



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Themed 'Business with Goodness' TAAI 68th convention opens in Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: Inaugurating the 68th Annual Convention and Exhibition of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) at the iconic Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental here, its president Sunil Kumar set the tone in his address, stating: "The theme Business with Goodness is yet another approach before us. Learning from a TAAI convention about a better way forward is a definite must and a good take-home. This success may shine brighter when we are inspired to adopt an approach that reflects goodness in our businesses."

The convention brought together India's travel trade and UAE tourism stakeholders for a three-



Managing committee and chapter chairmen of TAAI at the inaugural function of the 68th convention in Abu Dhabi.

day celebration of collaboration, culture and commerce.

Themed "Business with Goodness," the convention aims to explore not only innovative business practices but also the ways in which the travel industry can

The 68th Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) convention was inaugurated at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. Sunil Kumar, President, TAAI, in his address said: "At this convention, we will not only explore business techniques and innovations, but also how our actions can amplify the good that sustains both communities and commerce."

house of delegates, dignitaries, and industry leaders.

Highlights of the evening included a special award presentation

(Cont. on page - 2)

Riyadh Air plans India flights

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's newest national carrier, Riyadh Air (RX), is preparing to enter the competitive Indian aviation market with flights to five major cities planned for summer 2026. The airline has targeted Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai as its initial Indian destinations.

This marks an ambitious expansion into one of the world's fastest-growing



aviation markets. The existing bilateral framework may need renegotiation to accommodate a new

entrant, particularly one planning to serve five major Indian cities simultaneously.

Riyadh Air's choice of destinations shows they understand the Indian market dynamics well. Delhi and Mumbai are obvious selections as India's national and commercial capitals.

Plans to fly to cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai demonstrate broader thinking beyond just the traditional metros. Bengaluru makes perfect sense given its massive technology workforce, many of whom have business connections in the MidEast. Hyderabad has emerged as another ma-

(Cont. on page - 2)

Harikishore new tourism Joint secretary

NEW DELHI: The Union ministry of tourism has announced the appointment of Mr Harikishore .S (IAS) as the new joint secretary.

With extensive administrative experience and a strong commitment to public service, Harikishore will lead strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing and promoting India's tourism land-



scape. He will assume his role for a tenure of five years or until further orders from the government, which is earlier.

A FAREWELL CALL



Upon his transfer from Kuwait, Ambassador Dr Adarsh Swaika made a farewell call on His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Minister of Al-Diwan Al-Amiri Affairs, Kuwait. DrSwaika apprised him of recent developments in bilateral relations and sought his guidance for further strengthening the partnership.



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This special e-supplement will carry highly researched and informative features, articles and photographs — all exclusively on the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This edition will be e-presented to the heads of several missions in India and to our embassies abroad, apart from corporate houses and top political leaders.

Saudi Arabia is a major trade partner of India and to further strengthen the friendship and trade relations between Saudi Arabia and India, our special edition will be communicating goodwill messages to His Highness King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the people of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



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Zooming gold prices

Indians are obsessed with gold. There is no function in India without gold. When we say gold, naturally our thoughts go to bridal jewellery. There cannot be an Indian wedding without gold. Gold is intrinsic to Indian culture, closely tied to religious beliefs, tradition and festivals. India stands as the second most prominent global consumer of gold, surpassed only by China (for different reasons). Both nations significantly outpace their counterparts when it comes to gold consumption. The yellow metal is a good investment. Gold serves as the all-in-one solution for investments and savings, functioning as a hedge against inflation, a valuable asset during cash shortages and a symbol of social status when adorned at family gatherings and events. That's why even a minor fluctuation in gold prices makes a big headline in India.



The funniest part is that India does not produce much gold. The Kolar Gold Fields in Karnataka is now as good as non-operational. The mines, owned by Bharat Gold Mines, have no immediate revival plan as such. Though officially certain amount of gold can be brought by NRIs and others from abroad, that quantity is very small. Moreover, heavy import duty is also there. The government's Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme is not a success. Thus the main option is smuggled gold.

Gold price touched Rs 1,13,225 per 10 grams in Indian markets on Thursday. Gold prices are near record highs in Sept 2025 due to factors like persistent geopolitical tensions, central bank buying and expectations of US Fed Reserve rate cuts, driving demand for gold as a safe-haven asset. Analysts recommend buying gold on price dips, as short-term volatility is expected, but the medium-term outlook favors continued demand and potential for higher prices. Domestic Indian gold prices remain closely tied to global trends, amplified by the rupee's strength.

Internationally, analysts are doubling down on gold, with investment banker Goldman Sachs Research predicting that gold will rise to \$3,700 per ounce by the end of 2025. According to published reports, gold's share in central banks' foreign exchange reserves stands at 20pc, surpassing 16pc of Euro holdings. Dollar holdings remain at 46pc, the highest but steadily declining. For the first time since 1996, global central banks' foreign exchange holdings in gold now exceed their holdings of US Treasuries. This shows the central banks' higher level of trust in the bullion. If this trend continues, gold prices could see much higher levels.

