



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Gulf NRIs benefit from weak rupee

DUBAI: Though the Indian rupee has pulled back from its all-time low of 23.95 to the dirham (87.95 to a dollar), there is as yet nothing to suggest whether the pressure has eased completely.

The INR dropped 2.8pc against the dollar since the start of the year, which meant it has “lagged other Asian currencies in 2025”, according to a new update on the India economy from HSBC. The more recent improvement in the INR-\$ situation also has much to do with signs of weaknesses in the broader dollar Index, much of which stems from the Trump

sabre rattling over tariffs. (The dollar index measures the strength of the US greenback against a basket of global currencies. The Dollar



Index score right now is at 103.7, well down on the 110 peak in mid-January.)

The rupee's drop this year – which contin-

ued the weakness seen right through 2024 – has meant a bonanza for UAE and Gulf Indian expats on their remittances. They can expect some more help by way of a weak Indian rupee.

“We expect US\$-INR to edge towards 88 by end-2025 owing to broad-based dollar strength,” the HSBC report states. “However, less favourable interest rate differentials (with the US Fed rate) and increased net-short FX position of RBI points towards increased downside risks for the rupee.”

“From our perspective, the rupee is likely to remain under pressure,” says the HSBC report, and it cites three key reasons for such an outcome.

Nations under potential travel curbs by US

NEW YORK: The Trump administration is considering targeting the citizens of as many as 43 countries as part of a new ban on travel to the US that would be broader than the restrictions imposed during President Trump's first term, according to officials familiar with the matter, says New York Times.

A draft list of recommendations developed by diplomatic and security officials suggests a **RED LIST:** Of 11 countries whose citizens would be flatly barred from entering the US. They are Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cuba, Iran, Libya, N Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen.

An internal Trump administration propos-

al lists the following countries whose citizens could face restrictions on entering the US. Some countries may change in any final order.

ORANGE LIST: Belarus, Eritrea, Haiti, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Turkmenistan

YELLOW LIST: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sro Tomř and Prncipe, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe.

Roshni Nadar beats Nita Ambani in wealth

NEW DELHI: Roshni Nadar became India's third-richest person after inheriting a 47pc stake in HCL from her father. She surpassed Nita Ambani in wealth, transitioned from journalism to business, and actively contributes to philanthropy, wildlife conservation and education. The Nadar family originally hails from Tamil Nadu.

According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, her wealth surged after her father, HCL founder Shiv Nadar, transferred 47Vpc of his stake in the company to her. This massive transfer of shares has made her the largest stakeholder in HCL and propelled her to the top ranks of wealth in Asia.



Roshni Nadar

also overtaken industrialist Savitri Jindal and Wipro's Azim Premji in wealth rankings. However, Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani still hold the top two spots in India's rich list.

According to Bloomberg, Mukesh Am-

(Cont. on page-2)

Two Indian-origin ministers in new Canada cabinet

OTTAWA: Two Indian origin women are part of new Prime Minister Mark Carney's cabinet.

Liberal Party's Carney, a former central banker, was sworn in alongside members of the 30th Canadian ministry at a ceremony presided over by Governor General Mary Simon here.

Anand (58) is the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry while Khera (36) is Minister of Health, both among the few retaining their ministerial posts, albeit with different portfolios, from former prime minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet.

Delhi-born Khera's family shifted to Canada when she was still in the school. She later earned her Bachelor of Science degree from York Uni-

versity, Toronto. Prime Minister of Canada's website mentions that Khera was first elected as a Member of Parliament for Brampton West in 2015. Minister Khera is one of the youngest women ever elected to parliament. A regis-



tered nurse, community volunteer and political activist, she is passionate about improving the lives of those around her, it said.

Khera has previously served as Minister of Seniors, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Revenue and as Parliamentary Secre-

tary to the Minister of Health. Before entering politics, she worked as a registered nurse in the oncology unit at St Joseph's Health Centre in Toronto. During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, she went back to her roots as a registered nurse to volunteer at a hard-hit long-term care facility in her hometown of Brampton, the website adds.

Anand, who was a front-runner in the race to be the next prime minister to replace Trudeau, had in January declared that she is backing out from the race and also that she would not be seeking re-election. However, she had reversed the decision on March 1 saying, Canada is facing a crucial moment in our nation's history.

