



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2025 • VOL. NO. 2 • Issue No. 25 • DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 7 PAGES

FIMCA hails MEA's crackdown on illegal recruitment with reinforced directive on mandatory registration

NEW DELHI: The Federation of Indian Emigration Management Councils and Associations (FIMCA), formerly known as the Employment Promotions Council of Indian Personnel (EPCIP), strongly commends the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for its firm directive, issued via Office Memorandum dated April 21, 2025, which unequivocally mandates that all overseas recruitments -- regardless of passport type (ECR or ECNR) or destination country -- must be conducted exclusively through MEA/POE-authorized Recruiting Agents holding valid Registration Certificates (RCS). This decisive policy reaffirms the government's zero-tolerance stance on unauthorised and illegal recruitment practices and marks a major milestone in the effort to safeguard Indian job seekers from exploitation.

Established in 1997, FIMCA is a non-profit organisation that champions the rights of licensed recruitment agencies and protects Indian emigrants seeking overseas employment.

(Cont. on page-2)

Great potential for India, Iran tourism activities



Chairman and Managing Director of Fly Creative group Mr V.S. Abdulkareem and Director (Operations) of Overseas News and Employment Prince Manjalil visited Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran and met His Excellency Consul-General of Iran in Mumbai and Mr Hamid Sharifi, consular assistant.

They discussed in detail the various tourism verticals and explored opportunities to promote Iran as a compelling travel destination. With its rich culture, historical legacy, and the grandeur of Persian civilisation, Iran holds immense potential for tourism. An intent of MOU was agreed upon in principle, aimed at collaborating and co-ordinating as joint promotion partners. This initiative will focus on showcasing Iran's unique offerings and enhancing its visibility among Indian travellers and global audiences.

Kerala tops in number of five-star hotels

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: There may be a slump in the number of tourist arrivals, but when it comes to the number of luxury hotels, Kerala comes first in India as per the statistics released by the Union Ministry of Tourism. The data from 2019 to April 2025 highlights the state's growth in the

hospitality sector. Apart from five-star hotels, Kerala also leads in the number of four-star and three-star hotels, leaving other states far behind. According to the data, Kerala currently has 94 five-star hotels, 420 four-star hotels and 607 three-star hotels.

(Cont. on page-2)

Wynn Al Marjan resort to create over 7,500 jobs

DUBAI: Wynn Al Marjan, a \$3.9 billion integrated gaming resort coming up in Ras Al Khaimah, will create at least 7,500 jobs across various sections of the iconic hotel, a senior official said.

"We have about 80 employees and by the end of the year, we'll have about 300. The major bulk of hiring for the resort, room attendants, restaurant workers, bartenders etc will start about Sept next year — about six months before we open in

March 2027. In total, more than 7,500 employees will be recruited," said Michael Weaver, chief communication officer at Wynn Resorts.

Wynn Resorts is developing the project in partnership with Marjan and RAK Hospitality Holding. It will be the first beach resort and also the tallest building under the Wynn Resorts portfolio.

Wynn Al Marjan was the first hotel in the country to receive

(Cont. on page-2)



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Bull run at last?

Stock market has its own way of behaving which nobody can predict. The market is very sensitive and responds very fast to positive as well as negative developments. Fortunately, India has very vibrant and fundamentally strong capital market whose contribution to the economic development of our country is undisputable---funds for industrial development are sourced through the primary market. The stock market serves as a financial hub where investors, companies and the economy converge. Its multifaceted functions encompass primary and secondary market activities, price discovery, risk mitigation and economic indicators. And here, companies are judged by their financial performance—if you are professionally managed and strong you are the king and if you are weak, you will fall by the roadside. That's why, the stock market movements are keenly watched by the industry as well as the investors.