Globally, the Central banks have been one of the largest buyers of gold for the last three years. And they continue to buy. The trust central banks have shown in gold in the recent past is overwhelming. For the last three years — 2022, 2023 and 2024 — central banks have bought over 1,000 tonnes of gold in each year. The annual average before that was hardly 500 tonnes.

The future gold prices in India depends heavily on global indicators. If the dollar weakens and inflation remains high, gold prices usually go up. Increase in price is expected due to festival buying, wedding demand and global tensions. Navratri to Diwali there will be heavy buying which can trigger further boom.

LIPSYNCH

"He who has the gold makes the rules."

--- A proverb

Why UAE residents switch to digital remittances?

DUBAI: For years, sending money abroad in the UAE was a careful affair. Banks, exchange houses and in-person transfers dominated, while digital remittance apps, despite their convenience, struggled to win trust.

That's changing fast. According to Visa's Money Travels: 2025 Digital Remittances Adoption Report, nearly two-thirds of UAE residents now prefer digital apps for sending money internationally. Here's why residents are finally making the switch:

1. CONVENIENCE BEATS QUEUES: Digital apps allow you to send money anytime, anywhere. No waiting in line or rushing to meet banking hours—just a few taps on your phone.

2. REAL-TIME SPEED:

Man on student visa joins Russian army

CHANDIGARH: A 25-year-old man from a village in Punjab's Moga district, who went to Russia on a student visa last year, has ended up being "recruited" in the Army there and has been "deceitfully" pushed into the Russia-Ukraine conflict, his family alleges.

The family of Buta Singh from Chak Karian Kalan village in Moga claims that he is among many men, especially from north India, who have been "deceitfully" pushed into the Russia-Ukraine conflict and are now seeking the Centre's help for their

Riyadh Air plans India flights...

(Cont. from page - 1) jor IT hub, while Chennai serves as the gateway to Tamil Nadu with significant industrial ties. This mix covers both traditional business centres and India's thriving southern economic zones.

Starting international operations in India involves securing traffic rights, airport slots at busy Indian airports and co-ordination with aviation authorities. Ground

Transfers that once took days now happen in real-time. This is crucial for families covering tuition, emergencies or monthly support abroad.

3. MORE PRIVACY: About 46pc of residents surveyed say secure transactions are a major reason for switching. Digital platforms protect financial and personal information, reducing the risk associated with cash or manual transfers.

4. USER-FRIENDLY APPS: About 50pc of respondents cite simplicity as a reason for switching from traditional methods. Apps guide users step by step, removing the complexity of bank procedures.

5. FREQUENCY AND RELIABILITY: Remittances are a regular necessity. Visa's survey found 95pc of

residents send money at least once a year, making reliability critical. Digital apps deliver consistent service for recurring payments.

6. EXTRA FEATURES GIVE AN EDGE: Visa Direct allows instant transfers to billions of bank accounts, cards and digital wallets worldwide. The UAE-only Visa+ service makes sending money even simpler—residents can transfer funds abroad using JUST

7. SAFETY OF TRACKING REMITTANCES: Many UAE residents send money home for daily needs or emergencies. Digital apps now make these transfers instant, secure and easy to track, ensuring families receive support exactly when it's needed.

safe return. When contacted, Singh's sister Karamjit Kaur said that her brother went to Russia in Oct 2024 through a travel agent to pursue a language course. She said the agent had also said he could do part-time jobs in Russia to earn some money.

To arrange money to enable him to go to Russia, the family had sold a piece of land, Kaur said. She added that it was only about a week ago that through some videos that went viral on social media the family came to know that Singh, along with some others, found himself

trapped and was "recruited" into the Russian army to fight against Ukraine.

Congress leader Pargat Singh sought Centre's intervention in the matter of "forcible recruitment" of Indian nationals, particularly from the northern parts of the country, into the Russian army for its ongoing war against Ukraine. Singh had claimed that 111 men from north India have been recruited into the Russian army.

Themed 'Business with Goodness'...

(Cont. from page - 1) tation to Zubin Karkaria, followed by an interactive session between him and Sunil Kumar on "Business with Goodness" and his inspiring achievements. An AV message from Swami Brahmagharidas, Head of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, was also shared with the delegates.

With knowledge sessions, a B2B marketplace, and networking opportunities lined up over the next two days, the 68th TAAI Convention promises to be a platform where business meets purpose.