Retired cop arrested in passport racket

KOLKATA: Abdul Hai, the retired assistant inspector who was earlier attached to the security control organisation of Kolkata police and who was arrested this year in connection with the fake passport racket had, okayed police verifications for at least 52 applications for fake passports against payment of cash.

The details of the involvement of the retired cop in the matter had been mentioned in the charge sheet filed by the cops in the matter to a lower court in Kolkata.

Sources aware of the developments said that the charge sheet also contains the details of the financial gains that Hai made through these 52 police verification clearances where he was the on-ground enquiry or verification officer. After the arrest of Hai in Jan this year, the role of five other verification officers attached to different police stations also came under the scanner of

the investigation officials. However, their names are yet to figure in the charge sheet since

the investigation against them is yet to be completed and might be included in any eventual supplementary charge sheet filed in the matter. In the charge sheet, a total of 130 individuals have been named and out of this 120 are Bangladeshi residents and the remaining are Indian nationals.

The main charges against the Bangladeshi nationals are that they created fake Indian passports by furnishing forged documents and paying huge money. The charges against the ac-

cused Indian nationals are that they played the role of facilitators for arranging fake Indian identity documents including Indian passports for these illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators.

The cops investigating the fake Indian identity documents rackets have identified a specific pattern in the operations of such rackets in this particular crime.

Any infiltrator illegally crossing over into the Indian territory, contacting the local agents, and showing willingness to pay hefty amounts for

getting fake Indian identity documents was first provided with safe shelters at the different villages adjacent to the borders with Bangladesh in the state, both land and coastal. Thereafter, the agents arrange for fake ration cards for them, which is the first step for making other identity documents. By virtue of the fake ration cards, other identification documents like EPIC, PAN, and Aadhaar cards are acquired. The last step is getting the fake passports on the basis of these other fake identity.

Sharpest rise in forex reserves

MUMBAI: In the sharpest jump in over two years, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$ 15.267 billion to \$653.966 billion during the week ended March 7.

The overall reserves had dropped by \$1.781 billion to \$638.698 billion in the previous week. The reserves had been on a declining trend recently due to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce volatilities in the rupee. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of \$704.885 billion at end-Sept 2024.

The sharp rise during the week under review is being attributed to the \$10 billion forex swap undertaken by the

central bank on Feb 28, when it bought dollars against rupee to inject liquidity in the system. During the week, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased by \$13.993 billion to \$557.282 billion.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves decreased by \$1.053 billion to \$74.325 billion during the week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by \$212 million to \$18.21 billion. India's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$69 million at \$4.148 billion in the week.

OIL PRICES MOVE UP

NEW YORK: Oil prices were up nearly one per cent on Monday after the US bombed Yemen's Houthis for a second night, warning of an "unrelenting" attack on the militant group, and as China announced stimulus plans to boost its tepid economy.

Brent, the benchmark for two thirds of the world's oil, was up by 0.88pc at \$71.18 a barrel at 11.19am UAE

time. West Texas Intermediate, the gauge that tracks US crude, rose by 0.89pc to \$67.78 a barrel.

Oil prices are expected to remain in a holding pattern but unlikely to go on a sustained rally as lingering uncertainty over US trade policy and mounting concerns about the economic outlook are capping risk appetite and limiting the commodity's upside, said Dilin Wu.

New corporate identity for Korean Air soon

SEOUL: Korean Air is set to undergo one of the most significant transformations in its history. In what marks its first major rebranding in over four decades, the airline is rolling out a completely refreshed corporate identity, a new aircraft livery, upgraded lounges and enhanced in-flight services.



Korean Air CEO Cho Won-tae says his mandate is clear: Korean Air should become "the world's most loved airline" — an ambitious goal for a carrier that, of the last decade, has never been considered a major player in Asia (of the likes of Singapore Airlines, ANA and others).

But this rebrand is more than just a visual refresh—it's a statement of intent. It signals the airline's ambitions to position itself as a leading Asian carrier following its acquisition of Asiana Airlines, a move that will see Korean Air eventually cement its place as one

of Asia's most powerful aviation players.