Our NRIs too invest in the equity market on a long-term basis. This week, bulls literally went on a rampage. After a long lull, bulls made a strong comeback on Dalal Street this week led by the country's biggest (and globally one of the largest) listed conglomerate -- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) -- along with support from oil marketing companies (OMCs), pharma companies, telecom and major banks. The benchmark BSE Sensex surged 1,005.84 points or 1.27pc, to close at 80,218.37, while the Nifty rose 289.15 points, or 1.20pc, to settle at 24,328.50. On Monday, Reliance Industries dominated the buying counter after reporting strong Q4FY25 earnings, with its stock climbing nearly six per cent intraday before closing 5.07pc higher at Rs 1,336.30 apiece on the NSE. The conglomerate posted a 2.4pc increase in profit at Rs 19,407 crore for Q4 FY25, surpassing Dalal Street expectations. Following the results, brokerage firms issued multiple upgrades for the stock. Sectorally speaking, oil & gas, banks, pharma, energy and metals ended in positive territory, while only the IT sector closed in the red. In the broader market, the Midcap 100 and Smallcap 100 indices gained 0.8pc and 1.6pc on Monday.

The hasty retreat by President Trump from his threatened imposition of tariff (India and some countries got a three-month pause) and India's brilliant move for a negotiated bilateral agreement with the US boosted the market sentiment. Added to this was the handsome financial performance by leading companies, a good monsoon forecast, the sudden surge in rural spending, the relative underperformance of US equities, bonds and the dollar ----- all these factors made the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) to come back to the Dalal Street. The FIIs have infused over Rs 32,000 crore during the week. And mind you, the market rally happened despite the gathering war clouds over the Indo-Pak border.

Defence stocks witnessed another session of heavy buying. The Nifty Defence index surged 4.5pc on Monday, led by Paras Defence and Space Technologies, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers and Data Patterns (India). In fact, many defence companies are not listed on the market.

But ordinary investors should remain cautious in the near term as the market is yet to factor many developments. Amidst all this, the focus should remain on sectors and themes showing consistent outperformance, with an aim to buy quality shares on any intermediate dips.

LIPSYNCH

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
 — Theodore Roosevelt



President Droupadi Murmu presented Padma Shri in the field of Yoga to HE Shaikha Ali Jaber Al-Sabah. She is a keen Yoga practitioner. She is the founder of Daratma for Yoga education, Kuwait's first officially licensed Yoga studio. HE Shaikha has been working for bridging cultural gaps and bringing people together through her charitable activities.

FIMCA hails MEA's crackdown...

(Cont. from page-1)

Alijan Rajan, spokesperson and Board Member of FIMCA, stated: "We wholeheartedly applaud this bold and long-overdue action by the MEA and the Office of the Protector General of Emigrants. This move sends a clear and powerful message: illegal recruitment will no longer be tolerated. By confirming that all overseas recruitment is subject to the Emigration Act, 1983, the government is taking a crucial step toward dismantling unlawful channels, protecting vulnerable workers and preserving the credibility of India's recruitment ecosystem."

The directive makes it clear that even reduced capacity RCs are subject to universal limits on recruitment numbers -- a provision that applies equally across all passport categories and destination countries. It also reiterates that no overseas recruitment ac-

tivity is legal without an MEA-issued Registration Certificate, as mandated under Section 10 of the Emigration Act.

FIMCA urges all employers, international missions and recruitment intermediaries to strictly comply with this directive. Non-compliance will not only attract legal consequences

but also contribute to the erosion of ethical recruitment standards.

This directive is a significant step forward in the fight against fraudulent recruitment operations and FIMCA pledges its full support in promoting responsible practices that protect Indian workers and uphold the rule of law.

Kerala tops in number...

(Cont. from page-1)

harashtra, which stands second, has 86 five-star hotels, 36 four-star hotels and 69 three-star hotels. Gujarat comes third with 76 five-star hotels, along with 61 four-star and 120 three-star hotels.

Other states like Goa, Karnataka and Delhi are on the list but considerably behind in terms of the number of hotels. One contributing factor to the rise in star-rated hotels is the state's regulation that requires a minimum three-star status for hotels to obtain a

bar license.

