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POST-LABOUR EXPO FORUM PARTICIPATION AT SPB

RAs hold B2B meetings at Kazan, Yekaterinburg, organised by Indian missions

SPB (Russia): Following the successful participation at the International Labour Expo Forum in Saint Petersburg, a delegation of Registered Recruitment Agencies (RAs) from India engaged in a series of high-level B2B meetings with key regional stakeholders, including "Invest Tatarstan" and industry representatives from the Sverdlovsk Region Enterprises of Yekaterinburg.

These meetings were conducted in close co-ordination with the Consul General of India in Kazan and Yekaterinburg, reaffirming the commitment (Cont. on page - 2)



Consul General of India at Yekaterinburg His Excellency Debabrata Chattopadhyay with Indian RA delegation during the B2B meeting.



Consul General His Excellency Jeysundhar and VS Abdulkareem, president of IPEPCIL, with consul and Invest Tatarstan officials during B2B meeting at Kazan province of Russia.



A view of the B2B meeting at Kazan.



Job market more selective, says UAE recruiters

DUBAI: Recruiters say the market is not slowing down, but becoming more selective. Is your job search feeling different? UAE recruiters explain the shift to precision hiring and offer strategies to highlight your value and adaptability in a

competitive market. Recruiters across the UAE say hiring is becoming more selective, but opportunities remain for candidates who adapt, stay visible and focus on impact. For many professionals, the job search is starting to

feel different. Roles are still being posted, interviews are still happening, but the pace, expectations and experience have shifted.

According to recruiters, companies are now prioritising quality over quantity when it comes to hiring decisions. "Hiring right now is less about volume and more about precision, prioritising multi-skilled and adaptable talent over rigid

job descriptions," said Sara Yahia, a global HR leader and cultural commentator. "It's a shift from "growth at all costs" to "value per hire"."

This shift is also changing which roles are moving forward. Positions tied directly to revenue, efficiency and digital transformation are being prioritised, while others are quietly being put on hold. "Tech, AI-ad-

acent sales and cost-optimisation functions are hot right now," she added, noting that "nice-to-have roles" are being deprioritised.

For job seekers, this has translated into a more competitive and less predictable process. "The biggest shift is more competition per role and longer decision cycles," Sara said.

(Cont. on page - 2)

SalamAir eyes India expansion as demand surges



MUSCAT: Oman's low-cost carrier SalamAir is planning to expand its presence in India, citing the country's growing importance as a key market. Chief Executive Adrian Hamilton-Manns said the airline is actively exploring the addition of more Indian destinations to its network.

"India is continuing to grow and remains a big market for us. We are looking to add more destinations in India," he said in an interview, highlighting strong and sustained travel demand between the two countries.

The airline posted a solid operational performance (Cont. on page - 2)

Face-lift for Burj Al Arab

DUBAI: As Dubai's most recognisable hotel begins its first major restoration in more than 25 years, Jumeirah Burj Al Arab is entering a new chapter. Over the years, the hotel has become inseparable from Dubai itself.

In messages sent to guests, Jumeirah confirmed that the refurbishment follows long-term planning after more than 25 years of continuous

operation, marking the first major renewal of a property synonymous with Dubai's global image.

The hotel, owned by Jumeirah Group - a subsidiary of Dubai Holdings, said the renovation is aimed at preserving one of the emirate's most famous symbols for future generations.

Jumeirah announced that the dhow sail-shaped hotel — long regarded as



an emblem of Dubai's global luxury tourism ambitions — will begin a phased restoration expected to last around 18 months.

(Cont. on page - 2)



Deficit monsoon?

On the top of the shortage psychosis caused by the war in West Asia, another traumatophobia is now hanging over the heads of Indians. According to the forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), after enjoying three years of bumper rains, the country is facing a below-average monsoon in 2026. Needless to say that the Southwest monsoon is India's lifeline and a below normal monsoon can bring chaos in the country. Even our scriptures mention about the southwest monsoon while great poets for centuries have been describing its mighty arrival.

The IMD forecast has triggered concerns over farm output and growth in Asia's third-largest economy as it battles inflation driven by the Iran war. The monsoon is the lifeblood of India's nearly \$4 trillion economy, delivering almost 70pc of the rainfall needed to water farms and replenish aquifers and reservoirs.