At the heart of the rebranding is a contemporary corporate identity that blends modern aesthetics with the airline's deep-rooted heritage. One of the most noticeable changes is the streamlining of its name from "Korean Air" to simply "Korean," a move

elegance, and a nod to tradition—runs through the entirety of the rebrand. It is clear that Korean Air wants to project an image of a forward-thinking, global airline while preserving the essence of what has made it an iconic carrier in Asia.

Korean Air's new livery retains the brand's signature sky-blue hue but now features a metallic sheen, creating a more refined and premium look. The fuselage's upper half has been given a light blue metallic effect, which subtly shifts in tone depending on lighting conditions, while the tail showcases the redesigned "Taegeuk" in dark blue.

Roshni Nadar beats

(Cont. from page-1)

bani's net worth stands at US\$88.1 billion, followed by Gautam Adani at \$68.9 billion. Roshni Nadar is now third on the list, with a total net worth of \$35.9 billion (approximately Rs 3.13-lakh-crore). Following her father's stake transfer, she now owns a 12.94pc share in Vama Delhi and holds a 49.94pc stake in HCL Corp.

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- Rigger Not Certified (5): SAR 1500 to 2000
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Saudi Arabia needs nurses

RIYADH: Norka Roots is organising recruitment for the vacancies of Staff Nurse (Female) in the Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia. The vacancies are in the specialties of Burn Unit, Cardiac ICU (Pediatrics), Dialysis, Emergency Room (ER), General Nursing, Oncology, Operation Room - Recovery, ICU (Intensive Care Unit-Adult), NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), Operating Room-Recovery (OR), Pediatric General, PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit).

Candidates with BSc or Post BSc educational qualification in Nursing and at least two years of work experience in the specialty can apply. In addition, only those who have completed the Professional Classification (via Mu-

maris+), HRD Attestation, and Data-flow Verification from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialists can apply. Norka Roots Chief Executive Officer AjithKolassery informed that applications should be submitted by March 29, 2025, by visiting the websites www.norkaroots.org and www.nifl.norkaroots.org. The interview for this will be held in Ernakulam in April. For more information, please contact the Norka Roots Recruitment Department at 0471-2770536, 539, 540, 577 (during office hours, weekdays) or the 24-hour Norka Global Contact Center at toll-free numbers 1800 425 3939 (from India) and +91-8802 012 345 (from abroad, missed call service).

(March 29 last date for submitting applications)

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Kanyakumari | Coimbatore Isha Centre



02

PONDICHERY :

Paradise Beach | Aurobindo Aham |
Auroville | White Promenade Beach |
Serenity Beach | Manakula Vinayagar
Temple | Chunnambar Boat House |
Basilica of Sacred Heart Jesus |
Botanical Garden Bharathi Park



03

KERALA :

Munnar | Thekkady | Vagamon | Kottayam
Alleppey | Kochi | Kollam | Varkala |
Trivandrum | Kovalam | Poovar Island |
Palakkad | Wayanad | Kozhikode | Kannur
Kasargod

04

ANDHRA PRADESH :

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Valley | Srisaillam Papikondalu | Ahobilam
Vijayawada | Mantralayam Srikalahasthi |
Amaravathi, Etc...



05

KARNATAKA :

Bangalore | Mysore | Bandipur National
Park | Nagarhole National Park |
Sakleshpur | Dandeli | Sringeri | Coorg |
Chikmagalur | Hampi | Murudeshwar |
Gokarna | Udupi | Kukke | Manglore



GULF FAQs

UAE's new marriage, custody rules effective April 15

What are the new provisions of the UAE's new marriage, custody rules?

The UAE will implement changes in the federal personal status law from April 15. The new law introduces provisions for matters being regulated for the first time. The provisions of the new law are "characterised by flexibility, simplification of procedures and the unification of concepts and legal durations", according to the government.

As reported by the media, the federal law lists rules around marriage consent, custody age limits and divorce procedures, among others. Here are the key provisions:

RIGHT TO CHOOSE SPOUSE:

Women can marry the partners of their choice, even if their guardian refuses. For Muslim women who are non-citizens, the law specifies

that their marriage does not require guardian consent if her nationality law does not require her to have a guardian for marriage.

