Lady Arabia

The largest Catholic cathedral in the Gulf opened its doors in Awali, making it one of the many historical landmarks in Bahrain. The Cathedral of Our Lady Arabia has a whopping 2,200 seating capacity and two chapels.



Arad Fort

Built in the 15th century in typical Arabic style, the fort came into its own during the brief Omani invasion at the beginning of the 19th century.



The Tree of Life

It's a symbol of resilience and wonder. Standing lush and green in the middle of Bahrain's barren desert for the last 440 years without being watered or having any nearby water source.