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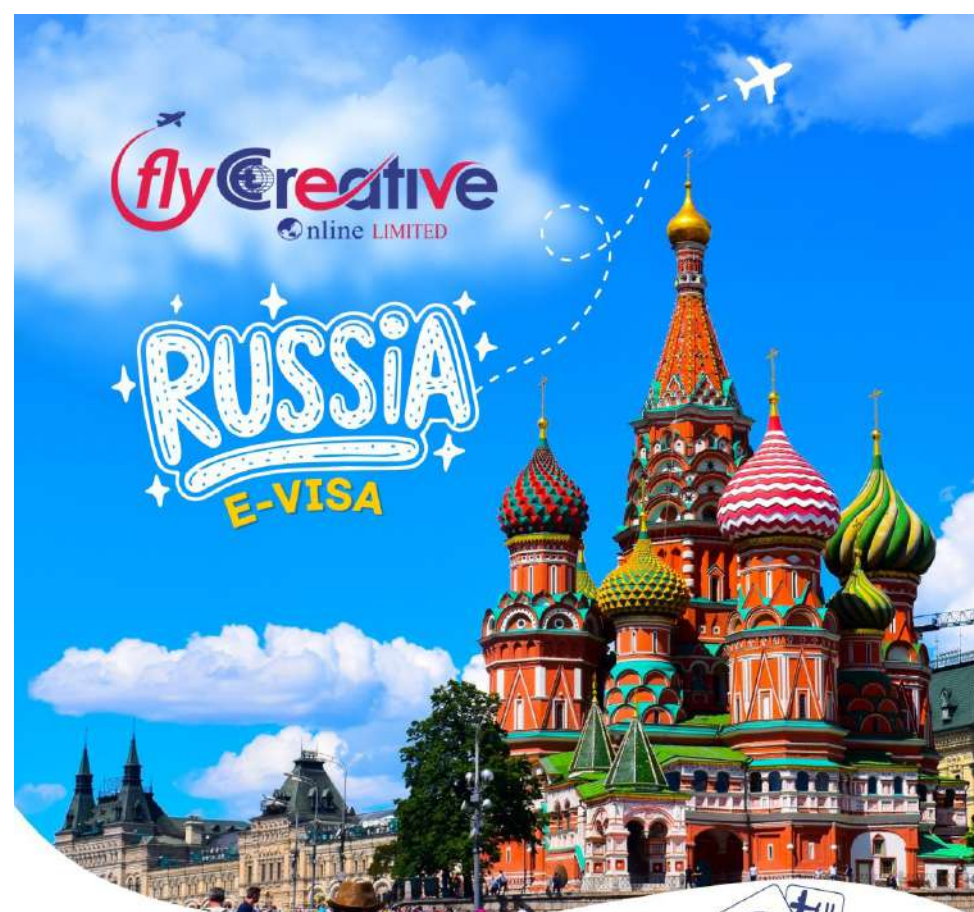
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FOREX RATES

As on 18th September 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	87.44	88.6
British Pound	119.05	120.74
Euro	102.93	105.15
Japanese Yen	59.43	60.4
Swiss Franc (CHF)	110.22	112.69
Canadian Dollar	63.17	64.61
Australian Dollar	57.85	59.12
Norwegian Krone	8.8	9.06
Swedish Krona	9.3	9.57
New Zealand Dollar	293.8229	282.5374
Hong Kong Dollar	51.49	52.66
Kuwaiti Dinar	11.1	11.45
Singapore Dollar	68.09	69.64
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.01	23.74
United Arab Emirates	23.56	24.23



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Day 1

Arrival at Agatti

Arrival at Agatti Airport, transfer to the hotel. Enjoy a welcome drink, check-in, lunch, and relax on the beach or explore the island.



Day 2

Agatti – Water Sports & Sightseeing

Enjoy water activities followed by island sightseeing – visit the jetty, desalination plant, Lagoon Beach, and Archaeological Museum.



Day 3

Kalpitti Island Excursion

Morning boat trip to Kalpitti Island and return. Overnight at Agatti.



Day 4

Agatti to Bangaram

After breakfast, transfer to Bangaram by speedboat (1 hour). Welcome drink and check-in at resort.



Day 5

Bangaram – Water Sports & Optional Island Tour

Indulge in water sports. Optional day trip to Thinnakara & Parali Islands (INR 1200 extra).



Day 6

Departure

Transfer to Agatti by boat (45 mins) and board flight to Cochin.

GULF FAQs

How a single mother can 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

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.

(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.

Navi Mumbai airport will give GCC travellers better airfare choices

MUMBAI: The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMA) will handle 90 million passengers annually once fully completed. By 2032, Mumbai's two airports --- Navi Mumbai and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) --- will handle between 140 million and 160 million passengers annually.

These two airports will replace the Indian financial capital along with global aviation hubs such as Dubai, New York and London, which have twin airport models. Dubai International (DXB) and Al Maktoum International Airport; London is home to Heathrow and Gatwick, while New York houses JFK and Newark airports.