Editorial
By El. Vaidyanathan

The IMD's first forecast of rainfall at 92pc of the LPA is the lowest in nearly three decades. It will issue an updated outlook for the season in the last week of May. According to M Ravichandran, secretary in the ministry of earth sciences, the monsoon, which typically arrives over Kerala around June 1 and retreats by mid-Sept, is expected to reach 92pc of the long-period average (LPA) this year. The IMD defines normal rainfall as between 96pc and 104pc of a 50-year average of 87 cm (35 inches) for the four-month season.

"Currently weak La Nina-like conditions are transitioning to neutral conditions. But after June it's very likely that El Nino will develop," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director-general of IMD has said. El Nino is a weather phenomenon that occurs when temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean rise above normal, typically resulting in hot and dry weather in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world. In the past, India has experienced below-average rainfall during most El Nino years, sometimes leading to severe droughts. It is also true that the El Nino forecast has failed in the past some years.

"But in the latter part of the monsoon season, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions are likely to develop and that will help the monsoon," Mohapatra expressed optimism. The IOD is a climate pattern marked by differences in sea-surface temperatures between the western and eastern Indian Ocean. A positive IOD, defined by warmer-than-normal waters in the western Indian Ocean, often supports stronger monsoon rainfall in India. "This, along with the impending impact of the ongoing crisis in (the Middle East), poses downside risks to India's GDP growth in financial year 2026-27," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA. The government has forecast India's economy will grow by between 6.8pc and 7.2pc in the fiscal year that started on April 1.

Lower rainfall forecasts also pose material upside risks to the retail inflation trajectory this fiscal year, with average inflation could well exceed 4.5pc " Nayar said. Inflation stood at 3.4pc in March. India is the world's largest exporter of rice and onions and the second-biggest producer of sugar.

Right now we can only take solace on the fact that the weather office also noted that Northern Hemisphere and Eurasian snow cover between Jan and March 2026 was slightly below normal — a factor that is generally favourable for the subsequent revival of southwest monsoon.

LIPSYNCH

"Not all those who wander are lost."

----JRR Tolkein

RAs hold B2B meetings at..

(Cont. from page - 1)
to strengthening bilateral co-operation in the domain of overseas employment and workforce mobility.

The engagement featured detailed presentations and interactive sessions led by senior officials from "Invest Tatarstan" and "Sverdlovsk Region Enterprises".

Discussions centered around the growing demand for skilled and semi-skilled Indian workforce across multiple sectors, including manufacturing, construction, engineering, and service sectors.

The Indian delegation emphasised the importance of facilitating workforce deployment through a framework that ensures ethical recruitment practices, legal compliance and transparency, in alignment with the regulatory ecosystem of both India and Russian Federation.

Particular focus was placed on adhering to the norms of India's Overseas Employment Governance under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA-OE-PGE), ensuring safe, secure, and structured mobility pathways for Indian workers.

Officials and representatives from the Russian regions expressed strong interest in establishing

Job market more selective...

(Cont. from page - 1)
"Candidates are facing "silent pipelines" where processes stretch and feedback shrinks, which amplifies uncertainty."

Recruiters say this can make the process feel stalled, even when roles are actively being filled behind the scenes.

Beyond the practical challenges, recruiters are also seeing a clear emotional impact on candidates. "Anxiety is showing up as over-applying, second-guessing, and burn-out mid-process," Sara explained. "Candidates are trying to control what they can, spreading themselves too thin, which backfires."



Participants and officials at the meeting.



B2B meeting in progress at Kazan.

long-term partnerships with Indian recruitment stakeholders to address their workforce requirements efficiently.

Both sides acknowledged the needs to institutionalise co-operation mechanisms, streamline processes and enhance mutual understanding of compliance procedures to support sustainable workforce mobility.

The meetings concluded on a positive note, with a shared vision to advance structured collaboration,

potentially leading to formal agreements and continued engagements between Indian recruitment agencies and Russian regional employers.

This initiative marks a significant step forward in enhancing India-Russia co-operation in human resource mobility, fostering economic synergy, and creating global employment opportunities for the Indian workforce under a safe and compliant framework, says VS Abdulkaareem, President, IPEPCIL.

SalamAir eyes India expansion...

(Cont. from page - 1)
mance in 2025, carrying about 3.4 million passengers and operating over 22,000 flights across its expanding network. SalamAir also achieved an on-time performance rate of 83pc reflecting improved efficiency amid growth.