During the UDF government led by Oommen Chandy, bar licenses were restricted to five-star hotels, pushing many four-star and three-star hotels to invest heavily to upgrade to five-star status. However, later, the succeeding Left government allowed four-star and three-star hotels to also obtain bar licences.

IT clarifies

MUMBAI: Apart from disclosing the income earned from various sources, taxpayers need to provide details of any expenditure over Rs 2 lakh for travel to a foreign country for self or for any other person in the ITRaform.

The Income Tax Department has notified income tax returns for assessment year 2025-26 (financial year 2024-25) enabling the filing of returns effective April 1. This year onwards, the tax department has included a provision to file details of long-term capital gains within the ITR-1 and ITR-4 formats.

Wynn Al Marjan resort...

(Cont. from page-1)

a licence from the UAE's General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority (GCGRA), which awarded a commercial gaming operator's licence.

The hotel will have 22 restaurants, 1,500 hotel rooms, a spa and a marina.

"It is like a small city, so the types of jobs that we hire are beyond room attendants. We will be

hiring people in accounting, finance, IT, marketing as well as frontline service jobs. We will do training a few months before we open the hotel," Weaver told a TV channel.

Similarly, hiring for the gaming facility will also begin around six months before the opening in March 2027 so that staff is fully trained and ready for opening, he added.

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FOREX RATES

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| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|----------------------|---------|----------|
| US Dollar | 84.29 | 85.4 |
| British Pound | 112.89 | 114.52 |
| Euro | 95.65 | 97.66 |
| Japanese Yen | 59.12 | 60.06 |
| Swiss Franc (CHF) | 101.79 | 104.07 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.67 | 62.05 |
| Australian Dollar | 53.81 | 55.02 |
| Norwegian Krone | 8.05 | 8.29 |
| Swedish Krona | 8.67 | 8.92 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 49.76 | 50.89 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 10.72 | 11.06 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 278.967 | 271.2868 |
| Singapore Dollar | 64.27 | 65.75 |
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Kerala to showcase wedding, MICE tourism potential in August conclave

KOCHI: Kerala is set to host a high-profile conclave from August 14 to 16 to position itself as the country's leading destination for wedding and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) tourism.

Organised by the Kerala Travel Mart Society in association with the state government, the "Wedding and MICE Conclave" will seek to align regional tourism with global trends in the sector.

To be inaugurated on August 14 at the Grand Hyatt, Bolgatty Island, the conclave will feature two days of business meetings and seminars at Le Meridien in Kundannur, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

The initiative follows

remarks made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at KTM-2024, where he emphasised Kerala's potential as a hub for wedding and honeymoon tourism. Building on this vision, the conclave aims to strengthen Kerala's presence in the global tourism landscape.

Tourism and PWD



Minister PA Mohamed Riyas said: "The points raised during my inaugural speech at the 12th KTM in Sept triggered a string of discussions by the administration, leading to the idea of holding an international conference in this sector."

He stressed the need to closely monitor changes in the international tourism sector to help the state prepare for the future.

"KTM will be an excellent technological infrastructure functioning as an asset to the conference," added Riyas.

Kerala Tourism Secretary K. Biju stated that one of the primary goals of the conclave is to transform the state into a major hub for wedding and MICE tourism.

"The state can use its best infrastructure facilities in Kochi, Munnar, Kumarakom, Kollam, Kovalam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Bekal for MICE conferences. It can host wedding tourism with beach-

es, backwaters and hills as locations," he said. He added that the conference would generate greater awareness about Kerala's cultural heritage, ancient architecture and cuisine.

Kerala Tourism Director Smt. Sikha Surendran said the conclave would bring together stakeholders from wedding planning, corporate events, large convention centres and tour operations under one umbrella.

