



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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UAE-India flights: airline offers cheaper tickets in new categories

DUBAI: Now, Air India Express passengers will have the option to save on flight tickets by travelling light. Budget carrier Air India Express has launched a new fare family, which gives travellers the option to have an increased baggage allowance of up to 40kg — or have no check-in luggage at all.

The new fare categories — which applies to flights to and from the UAE and other international destinations — are: Xpress Lite, Xpress Value, Xpress Flex, Xpress Biz. Xpress Lite offers cabin baggage-only fares, which would be

the most economical for passengers travelling with the airline. Xpress Value fare allows 15 kg check-in bag fares while Xpress Flex offers unlimited changes with no change fees. Xpress Biz comes with business class seats, complimentary meals, and priority services.

A subsidiary of Air India and a part of Tata Group, the airline introduced Xpress Lite on Feb 20 for UAE passengers who want to travel without check-in baggage. Xpress Biz fares are available on all the new Air India Express Boeing 737-8 aircraft.

Travellers can enjoy increased baggage allowances of 25kg for domestic flights and 40kg for international flights when booking Xpress Biz fares. This fare provides priority check-in, baggage, and boarding services.

Air India Express is already operating aircraft with Biz seats across 70-plus routes in India. In a previous interview, Alope Singh, managing director of Air India Express, had said the carrier was looking to increase capacity to the Gulf region, including the UAE, as well as provide better connectivity to Gulf travellers.

Competition is heating up in the UAE-India sector, which is one of the busiest air routes in the region for a large number of NRIs live and work in the UAE. In addition, the UAE carriers also provide strong connectivity with European and American destinations, hence, many Indians fly with the UAE airlines.

In Feb, Emirates signed a deal with VFS Global to introduce a pre-approved visa-on-arrival facility for Indian passport holders who have booked their travel with the airline to cash in on growth travel trends between the two countries.

Forex reserves hit \$636b

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves rose by US\$ 10.470 billion to \$636.095 billion in the week that ended on March 8, as per the latest data released by RBI.

The foreign exchange kitty rose for a third straight week to hit an over two-year high. Before March 8 week, the foreign exchange reserves rose by \$ 6.554 billion to \$ 625.626 billion, data showed. During the latest week, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of the forex reserves, rose by \$8.21 billion to \$ 562.352 billion. Gold reserves during the week

(Cont. on page-2)

Role of govt approved HRAs in nation building

By Sajan MS
(Part I)

Nation-building refers to the process of building or rebuilding a stable and unified nation from a diverse and often dis-

parate population. Nation-building is a complex and long-term process that necessarily requires the cooperation of various stakeholders such as the government, civil society, the private sector, and the international community. It is

Successful nation-building efforts have been taking place in post-independence India with the participation of all these groups, overcoming all obstacles. The foresight of the political leaderships and the balanced com-

ship has to be opened up to carry out nation-building unhindered.

Essentials in nation building

There are many elements involved in the process of nation build-

national co-operation, security and stability, avoiding polarisation, preservation of culture, rule of law, cultural Identity etc. Without its citizens a nation is just a piece of land and what we will build depends on what we are.

FOREX RATES		
As on 19th Mar, 2024 (In rupees)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	83.75	82.70
Euro	91.25	90.05
Australian Dollar	55.41	54.21
Japanese Yen	0.60	0.54
Canadian Dollar	62.23	61.03
Singapore Dollar	62.95	61.75
Swedish krona	8.99	7.20
UAE Dirham	23.07	22.42
Swiss Franc	94.93	93.13
British Pound	106.54	105.34
New Zealand Dollar	51.51	49.51
Thai Baht	2.41	2.21
Hong Kong Dollar	11.56	10.20
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.81	21.86
Bahraini Dinar	226.87	212.87
Chinese Yuan	12.43	10.63
Danish Krone	12.60	11.60
Kuwaiti Dinar	275.66	259.66
Malaysian Ringgit	18.61	17.26
Omani Rial	221.31	209.31
Qatari Riyal	23.77	21.27
South African Rand	4.92	3.92