The twin Mumbai airports will boost connectivity and allow UAE and Indian carriers to increase flights between Mumbai and the UAE, as well as. The latest data show that the number of Indians living in the UAE and the GCC countries has crossed nine million. In the UAE alone, there are 3.7 million Indian nationals.

These increased frequencies will provide additional opportunities to the Indian nationals and other tourists travelling between the UAE and Mumbai. Saj Ahmad, chief analyst at StrategicAero Research, said the Navi Mumbai International Airport would be a welcome boon for airlines that operate between India and the UAE,

particularly with a large number of Indian nationals working in and across the UAE. "This will mean more flight options and ostensibly, more pricing choice as well - between a mix of full-service airlines like Emirates, Etihad and Air India, as well as greater competition between flydubai, Air Arabia, Akasa

Air, Air India Express and IndiGo," said Ahmad.

In June, India's Akasa Air announced a deal with Adani Airport Holdings (AAHL) to commence commercial flight operations from the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMA). Akasa Air will operate 100-plus weekly domestic departures ini-

tially, scaling up to 300-plus domestic and over 50 international departures weekly in the winter schedule. The airline is also set to ramp up to 10 parking bases by the end of the 2027 fiscal year, with a focused international expansion into key Middle Eastern and South-east Asian markets.

IndiGo to launch Mumbai to Copenhagen flight from Oct

MUMBAI: Travellers will soon be able to fly directly from Mumbai to Copenhagen in Denmark as IndiGo announced the launch of flights between both the cities starting from Oct 8. The thrice weekly flights on the route will be the



only direct flights to Copenhagen, enhancing the airline's network in Europe. After launching its first long haul flight to Europe in July, IndiGo is now enhancing its network as it announced direct flights on a new route from Mumbai to Copenhagen.

The flight 6E-0041 from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) to Copenhagen will fly thrice weekly departing at 4.35am and reaching

at 10.05am. Similarly, the return flight 6E-0042 from Copenhagen will depart at 12.30pm and will reach Mumbai CSMIA at 12.30 am. It will be thrice weekly flights on the route using its Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, taken on wet/damp lease from Norse Atlantic Airways. With this, it will expand its international network into Northern Europe, making Copenhagen its 44th international and 138th overall destination.

Telangana wants to be hub for destination weddings

HYDERABAD: Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has urged the wedding industry to make Telangana a hub for destination weddings. The minister was speaking at the inauguration of the fourth TCEI South In-

dian Wedding Planners Congress (SIWPC) Global 2025 - The Luxury Edition in the Financial District.

"When we think of wedding destinations, we recall the ones outside the state, but Telangana is now prepared to

change that perception. Our state has untapped potential and is ready to change the narrative. We are blessed with spectacular venues to host grand weddings, with options to suit every budget and offer modern luxury and the serenity of nature," he said.

"Telangana is a treasure trove of destinations, just waiting to be explored. I urge all the esteemed wedding planners to view Telangana with a fresh perspective and request you to introduce these destinations to your clients within India and abroad," he added.

The minister also said that the Telangana Tourism Department was looking forward to collaborating with the wedding planners. Tourism Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said that the Tourism Department had identified three venues to be promoted as wedding destination.

been moved to the five per cent bracket, while 90pc of items in the 28pc slab have been brought down to 18pc. The sweeping rate rejig will leave only two slabs - five per cent and 18pc - effective Sept 22.

Analysts expect the GST cuts to improve spending ability among Indian citizens ahead of this year's festive season. The reforms, however, may come with a price tag. As per reports, the government estimates a revenue loss of about Rs 48,000 crore following the GST rate cuts.

New GST regime will leave more cash with people

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said the next-generation Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms will infuse Rs 2-lakh-crore into the economy, leaving more disposable income in the hands of consumers that would otherwise have gone as taxes.

Addressing the Outreach and Interaction Programme on Next Gen GST Reforms in Vishakhapatnam, Sitharaman said that under the new regime, 99pc of goods in the 12pc GST slab have

Govt earns Rs 3,200 cr by selling scrap, old files

NEW DELHI: By selling scrap and clearing old files, the Union government earned over Rs 3,200 crore and freed huge space in offices. This effort is part of the Swachhata (Cleanliness) campaign started by PM Modi.

According to Union Minister Jitendra Singh, the government has earned over Rs 3,200 crore by selling old and useless scrap materials from various ministries and departments. This is part of a massive clean-up drive

started during Modi's rule.

In a post on social media, Singh revealed that the government has collected Rs 3,296.71 crore just by selling scrap. In the process, it also cleared 696.27 lakh square feet of office space and removed over 137 lakh old office files. He called this number "shocking but true."

Jitendra Singh said that PM Modi launched the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) campaign from the Red Fort and it soon turned into a people's movement.

GLIMPSES OF TAAI MEET IN ABU DHABI