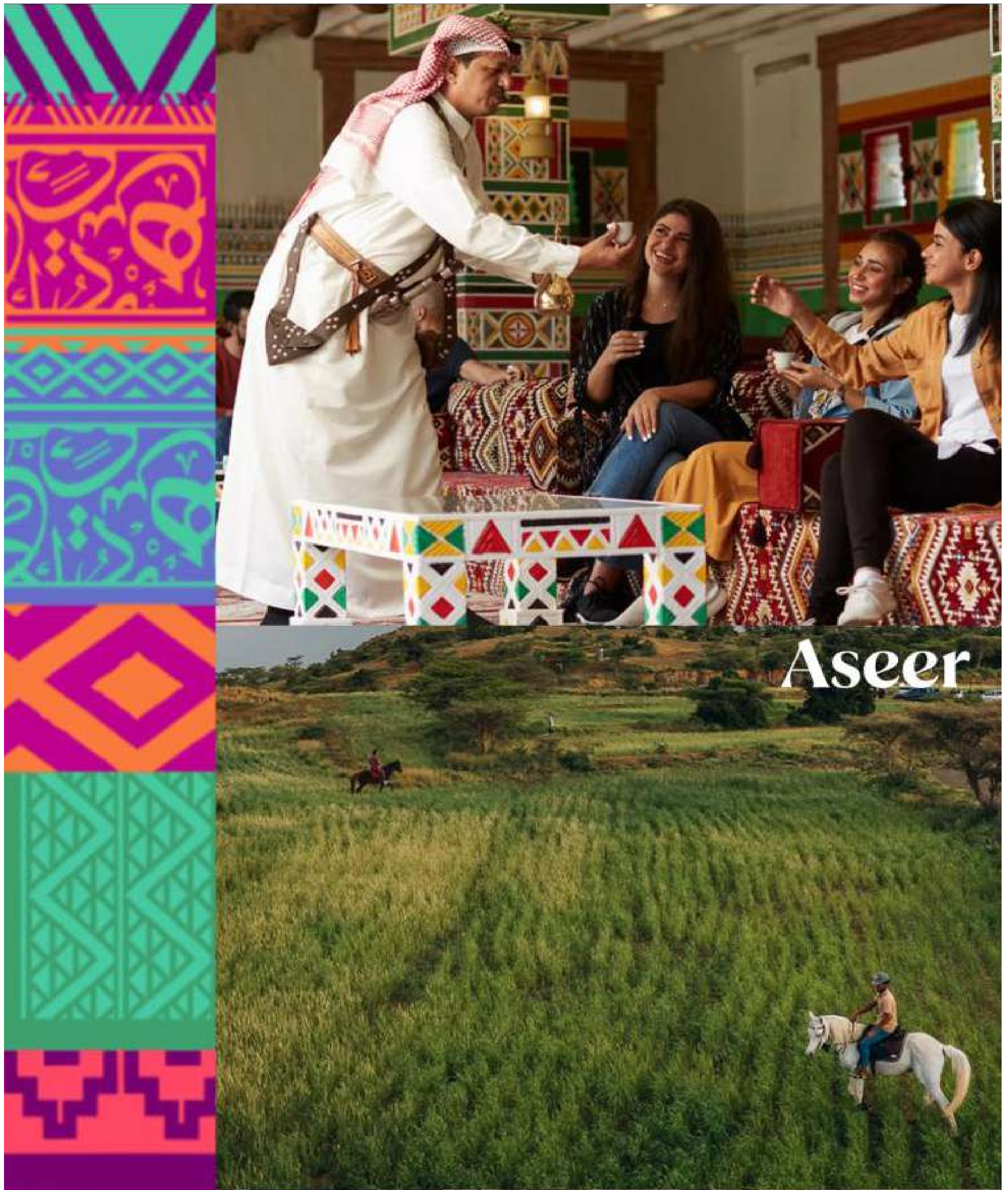
Buyers attending the event will get the opportunity to visit wedding and MICE destinations across Kerala. Familiarisation trips will be organised in Kochi, Munnar, Kumarakom, Kollam, Kovalam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Bekal.