Golden role of licensed HRAs

The role played by govt approved HRAs are highly laudable. They select the best available talent in India and send them to overseas countries. These emigrants lean the work and bring back the latest technology which will be implemented in our projects, apart from sending precious foreign exchange to India. Today, we have comfortable forex reserves, to a large extent the credit goes to our licensed HRAs.

a never-ending and a challenging process for a number of reasons. A country's name remains the same for a long time, but the people who make up its part and the political ideologies they embrace can change dramatically.

combination of economic, social and cultural initiatives have overcome any occasion and challenges and have advanced this process at an enviable speed. A battlefield of resilience and statesman-

ing. From a citizen's point of view, those factors are different. But these are some factors that everyone points to in common. They are education, economic development, infrastructure development, inter-

Role of govt approved HRAs in economic development

The role of licensed overseas manpower recruitment agencies in the economic Development of India cannot be

(Cont. on page-2)



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Qatar Airways to upgrade first class



**Qatar Airways CEO
Badr Mohammed Al-Meer**

DUBAI: Qatar Airways, Qatar's national carrier, has announced plans to introduce new first class cabins on some of its fleet, newly appointed Group CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer revealed. He also announced several major new developments in line with his vision for the airline's future.

Al-Meer's strategy for Qatar's national carrier includes innovations in digital technologies, products, fleet growth and employee engagement as Qatar Airways continues its global expansion.

Al-Meer was appointed CEO in November 2023. He replaced long-time CEO

Akbar Al Baker last year. "This is a new era," Al-Meer told a TV channel. We wanted to combine the experience of flying commercial and flying on a private jet and develop something new." The airline is also pursuing orders from Boeing and Airbus as part of a strategic overhaul.

"Based on the demand from certain sectors, we see a high demand for first class and as such, we have decided to introduce a newly designed first class cabin unique to Qatar Airways", he said.

Qatar Airways currently serves over 170 global destinations and will soon launch inaugural flights to Hamburg and Tashkent and resumed flights to Lisbon and Venice. Qatar Airways will also resume several summer seasonal routes, including Adana, Antalya, Bodrum, Marrakesh, Mykonos, Sarajevo, and Trabzon.

No permit for repeat Umrah in Ramadan

MECCA: Saudi Arabia has said repetition of performing Umrah in Mecca during Ramadan is not permitted to ease overcrowding. Ramadan, which started last week, usually marks the peak season of Umrah at the Grand Mosque, Islam's holiest site.

The Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah said no permit is issued for performing two or more Umrahs in Ramadan, urging the faithful to make do with one lesser pilgrimage in the sacred month. Saudi authorities have also extended the Umrah visa from 30 days to 90.

The ministry explained that the restriction aims to ease congestion, give others the chance to undertake Umrah and help in crowd management. Saudi Arabia designates entry

and exit gates for Ramadan Umrah pilgrims at Grand Mosque.

According to Nusuk, a Saudi government platform facilitating Umrah procedures electronically, in case of trying to obtain a permit for a second Umrah by the same person, a message would appear reading: "The permit issuance fails. To give everyone the chance to perform Umrah, the lesser pilgrimage can't be repeated in Ramadan".

In Ramadan, Muslims from inside and outside Saudi Arabia would head in large numbers to the Grand Mosque to perform Umrah and offer prayers. To cope with the expected influx, Saudi authorities have unveiled a series of measures to help worshippers perform rites smoothly and comfort-

ably. The circumambulation courtyard of the mosque around the Holy Kaaba and the ground floor are designated for Umrah pilgrims during Ramadan.

Likewise, authorities have allocated certain gates of the sprawling mosques for pilgrims' entry and exit to stave off overcrowding. In recent months, the kingdom has introduced a host of facilities for overseas Muslims to come to the country to perform Umrah. Muslims holding different types of entry visas such as the personal, visit and tourism visas are allowed to undertake Umrah and visit Al Rawda Al Sharifa, where the tomb of the Prophet Mohammad is located at the Prophet's Mosque in Medina after booking an e-appointment.

Forex reserves hit \$636b

(Cont. from page-1)

declined by \$2.299 billion to \$50.716 billion.