MARRIAGE AGE:

The decree stipulates that the legal marriage age is 18 years. If an individual over 18 wishes to marry but faces refusal from their guardian, they have the right to appeal to a judge. The law also empowers couples who have not reached the age of majority to manage their marriage-related matters independently,

without needing a legal guardian or custodian.

AGE DIFFERENCE:

If the age difference between her and the suitor exceeds 30 years, the marriage may only be contracted with the permission of the court.

LEGAL DEFINITION OF ENGAGEMENT:

Engagement is the request of a man to marry a woman who is permissible for him, along with a promise of marriage; however, engagement is not considered marriage. The proposal is a request for marriage and a promise of it, and

it is not considered a marriage.

RETURNING GIFTS GIVEN IF ENGAGEMENT IS CALLED OFF:

Gifts can only be returned if they were given on the condition of marriage being finalised. Valuable gifts exceeding Dh25,000 can be reclaimed, either in kind or based on their value at the time of receipt, provided they are not inherently consumable.

MARITAL HOME:

The wife shall reside with her husband in a suitable marital home

unless otherwise stipulated in the marriage contract.

CATEGORIES ALLOWED TO RESIDE IN THE MARITAL HOME :

The husband may reside with his wife in the marital home with his parents and his children from other marriages, if he is responsible for their financial support, if this does not harm the wife. The wife may reside with her children from another marriage in the marital home if they have no other guardian or if they would be harmed by her separation or if the husband agrees to this explicitly or implicitly. The husband has the right to withdraw if he is harmed by this arrangement. If both spouses share ownership of the marital home or its lease or provision, neither may have anyone else reside with them without the consent of the other party.

CUSTODY AND PARENTAL RIGHTS:

The law clarifies that leaving the house or going to work does not violate marital obligations, emphasising the importance of considering the family's welfare. It also introduces amendments to custody laws, prioritising the ward's interests above all else and preventing disputes over custody rights between divorced parents. The age for the termination of custody has been raised to 18 years for both genders, eliminating previous discrepancies. The law now allows wards aged 15 and above to choose which parent they wish to live with. Educational authority over the ward is granted to the custodial mother, ensuring decisions align with the child's best interests.



New law on Dubai International Financial Centre Courts

What is the significance of the new law on Dubai International Financial Centre Courts?

Dubai has issued a new law pertaining to the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) Courts.

The Law No. (2) of 2025 regulates the judicial and administrative bodies of the DIFC Courts and defines their jurisdictions. The DIFC Courts (including the Court of Appeal, the Courts of First Instance and the Small Claims Court) shall exercise their duties and jurisdictions independently in accordance with the provisions of this law, the DIFC's laws and regulations and the rules of the courts.

The law, issued by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, also specifies the mechanisms for appointing the president and director of the courts and their jurisdictions.

In support of the DIFC Courts' commitment to providing an effective dispute resolution mechanism, the new law stipulates the establishment of a mediation services centre that allows parties to negotiate amicable settlements of their disputes with the assistance of mediators registered with the DIFC Courts.

The Centre's President shall determine its operating system, jurisdiction and procedures to be followed before it.

According to the new law, the DIFC Courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate civil, commercial

and labour claims and lawsuits filed by or against the Centre's bodies or institutions or to which the Centre's bodies or institutions are parties. The law also defines the powers of the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, litigation procedures, evidence, urgent matters and enforcement, exemption from submitting a pledge to pay compensation, technical defects and procedural errors and statute of limitations.

This Law replaces the Centre Law No. (10) of 2004 and Law No. (12) of 2004 regarding the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts, and any text in any other legislation shall be repealed to the extent that it conflicts with the provisions of Law No. (2) of 2025.

Bank strike on March 24,25; no banking for four days

MUMBAI: The United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) will observe two-day nationwide strike on March 24 and 25 as scheduled since discussions with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) over key demands failed to yield any positive outcome. Since March 22 and 23 are fourth Saturday and Sunday respectively, effectively there will not be any banking for four days.

In a meeting with the IBA, all UFBU constituents raised issues, including recruitment in all cadres and a five-day workweek. Still, the key issues remained unresolved, National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) General Secretary L Chandrasekhar said. The UFBU, an umbrella body of nine bank employees' associations, earlier announced the strike to press for these demands which included filling up the workmen and officer director posts in public sector banks.