Financially, the carri-

er reported revenues of around RO 137 million, driven by increasing demand for affordable travel and continued network expansion. The planned India expansion is expected to further strengthen SalamAir's position in the competitive regional aviation market.

Face-lift for Burj Al Arab

(Cont. from page - 1)

Thomas B. Meier, CEO of Jumeirah, said the restoration is about more than upgrading a hotel building. "Jumeirah Burj Al Arab is far more than an architectural landmark; it is a symbol of ambition, craftsmanship and enduring excellence," he said.

When Burj Al Arab opened in Dec 1999, Dubai was still emerging as an international tourism destination. The hotel instantly changed that. Designed by British architect

Tom Wright, the building was conceived to become for Dubai what the Sydney Opera House is for Australia — a national symbol. Built on a man-made island 280 metres offshore in the Arabian Gulf, the structure rises 321 metres high and is connected to the mainland by a private bridge. Its sail-like silhouette is inspired by traditional Arabian dhow boats. Few buildings anywhere in the world are as visually synonymous with their city as Burj Al Arab is with Dubai.

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Euro	109.14	111.46
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Swiss Franc (CHF)	118.23	120.86
Canadian Dollar	67.26	68.78
Australian Dollar	66.44	67.89
Norwegian Krone	9.77	10.08
Swedish Krona	10.04	10.33
New Zealand Dollar	54.56	55.8
Hong Kong Dollar	11.68	12.04
Kuwaiti Dinar	309.46	298.74
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SpiceJet plane hits Akasa aircraft in Delhi while taxiing

NEW DELHI: Two aircraft belonging to Akasa Air and SpiceJet were involved in a minor collision at Delhi's Indra Gandhi International Airport on Thursday evening.

The SpiceJet plane, while taxiing, struck a stationary Akasa aircraft, causing damage to both planes. Passengers and crew were safely disembarked, alternative arrangements were made, and no injuries were reported. DGCA is yet to comment.

The incident reportedly happened when a SpiceJet Boeing 737-700 aircraft was taxiing at the airport and made contact with an Akasa Air aircraft that was stationary on the ground.

The impact resulted in damage to the right wing of the SpiceJet aircraft, while the Akasa Air plane suffered damage to its left-hand horizontal stabiliser. The Akasa aircraft was scheduled to operate flight QP 1406 from Delhi to Hyderabad.



Following the collision, the aircraft was forced to return to the bay for inspection and safety checks.

According to an Akasa Air spokesperson, preliminary findings suggest their aircraft was not moving at the time of the incident. The spokesperson said: "All passengers and crew were safely disembarked, and our ground teams are making alternative arrangements to fly our passen-

gers to Hyderabad at the earliest."

According to SpiceJet spokesperson, "On April 16, 2026, a SpiceJet B737-700 aircraft was involved in a ground occurrence while taxiing at Delhi airport, resulting in damage to its right winglet and the left-hand horizontal stabilizer of another aircraft belonging to a different airline. The SpiceJet aircraft has been grounded at Delhi."



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GULF FAQs

Lost your job? How to exit rental contract without penalty?

I signed my rent contract in January this year in Dubai but lost my job this month. I cannot afford the rent anymore. Is there any way that I can end my contract without paying the two-month penalty on humanitarian considerations?

Pursuant to your query, the provisions of the Dubai land laws and the UAE civil transaction law are applicable. In the emirate of Dubai, the landlord-tenant relationship is governed by a written lease contract which includes details such as property details, purpose, lease term, rent, payment method and information of the property owner and the tenant. All such lease contracts and any amendments must be registered with RERA to be legally valid. This is in accordance with the Article-4 of the Law No. (33) of 2008 Amending Law No. (26) of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in the Emirate

of Dubai:

"1. The contractual relationship between a landlord and a tenant will be regulated by a lease contract which includes a description of the leased real property that leaves no room for uncertainty; the purpose of the lease; the term of the lease contract; the rent and its payment method; and the name of the real property owner if the landlord is not the owner.

2. All lease contracts related to real property which is governed by the provisions of this Law, and any amendments thereto, will be registered with RERA." A lease contract is valid for the term, it may be terminated if both a landlord and a tenant mutually agree to do so or in accordance with the provision of the law. This is in accordance with the Article-7 of the Law No. (26) of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in the Emirate of Dubai:

"Where a lease contract is valid, it may not be unilaterally terminated during its term by the landlord or the tenant. It can only be terminated by mutual consent or in accordance with the provisions of this law."