In the calendar year 2023, RBI added about \$58 billion to its foreign exchange kitty. Forex reserves are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority. It is generally held in reserve currencies, usually the US Dollar and, to a lesser degree, the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. In October 2021, the country's foreign exchange reserves had touched an all-time high of about \$645 billion. Much of the decline, though marginal on a cumulative basis, since then can be attributed to a rise in the cost of imported goods in 2022.

Also, the relative fall in forex reserves could be linked to the RBI's intervention, from time to time, in the market to defend the uneven depreciation in the rupee against a surging US dollar.

Role of govt approved HRAs.....

(Cont. from page-1)

overstated. The licensed HRA fraternity firmly believes that they have contributed significantly to modern India's economic progress. The overseas manpower recruitment agencies in India have been silently providing invaluable services to the expatriate mass of this nation and thereby its economic progress for decades without any hesitation.

HRAs are engaged in a nation-building work that creates opportunities for a section of the society and leads them to economic prosperity. HRAs play their part in reducing economic disparities and fostering a sense of shared prosperity. These agencies play a vital role in connecting skilled and unskilled workers of the nation with job opportunities by helping to support and drive the growth of various industries worldwide.

Considering the data

given in MEA's performance dashboard as an authentic document, from Jan 2014 to Feb 2024, as many as 42,74,183 job seekers have obtained emigration clearances and entered the work in ECR countries. The same count or more job seekers with ECNR status passport also have been placed by the RAs in these same ECR countries. The contributions of HRAs in this field will surprise anyone if you go through the numbers of those who have secured job opportunities in countries other than ECR Countries (this can be discussed in detail later). Moreover, according to MEA's performance dashboard, from Jan 2014 to Feb 2024, about 2,76,898 Foreign Employers (FEs) also have registered to bring Indian Human Resources to their countries.

India's growing population has elevated it to a country with a

high labour force. This means that there is no room for concern about the availability of human resources for overseas employment in this country. The only drawback is the concern that it may lead to unemployment. This is where HRAs' real role is working out. This high human resource sector of our country is being restructured and used by them in the employment sectors of other foreign countries and to some extent eliminating the unemployment in this country.

By constantly travelling abroad to establish relationships with companies and finding job opportunities there and the licensed HRAs are able to place job seekers in suitable fields according to their area of interest, proficiency and experience.

Many licensed HRAs have professionalised the overseas manpower recruitment by setting

up their own offices in various foreign countries and employing marketing executives and HRAs there to establish rapport with the foreign companies and FEs.

The fact that the Overseas Manpower Recruitment Agencies in India have been able to find lakhs of job opportunities abroad for India's expatriate community than the job seekers can find on their own. This great service has been started by HRAs ever since people started going abroad in search of jobs from India. This nation building work of licensed HRAs continues unabated even now. They continue it quietly, without bothering anyone. Yes, for everyone needs it. Yes, for the betterment of everyone's family. Yes, this is enough to understand how important HRAs are in the nation building process of India.

(To be continued)

REQUIREMENT FOR RETAIL SHOP IN MALAYSIA

CLIENT INTERVIEW ON 23.03.2024 in MUMBAI

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- ❖ STORE KEEPER
- ❖ SALES ASSISTANT
- ❖ DRIVER

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Urgent Requirement Oil & Gas Co. SAUDI

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- TENSION TECHNICIAN
- HYDRAULIC TECHNICIAN
- MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
- MECHANICAL FITTER
- MACHINIST

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Email: alrehancok@gmail.com / alrehancit@gmail.com

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REQUIREMENT FOR RESTAURANT IN MALAYSIA

CLIENT INTERVIEW ON 23.03.2024 in MUMBAI

- ❖ INDIAN COOK
- ❖ KERALA COOK
- ❖ TEA MAKER
- ❖ ROTI, NAAN, TANDOORI MAKER
- ❖ KALLU MASTER
- ❖ SWEET MAKER

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Dubai Shippard & Marine Company

INTERVIEW IN COCHIN ON 24th MARCH, 2024 (SUNDAY)
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- MACHINERY ENGINEER ■ HYDRAULIC ENGINEER
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- WELDING QC SUPERVISOR ■ HYDRAULIC SUPERVISOR

BASIC SALARY: AED 3000 / AED 5000 + 8 HOURS DUTY + OT

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Indian-origin family dies in Canada house fire

ONTARIO: An Indian-origin couple and its teenage daughter were killed in a “suspicious” fire which tore through their home last week in Canada’s Ontario province, police said. A fire engulfed a home at the Big Sky Way and Van Kirk Drive area of Brampton on March 7.