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GULF FAQs

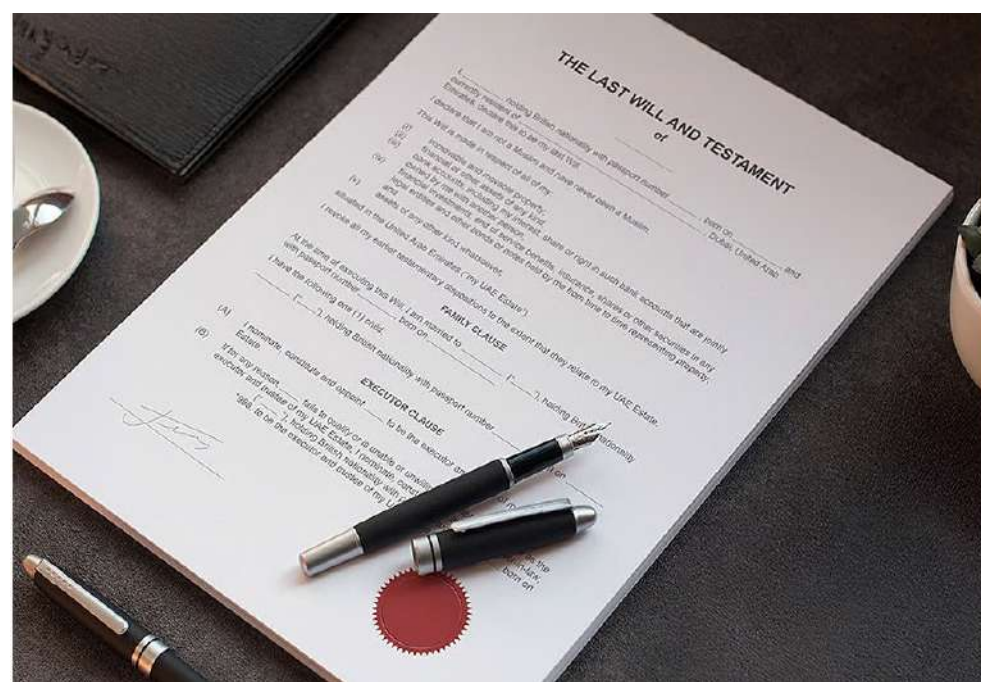
Absence of a UAE will and hidden risk property owners face

Can you please explain the importance of a will in UAE and who can help me?

Thousands of investors and residents buy property across the UAE, but many of them overlook a significant risk - leaving their assets unprotected. This oversight can leave the assets with legal uncertainty after they pass away, making it difficult for their families to claim them. One way of managing this risk is to make a legal document known as a will. A will in the UAE ensures that all assets are passed on according to the owner's wishes including real estate, vehicles, bank accounts, business interests, and even end-of-service benefits.

While a will in the UAE provides the legal framework to protect your assets, putting it into

place requires the right legal guidance. That's where Legal Inz makes its mark --- as a leading and trusted law firm in the UAE. For over a decade, Legal Inz has assisted thousands of resi-



dents and investors with will drafting and registration across the UAE. The firm has earned a strong reputation with an exceptional team of DIFC-registered lawyers dedicated to assisting

clients with estate planning. Additionally, Legal Inz offers 100pc remote services at remarkably affordable fees, ensuring expert legal support is always within easy reach of residents and non-res-

idents. "Writing a will isn't just for the wealthy -- it's for anyone who wants a secure future for their loved ones. A registered UAE will removes uncertainty, prevents legal

delays and gives families the clarity they deserve during difficult times," said Muhammad Tariq, managing partner of Legal Inz.

Legal Inz offers a streamlined experience for making a will -- starting with a legal consultation to understand the requirements and provide tailored advice, followed by end-to-end assistance with will registration in the UAE. Securing your assets should be as important as buying them. Having a registered will in Dubai or elsewhere in the UAE allows individuals to specify beneficiaries who will inherit their assets, avoid unnecessary delays that could leave them in limbo and ensure their legacy is protected exactly as they intended. Most people are unaware of the fact that a will can

also state guardianship for your minor children. Through a will you can appoint legal guardians for your children if you pass away before they turn 21.