Further, once a contract is valid and binding, neither party can unilaterally cancel or modify it; any change or termination is only permissible through

mutual agreement between the parties, by an order of a competent court or where expressly allowed under a specific provision of law. This is in accordance with the Article 267 of Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 concerning the issuance of the civil transactions law of the UAE. "If the contract is valid and binding, it shall not be permissible for either of the contracting parties to

resile from it, nor to vary or rescind it, save by mutual consent or an order of the court, or under a provision of the law."

In accordance with the aforementioned provisions of the law, a tenant may request the owner of a property for an early termination of the lease contract. However, the termination of the lease contract would require the mutual agreement between the parties. Any such termination is subject to the terms of the lease contract. If the lease contract provides for an early termination penalty, the tenant may be liable to make such payment as the penalty for the early termination of the lease contract. However, the termination of the lease contract would require the mutual agreement between the parties. Any such termination is subject to the terms of the lease contract. If the lease contract provides for an early termination penalty, the tenant may be liable to make such payment as the penalty for the early termination of the lease contract unless the landlord agrees to waive or reduce it by mutual consent.



Dubai rent law: Can agents charge annual administration fees?

I have been living in a rented residential apartment for nearly eight years in Dubai. Each year, my real estate agency charges me Dh1,500 as an "administration fee" in addition to the Ejari fee and rent increases. I would like to understand whether this is legal, how this amount is determined and whether I can challenge it?

Pursuant to your query, the apartment you reside in is in the emirate of Dubai and the provisions of the Dubai rent law are applicable. In the emirate of Dubai, a landlord-tenant relationship is governed by a tenancy contract. This contract must clearly state the details of the property being rented, the purpose for which it is being rented the duration of the

rental contract, the rent amount and the mode of payment. This is in accordance with Article 4(1) of Law No. (33) of 2008 Amending Law No. (26) of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in the Emirate of Dubai.

"The contractual relationship between a landlord and a tenant will be regulated by a tenancy contract which includes a description of the leased real property that leaves no room for uncertainty; the purpose of the lease; the term of the Rent Contract; the rent and its payment method; and the name of the real property owner if the landlord is not the owner."

Further, under the terms of a tenancy contract, the various payment obligations (towards

government entities for fees and taxes) of the landlord and tenant are determined. In most cases, such payments are the tenant's obligation, unless otherwise stated in the tenancy contract.

This follows Article 22 of the Law No (26) of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in the Emirate of Dubai which reads as follows: "Unless the rent contract states otherwise, the tenant must pay all fees and taxes owed to government entities and departments in relation to the use of the real property and must pay the fees or taxes prescribed for any sublease of the real property."

However, in this instance, it is assumed that the annual administration fee charged by the

real estate agency is a fee for their services in completing the renewal of the tenancy contract. If the rent contract clearly states that such an administration fee is payable by you on renewal, then the real estate agency may charge this administration fee. However, if there is no mention of this fee payable by you to the real estate agency, you may clarify this with the real estate agency.

If you have never agreed to pay this administrative fee and the matter remains unresolved with the real estate agency, you may consider escalating this issue with the Rental Dispute Settlement Centre at the Dubai Land Department or to the Real Estate Regulatory Agency against your real estate agency.

Dubai limits foreign flights until May 31, move affects Indian airlines most

DUBAI: Dubai has restricted foreign airlines to just one daily flight to its airports until May 31 due to the Iran crisis, igniting revenue loss fears among Indian carriers that had planned more flights than airlines from any other country, letters show.

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA), which represents top carriers IndiGo, Air India and SpiceJet, has

asked India to push Dubai authorities to lift the curbs and, failing that, to consider reciprocal measures on Dubai carriers including Emirates and flydubai.

According to a letter it sent to the Indian government on March 31, Indian carriers are already under financial pressure from higher fuel prices and longer routings to Western destinations because they

have been banned from using Pakistani airspace since last year following military tensions between the two neighbours. In a private email to airlines on March 27 Dubai Airports said carriers would be allowed one round trip per day to Dubai International Airport (DXB), normally the world's busiest international travel hub and the smaller Al Maktoum International.