After the blaze was put out, investigators located what was believed to be human remains within the gutted house, but the number of people killed couldn’t be ascertained at the time. The charred remains were identified as those of three family members: 51-year-old Rajiv Warikoo, his

wife 47-year-old Shilpa Kotha and their 16-year-old daughter Mahek Warikoo. Police said that they resided at the address before the fire.

Peel police Constable Taryn Young said the fire had been deemed suspicious, the CTV news channel reported. “At this time, we are investigating this with our homicide bureau, and we are deeming this as suspicious as the Ontario Fire Marshal has deemed that this fire was not accidental,” the report quoted Young as saying.

“There’s not much left to it,” Young said when asked about the possible cause of the fire. “Look-

ing into something like that as a fire marshal, I’m sure it’s very tough when there is not much left to look at. But we are exhausting all avenues,” she said.

The deceased family’s neighbour, Kenneth Yousaf, said that the family had lived on the street for about 15 years, and he never noticed any problems with them.

Yousaf said he was alerted to the fire last week by a family member, who heard a big “bang.” “When we came out, the house was on fire. So sad. Within a few hours, everything was down to the ground,” the report quoted Yousaf as saying.

First woman air traffic controller

SHARJAH: Maryam Al Hammadi becomes the first Emirati woman air traffic control officer (ATCO) in Sharjah. Through her skills and dedication to work, Al Hammadi was able to complete the train-

ing programme as per the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) as well as the nature of the work in record time.

She successfully passed several courses and ob-

tained certificates: ICAO 051, ICAO 052, ATCO Pre-OJT, ATCO OJT, and the ATCO proficiency testing exam within three years of joining the department.

Her achievement con-

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firms the success of the Emiratisation programme at Department of Civil Aviation in Sharjah



Maryam Al Hammadi

(DCA).

Al Hammadi carried out all the tasks assigned to her, as she manages aircraft operations at the air traffic control tower at Sharjah Airport, affiliated with DCA, ensuring the safe and efficient movement of flights. It is worth noting that last year, the Air Control Department at Sharjah Airport handled more than 104,000 flights, with 364 flights per day.

India’s exports in Feb highest in 11 months

NEW DELHI: At \$41.40 billion, India’s merchandise exports in Feb were the highest in 11 months. The import growth of 12pc in Febr is the highest since Sept 2022’s 12.6pc. For the Feb last year, the trade deficit stood at \$16.57 billion. The exports rose by 11.9pc a year ago period to \$41.40 billion and imports were up 12.2pc at \$60.11 billion.

Main drivers of merchandise export growth in Feb 2024 include engineering goods, electronic goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals and petroleum products, the commerce ministry said.

Overall trade deficit improves by 37.80pc from US\$ 116.13 billion in April-Feby 2022-23 to \$ 72.24 billion in April-Feby 2023-24. Then

merchandise trade deficit improves by 8.430pc from \$ 245.94 billion in April-Feby 2022-23 to \$225.20 billion in April-Feby 2023-24.

In April-Feby 2023-24, India’s overall exports are estimated to be \$709.81 billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 0.83pc over April-Feby 2022-23.

Overall imports in April-Feby 2023-24 are estimated to be \$782.05

billion, exhibiting a negative growth of (-) 4.64pc over April-Feby 2022-23. In Feb, the non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports were \$29.97 billion, compared with \$25.57 billion in Feby 2023. While their imports were \$33.15 billion, compared with \$31.52 billion in Feb 2023. Under merchandise exports, 22 of the 30 key sectors exhibited

positive growth as compared to same period last year.