A fact not known to many is that when someone passes away in the UAE, their bank accounts are frozen within a short time. The accounts are only accessible until a court order is issued. Having a registered UAE will significantly expedites this process for the family members of the deceased. In a world where tomorrow is never guaranteed, having a legally recognised will isn't just smart, it's essential. Property owners and expatriates in the UAE should seriously consider creating a legally binding will to avoid leaving their families in a stressful situation.

Who will bear visa, hiring costs?

I am currently employed by a mainland company in Dubai and still within my probationary period. I am considering resigning and would like to understand the legal process. Am I allowed to resign during probation, and will the company require me to pay for visa costs or other hiring expenses?

In the UAE, an employee is allowed to resign during his/her probationary period, but certain rules apply depending on his/her circumstances. If an employee wishes to resign and join a new employer, he/she must serve a one-month notice period with his/her current employer. The new employer must compensate the current employer for the recruitment and employment costs.

This is in accordance with Article 9(3) of the Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulations of the Employment Relations, which states: "An employee who intends to move on to another employer in the UAE during the probationary period shall notify his current employer in writing at least one month before the date on which he intends to terminate the contract, and unless agreed otherwise, the new employer shall compensate the first employer for recruitment or contract costs."

However, If you intend to resign and leave the UAE, the process is slightly different. You must give your current employer a 14-day notice period. You may not take up employment in the

UAE within three months from the date of leaving from UAE. In case you return to the UAE and accept new employment within three months of leaving, your new employer must compensate your previous employer for the recruitment cost.

This is in accordance with Article 9(4) of the Employment Law, which states: "A foreign employee wishing to terminate the employment contract during the probationary period in order to leave the UAE shall notify his employer in writing at least 14 days prior to date determined for termination of the contract. If the employee wants to return to the UAE and obtains a new work permit within three months from the date of his departure, the new

employer shall pay the compensation stipulated in paragraph-3 above, unless agreed otherwise by the employee and the original employer."

In the event an employee does not comply with the notice period mentioned in the Employment Law related to the termination of the employment contract, the party breaching such provision of law should compensate the other party. This is in accordance with Article 9(5) of the Employment Law, which states: "If either party terminates the employment contract without complying with the provisions of this article, he shall pay the other a compensation equal to the employee's salary due for the notice period, or the remainder thereof." Additionally, if

an employee fails to comply with the notice period requirements as mentioned in Article-9 of the Employment Law, such employee may not be granted a new work permit (generally known as an employment ban) for one year.

This is in accordance with Article 9(6) of the Employment Law, which states: "A foreign employee who leaves the UAE without complying with the provisions of this Article shall not be granted a work permit to work in the UAE for a period of one year from the date of his departure." Furthermore, an employee who does not follow the guidelines related to resigning during the probationary period may be exempted from imposition of an employment ban.

Canada elections: record 22 Punjabis elected

OTTWA: A record 22 Punjabis have been elected to the House of Commons in the federal polls in Canada. In 2021, as many as 18 Punjabis won, while in 2019, about 20 Punjabis were elected.

In Brampton, Punjabis won five seats. Liberal candidate Ruby Sahota defeated Conservative Amandeep Judge from Brampton North. Liberal candidate Maninder Sidhu defeated Conservative candidate Bob Dosanjh from Brampton East. Liberal candidate Amandeep Sohi defeated Taran Chahal from Brampton



Some of the candidates in the Canada elections.

Conservative candidate Sukhdeep Kang defeated Liberal candidate Sonia Sidhu from Brampton South. Conservative candidate Amarjeet Gill defeated sitting minis-

ter Kamal Khara from Brampton West. Prominent winners from Liberal party in these polls include: Anita Anand from Oakville East, Bardish Chagger from Waterloo, Anju Dhillon from

Dorval Lachine, Sukh Dhalwal from Surrey Newton, Iqwinder Singh Gaheer from Mississauga Malton, Randeep Sarai from Surrey Centre, Gurbax Saini from Fleetwood Port Kells, Param Bains from Richmond East Steveston.