Abu Dhabi records 26.6m visitors in 2025 as hotel revenues hit Dh9.1b

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi welcomed 26.6 million visitors in 2025, with hotel revenues rising to Dh9.1 billion, according to the Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi.

The figures, released as

part of the emirate's 2025 performance review, show a 19.5pc year-on-year increase in hotel revenues, alongside growth across cultural, leisure and business events.

Saood Abdulaziz Al Ho-

sani, Undersecretary, DCT Abu Dhabi, said: "Landmark attractions and the continued expansion of Saadiyat Cultural District have strengthened Abu Dhabi's global distinctiveness, while strong hotel

performance reinforces long-term sustainable economic impact."

He added: "With culture at the heart of the destination, our double-digit growth in 2025 reflects the clarity of our vision and the collective efforts of the wider ecosystem."

The data reflects a full-year performance for 2025, highlighting tourism activity before more recent disruptions seen in 2026.

The department reported double-digit growth across several segments. Attendance at culture and leisure events rose 20pc to 4.2 million, while the number of MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) delegates increased 40pc to 2.2 million. In total, 252 cultural and leisure events were held during the year, draw-

ing millions of visitors. Major events included concerts, sporting tournaments and heritage festivals held across Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Dhafra. The MICE sector also expanded, with the number of events rising 37pc cent to 6,600.

Cultural sites drive visitor numbers: Cultural attractions continued to play a key role in tourism growth. The Louvre Abu Dhabi recorded 1.4 million visitors, while Qasr Al Hosn welcomed more than 8.43 lakh visitors, marking a 22pc increase year-on-year.

Overall, more than 8.6 million visits were recorded across cultural sites and libraries in the emirate. New openings and reopenings of museums and cultural institutions also contributed to visitor engagement during the year.

CAE-InterGlobe JV launches pilot training centre in Mumbai

MUMBAI: CAE Simulation Training Private Limited, a joint venture between CAE Inc. and InterGlobe Enterprises, has inaugurated a state-of-the-art pilot training centre in Mumbai, marking a significant step in strengthening India's aviation training infrastructure.

The new facility, spread across 44,000 square feet, is CSTPL's fourth

training centre in the country and is equipped to deliver advanced simulator-based training in line with global safety and proficiency standards. It begins operations with one Airbus A320 full-flight simulator (FFS), with plans to add a second A320 simulator later this year.

Designed for future growth, the centre has the capacity to scale up

to six simulators depending on market demand, reflecting the rapid expansion of India's aviation sector and the increasing need for skilled pilots.

The initiative underscores the commitment of CAE and InterGlobe to enhance domestic training capabilities and support the growing requirements of India's airline industry.

FIR against KLM for denying boarding for Indian family

BENGALURU: A Tamil Nadu family denied boarding at Bengaluru airport despite valid tickets has triggered legal action against KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

An Indian family's trip to Peru abruptly ended at Bengaluru airport on June 19, 2024, after officials prevented them from boarding their flight. The Dutch airline KLM claimed that none of the eight family members had the required Peruvian visa. Now,

a Karnataka court has directed the police to register an FIR against several senior KLM Royal Dutch Airlines officials, including the company's CEO.

Tickets worth Rs 49 lakh, yet the family was denied to board flight-- What happened? A Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate in Devanahalli passed the FIR order after Salem-based businessman JS Sathishkumar filed a complaint. Sathishkumar said: "The

trip was meant to be a celebratory family journey but turned into a protracted legal battle." Sathishkumar and his family had booked eight non-refundable business class tickets worth Rs 49 lakh and reached Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport well in advance on June 19, 2024. However, after waiting at the check-in counter for hours, they were informed shortly before departure that they would not be al-

lowed to board. The family was told that they did not have a Peruvian visa. However, Sathishkumar claimed the airline misunderstood Peru's entry rules.

He explained that Indian passport holders can travel to Peru without a separate visa if they already have a valid visa or residence permit from the US, UK, Australia or any Schengen country. He argued that his family met all these conditions and should have been

allowed to travel.

The complaint filed by Sathishkumar also alleges harassment by the KLM Royal Dutch Airline staff after the family protested the decision. Sathishkumar said they were "red-flagged" by the airline, which led to further issues during later travel. He claimed his son was stopped in Singapore and questioned about a deportation from Peru, despite never visiting the country.