As per the commerce ministry data, for April 2023-February 2024 as a whole, India’s trade deficit amounted to \$225.20 billion, down from \$245.94 billion in the first 11 months of 2022-23. This exhibits a decline of 8.43pc on the trade gap on a year-on-year basis during this period.

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GULF FAQs

How can I renew my Indian passport in UAE?

I am an Indian living in UAE. Please tell how can I renew my Indian passport in UAE?

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is rightfully called a “melting pot of cultures” by those residing here. The nation has a significant number of expatriates that reside in the country. According to the Indian embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Indian expatriate community is the largest in the country – making up 30pc of the population. The number of resident Indian Nationals is estimated to be 3.5 million in 2021 as per UAE records.

You can renew your passport in the UAE. Documents required are: (1) The filled online passport application form (form can be found at <http://embassy.passportindia.gov.in>) (2) Recent good definition photos 51mm x 51mm (not older than three months, no uniform) with white background and dark clothing. Eyes must be open, with ears, forehead and chin completely visible; with no shadows on the face

and neck, no reflections on the glasses. (3) Current original passport for submission, along with any additional booklets (4) Clear photocopy of passport’s first, last and address page. Along with any other endorsement pages, valid UAE visa page and additional booklets (if any).

All signatures in the application form should be in black ink and signed in the presence of BLS International Services Customer Service Officer. All applicants should submit the application in person for identification (including minors and new born babies). Fees: For adults (36 pages booklet) - Dh285, For adults (60 pages jumbo booklet) - Dh380. For Tatkal Service (36 pages booklet) - Dh855 and for Tatkal Service (60 pages jumbo booklet) - Dh950. Services Charge - Dh9 and Indian Community Welfare Fund - Dh8. In case of emergency, an applicant can visit the consulate and pay an additional fee under the “Tatkal scheme” to issue their passport on same day.

How can I get Mofa attestation?

How can I get my certificates attested in the UAE?

Whether you just landed a job or welcomed a baby in the UAE, chances are you will be required to submit a document that should have been attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mofa). Certificates issued within and outside the UAE will need to have a Mofa stamp to be considered valid. Among the documents that usually require attestation are diplomas and transcript of records, birth certificates, marriage certificates, medical reports, and employment contracts.

Previously, residents had to visit Mofa centres to get documents attested. Today, the procedure can be done anytime, anywhere — via the ministry’s online platform.

Before starting the application, make sure your certificate meets the requirements: (1) It has to be the original document in English or Arabic (or an official translation of it). (2) It must be attested by the appropriate governing bodies prior to submission. If the certificate was issued abroad, it needs to be stamped by the UAE embassy or Consulate or by an accredited foreign mission in the UAE. (3) It must not be laminated.

Log into the Mofa website (www.mofa.gov.ae). It’s best to log in with your UAE Pass to complete this step in seconds. Otherwise, you will have to register. Once logged in, go to the “Services” tab and select “Services for Individuals”, which will lead you to the “Documents Attestation”. Fill out the form, answer questions online

You’ll have to provide details about the document you are submitting, including its country of origin. Take note that you can get more than one certificate attested in one go. During this step, you will also be asked to select your preferred courier service. Payments can be done via credit card, direct debit, Samsung Pay or Apple Pay. Fees are charged for every document. Attestation of individual certificates issued within and outside the UAE costs Dh150 per document. Take note that diploma and transcript of records are considered two documents.

The same fee applies to invoices. However, documents used for commercial purposes — such as company set-up contracts and commercial licences — are charged Dh2,000. Wait for the courier service and hand over the document/s to the courier at the specified time and location. Receive your attested certificate. If there are no issues with the document you submitted, you will get it back with the Mofa stamp in three days, depending on the chosen courier service. Should there be any issues, it will be sent back to you with a note on what needs to be done.

UAE updates visa on arrival list for citizens of 87 countries

ABU DHABI: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced an update to its visa exemption policy, allowing citizens from 87 countries to enter the UAE without needing a pre-entry visa.

The initiative aims to simplify travel for tourists and foster a more accessible visitation process to the country. According to the updated regulations, nationals from 110 countries are required to obtain a visa prior to their arrival in the UAE.