Prominent winners from Conservative Party include: Jasraj Hallan from Calgary East, Dalwinder Gill from Calgary McKnight, Amanpreet Gill from Calgary Skyview, Arpan Khanna from Oxford, Tim Uppal from Edmonton Gateway, Parm Gill from

Milton East, Sukhman Gill from Abbotsford South Langley, Jagsharan Singh Mahal from Edmonton Southeast and Harb Gill from Windsor West. However, in a major political development, NDP president and two-time sitting MP Jagmeet Singh lost from Burnaby Central riding, finishing third. Following his defeat, he also resigned as NDP president. Another significant loser was sitting health minister and two-time MP Kamal Khara, who lost to Amarjeet Gill in Brampton West riding.

Thailand makes digital arrival card mandatory for foreigners

DUBAI: From now, foreign visitors to Thailand will need to fill up a pre-departure digital form, a move that Thai authorities hope will make it easy to track travellers amid a broadening crackdown against human trafficking into Southeast Asia's illegal cybercrime centres. Thapanee Kiatphaibool, the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Governor, stressed the importance of the digital arrival card during the Arabian

Travel Market in Dubai. She explained that the Immigration Bureau of Thailand will launch the new Thailand Digital Arrival Card (TDAC) system, replacing the traditional paper arrival card, commonly known as the TM.6.

From this date, all foreign visitors must submit their arrival information electronically before entering Thailand, whether by air, land or sea, Thailand's Tourism Authority

(TAT) has said. The online form must be completed before travellers arrive and includes essential travel and personal details. Travellers can also submit the TDAC three days before their scheduled arrival date.

Travellers can update the information at any time before they travel. Required details include passport information, personal and travel details, accommodation in Thailand and a basic health declaration.

Completion of the TDAC will be mandatory for all foreign passport holders, including tourists, business travellers and long-term residents, said TAT.

Booking tool, musafirtag, for travel agents launched

DUBAI: The travel portal musafir.com has launched a booking tool – musafirtag – for travel agents in the GCC.

Booking agents can thus gain access to a full inventory of flights, hotels, transfers, activities and visas with “real-time booking capabilities”.



“With musafirtag, we’re putting cutting-edge tools directly into the hands of travel agents—because they’re the ones driving the industry forward,” said Sachin Gadoya, CEO and Co-Founder of musafir.

com. “We’ve built a platform that’s smart, scalable and future-ready—so our partners can spend less time on operations and more time growing their business.”

Musafir.com is also ‘simplifying’ travel with its Visa API Suite, built for online travel agents, travel agencies and enterprise platforms. The tool automates the entire visa process—from checking requirements to uploading documents and tracking applications in real-time. It supports bulk submissions, customisable workflows and even white-labelling for a seamless, branded experience.

Abu Dhabi hotels introduce facial recognition technology

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi has introduced facial recognition technology in select hotels to help reduce check-in times for guests and strengthen identification measures.

The advanced system is now being piloted at a select number of hotels ahead of an initial roll-out at five-star properties in Abu Dhabi city, Al Ain Region and Al Dhafra Region. A second phase of the strategy will target four-star hotels, with the biometric technology to then be gradually deployed at all hotels in the emirate.

Authorities did not provide a time-frame for when the new facial recognition procedures will

be fully introduced. The scheme, announced at the Arabian Travel Market event in Dubai, is being led by Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism (DCT) and the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security (ICP).

“By working closely with ICP and our hotel partners and national authorities, we are ensuring a seamless, safer and more connected journey for every visitor.” In April 2024, Abu Dhabi had announced plans to invest more than \$10 billion in infrastructure, as part of a new strategy to boost international visitor numbers and cultural activity.



HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, toured Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2025 in Dubai.