The unions have also sought the withdrawal of recent directives from the Department of Financial

Services (DFS) regarding performance reviews and performance-linked incentives, alleging that such measures threaten job security and create rift among employees.

The UFBU has further opposed what it calls "micro-management" of public sector banks by



the DFS, arguing that such interventions undermine the autonomy of bank boards.

Other demands include resolving residual issues with the IBA and amending the Gratuity Act to raise the ceiling to Rs 25 lakh, aligning it with the scheme for government employees and seeking exemption from income tax.

The UFBU comprises major bank unions, including the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) and All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA).

Why gold prices surge?

NEW YORK: Gold prices have reached an unprecedented milestone, surpassing \$3,000 an ounce for the first time in history. This surge is largely fuelled by a vigorous buying spree by global central banks.

Since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, central banks have increasingly turned to gold to diversify reserves and reduce dependency on the US dollar. The dollar's use as an economic weapon has driven nations like China, India, Poland and Turkey to bolster their gold holdings. Central bank gold buying has doubled in the past two years, reinforcing the metal's status as a reliable store of value in turbulent times.

"Persistent economic uncertainties and high inflation rates have further boosted gold's appeal. The metal has historically been a hedge against inflation and economic downturns. As global markets wrestle with fragile economic conditions and fears of potential recessions, investors are seeking the security gold offers. The combination of weak economic growth, geopolitical tensions, and rising costs has reinforced gold's standing as a safe haven.



The aggressive trade policies of President Trump's administration have added another layer of uncertainty. The imposition of tariffs on allies and strategic rivals, including Canada, Mexico, the EU and China, has escalated global trade tensions. Investors, wary of the potential fallout from an unpredictable trade environment, have turned to gold as a safeguard. The influx of more than 23 million ounces of gold into New York's Comex futures exchange reflects this trend, contributing significantly to the US trade deficit.

Crossing the \$3,000-mark underscores gold's role as a barometer of fear and economic instability. Investor sentiment has been a crucial driver, with many not wanting to miss out on the rally. Historical precedents show that

gold prices tend to soar during times of heightened uncertainty. The psychological momentum of hitting key price points, combined with a fear of missing out, has further accelerated demand.

Gold's rally has occurred despite traditionally negative factors like higher interest rates and a strong US dollar. Yet, global demand, especially from China, has outweighed these pressures. Analysts now speculate whether gold could reach new heights, with some predicting a potential rise to \$3,500 an ounce if investment demand continues to grow. Though still below its inflation-adjusted peak of \$3,800 from 1980, the current trajectory suggests that gold could continue its historic climb amid ongoing economic and geopolitical tensions.

Taj hospitality now in Ras Al Khaimah

DUBAI: In a landmark collaboration that will redefine the landscape of ultra-luxury living in the UAE, BNW Developments has joined forces with Taj, the iconic brand synonymous with unparalleled Indian hospitality, under the aegis of the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL).

This partnership, marked by a formal signing ceremony at the prestigious Taj Dubai, signifies Taj's first foray in the UAE into branded residences under the Wellington Mews brand, bringing its renowned

legacy of luxury hospitality to Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah.

By partnering with BNW Developments, known for its commitment to architectural magnificence and luxury, Taj will deliver an unparalleled five-star living experience to residents in Ras Al Khaimah for the first time.

Investors can now expect to enjoy the quintessential Taj experience that defines the concept of Tajness, complete with world-class amenities and the impeccable service that has made Taj a global leader in



Dr Vivek Anand Oberoi, co-founder and managing director, BNW Developments, Puneet Chhatwal, managing director and CEO, Taj IHCKL, Ankur Aggarwal, chairman and founder, BNW Developments with Arch. Abdulla Al Abdouli, CEO, Marjan at the collaboration agreement signing for opening Taj Wellington Mews in Abu Dhabi.

luxury hospitality.

Building upon the success of projects like the Taj Wellington Mews in Mumbai and Chennai, Taj will now bring its expertise to Al Marjan Island, Ras Al Khaimah for the first time in collaboration with BNW Developments, the ultra-luxury real estate developers in the UAE.

Taj also confirmed that this launch is only the start – much more awaits, with new project announcements on the horizon, as it partners with BNW Developments to reshape the definition of hospitality and luxury.