Citizens of these countries can enter the UAE visa-free: List of 80+ countries

UAE passport rises rank on more visa-free travel. Interested individuals can consult the list of exempted countries and visa requirements on the official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/visa-exemptions-for-non-citizen>) or contact the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Ports Security and Customs (ICP) for additional information.

The UAE Digital Government clarified that GCC citizens do not need a visa or sponsorship to visit the country. They are eligible for entry by presenting a passport issued by a GCC state

or an identity card upon arrival at UAE ports of entry. Furthermore, individuals abroad are urged to visit the provided link (<https://www.visitdubai.com/en/plan-your-trip/visa-information>) to access the list of nationalities exempt from prior or visa arrangements. Those eligible can obtain a valid entry visa for 30 days upon arrival, with a grace period of 10 days. Additionally, citizens from select countries can obtain a visa for 90 days upon arrival.

For example, citizens of India holding ordinary passports, a visit visa or permanent resident card issued by the US, or a residence visa in the UK and European Union countries valid for at least six months, allows for a visa on arrival. This grants a stay of 14 days, with the option to extend for an additional 14 days.

In cases where prior visa arrangements are necessary, individuals not falling under visa exemption categories must obtain an entry permit issued by a sponsor before arriving in the UAE. The type of entry permit required, issued by the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs, depends on the purpose of the visit.

NRI can apply for Aadhaar card



DUBAI: If you are an Indian living in UAE and wish to have Aadhaar as an identity proof, it is not difficult to get one if you

have the required documents in order.

Linked to biometric data, Aadhaar is a centralised unique 12-digit number that can prove identity, age and address in India. While NRIs can apply for an Aadhaar, they don’t necessarily need one. However, if they plan to return to India or stay in the country for an extended period, it could be useful for them in opening bank accounts, renting properties, other financial transactions and government processes.

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has a provision of “Aadhaar on Arrival” for NRIs. While an NRI can take the appointment for Aadhaar card issuance online or offline, they are required to be physically present in India to complete the biometric authentication

Demand for Dubai properties up

DUBAI: Demand for properties valued at Dh2 million has massively increased in the wake of Dubai dropping the requirement of a minimum down payment of Dh1 million to be eligible for the 10-year residency.

Industry executives say that many property developers in Dubai are increasing the size of apartments to accommodate the growing demand for Dh2 million properties while investors with Dh1.5 million plus investments are increasing their budgets too to reach the 10-year residency eligibility

threshold of Dh2 million. Since the introduction of the Golden Visa for property investors, demand for real estate has grown exponentially, attracting massive foreign investment as well as encouraging existing tenants to turn to ownership to beat rising rentals in the city.

In Jan, Dubai dropped the requirement of a minimum down payment of Dh1 million to be eligible for the Golden Visa to give a fillip to the growing real estate sector. This has resulted in more diverse buyers entering the local

market. Farooq Syed, CEO of Springfield Properties, said demand for properties that make buyers eligible for Golden Visa has grown exponentially.

“We are getting many clients from Syria, Iran, Pakistan and other nationalities who don’t have a strong passport, who are shifting from one-bedroom to two-bedroom to be eligible for the 10-year residency. One of the clients was about to buy a Dh1.9 million property, but he changed his mind and decided to opt for a Dh2 million property due to Golden Visa eligibil-

ity. Customers who are looking to invest Dh1.5 million plus are increasing their budget to Dh2 million now,” Syed told a TV channel.

“Even developers are now going for slightly larger sizes to accommodate such customers. I know a developer who was pricing his units at Dh1.8 million to Dh1.9 million, but then he decided to increase the size of the units to accommodate the growing number of clients who want to buy Dh2 million for Golden Visa,” he added. Imran Farooq, CEO, Samana Devel-

opers, said there is a high interest in Dh2 million property and the new regulation brought a spin-off trend with buyers going for 2-and-3 bedroom options with the value of Dh2 million or higher.

Under the new system, he said, a buyer paying the minimum down payment of 10 per cent or registering with the Oqood (Initial Sale Contract – a digital certificate provided by the Dubai Land Department when a property is off-plan or on a payment plan) makes him/her eligible for the Golden Visa.

Qatar Airways signs MoU with Jusour to boost recruitment drive

DOHA: Qatar Airways Group announced a new joint initiative with Jusour (Qatar Manpower Solutions Company), to boost recruitment activities and support Qatar’s standing as a destination for the world’s top talent.

As one of the nation’s leading employers, the agreement will see the national airline collaborate with Jusour on a range of targeted recruitment initiatives, as well as support Jusour’s goal under the Qatar National Vision 2030 to provide a key stimulus for Qatar’s flourishing labour market.

Qatar Airways Group chief executive officer Badr Mohamed al-Meer, said: “Our partnership with Jusour will not only play a vital role in Qatar Airways’ ongoing recruitment strategy, but will also support the extensive efforts being made to promote the Qatar labour market as one filled with innovation, adaptability and abundant economic growth.

“We wholeheartedly share this vision and look forward to working with Jusour in supporting the future of both Qatar Airways and the State of Qatar as an accessible and rewarding place to live and work.”

A private joint-stock company wholly owned by the State of Qatar, Jusour delivers a suite of services under multiple programmes, from part-time training and work opportunities to facilitating state-sponsored visa schemes, with the aim of

targeting and connecting job seekers and employers.

Jusour chief executive officer Abdulhadi Bakhit Barqan said: “This collaboration not only enhances our concerted efforts to usher global talent into Qatar’s workforce but also aligns with the aspirations of the Qatar National Vision 2030. “Together, we are charting new territories in recruitment innovation and talent development, setting a global standard for excellence and positioning Qatar as a premier destination for talent attraction and retention. As a key player in both Qatar’s global ventures and local economy, Qatar Airways’ involvement brings invaluable insight and depth to this initiative.

Domestic air traffic rises 4.8pc to 126 lakh in Feb

NEW DELHI: Domestic air traffic rose 4.8pc on an annual basis to 126.48 lakh in February, while more than 1.55 lakh passengers were affected by flight delays during the same period, according to official data. released on Friday.

In Feb, Air India’s market share rose to 12.8pc from 12.2pc while that of IndiGo marginally dipped to 60.1pc from 60.2pc cent in January. The domestic air traffic climbed to 126.48 lakh in Feb compared with 120.69 lakh in the year-ago period, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said.

Nevertheless, the traffic was less than 1.31

crore reported in January. “Passengers carried by domestic airlines during Jan – Feb 2024 were 257.78 lakh, as against 246.11 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year thereby registering an annual growth of 4.74pc and monthly growth of 4.80pc,” DGCA said.

As many as 1,55,387 passengers were affected due to flight delays in Feb and scheduled carriers shelled out Rs 222.11 lakh towards facilitation. The DGCA also said that 29,143 passengers were impacted by cancellations and airlines spent Rs 99.96 lakh towards compensation and facilities.

Air India Express’ flights to Muscat, Dammam from Lucknow take off

LUCKNOW: Air India Express’ new flights to Muscat and Dammam took off from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (CCSIA) in Lucknow. The flights took off from Lucknow with 77 and 171 passengers, respectively.

A CCSIA spokesperson said: “The flight will fulfil Lucknow Airport’s aim to offer seamless connectivity

to those flying to Oman

and Saudi Arabia. In the first flight to Muscat, 77 passengers departed at 7:30 hrs, while 123 pas-



New Lucknow Airport

sengers arrived in Lucknow on the 15:30 hrs flight. The first flight to Dammam departed at 19:50 hrs with 171 passengers and around

103 passengers arrived in Lucknow at 06:30 hrs on Saturday from Dammam.

These are the new routes for Air India Express from Lucknow. With the addition of these two flights, the number of international flight movements increased to 30 from 26 earlier. The addition of international flights is the commitment shown by Lucknow Airport to connect Uttar Pradesh’s capital city with international destinations.”

The daily non-stop

flight from Lucknow to Muscat departed at 7:30 hrs and the flight to Dammam departed at 19:50 hrs.

On an average, around 18,000 passengers travel through Lucknow Airport. The airport operates around 130 movements per day. In the first two months of 2024, Lucknow has recorded around 11 lakh passenger movements.