



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Visit Malaysia 2026 an excellent opportunity for Indian tourists

MUMBAI: “Visit Malaysia 2026” is a significant campaign and Tourism Malaysia recognises India as one of the key source markets.

“Our strategy focuses on strengthening our partnership with airlines and influencers to create greater awareness and interests in Malaysia. We will continue to invest in digital marketing campaigns, roadshows and consumer engagements initiatives across major Indian cities. Additionally, our promotion will highlight Malaysia’s diverse at-

tractions beyond Kuala Lumpur such as its pristine beaches, adventure tourism, cultural tourism and heritage,” says Ms Noriah Jaffar, director of Tourism Malaysia, Mumbai Office.

As more Indians have already experienced Kuala Lumpur and Genting Highlands, we want to introduce them to Malaysia’s lesser explored destinations, making it an exciting choice for second time visitors. Johor, with its proximity to Singapore, is ideal for those looking to extend their trip



Ms Noriah Jaffar, director of Tourism Malaysia, Mumbai office.

with family-friendly attractions like Legoland

Malaysia and Puteri Harbour, says she.

Langkwai offers a mix of luxury and nature, perfect for honeymooners and leisure travellers, points out Ms Jaffar.

Visa-free entry until December 2026 is a significant advantage, making travel to Malaysia more accessible and hassle-free for Indians.

“We are working closely with airlines and tour operators to introduce special packages that cater to Indian travellers, including honeymoon getaways,

family holidays and MICE tourism. Additionally, Indian tourists can expect exclusive deals on flights, hotels and attractions, particularly in destination beyond Kuala Lumpur. We will also focus on food tourism by promoting Malaysia’s Indian-friendly vegetarian and Halal dining operations”.

There are direct flights by Malaysia Airlines, Batik Air, Air India, IndiGo and Air Asia connecting multiple Indian cities with Kuala Lumpur, said Ms Jaffar.



A productive meeting of Protector Gen GOI (MEA) with members from Miyagi Pref Assembly of Japan was held to discuss co-operation in HR domain. Both sides agreed to foster skill development and mobility to deepen our special strategic and global partnership. Other MEA officials were present.

Paragliding festival by Kerala Tourism

IDUKKI: The International Paragliding Festival by the State Tourism Department began at Vagamon Adventure Park with the co-organising Adventure Tourism Promotion Society’s CEO Binu Kuriakose flagging off the competitions at the five-day event.

Contests are being held in six categories, with 49 participants from 11 foreign countries. Of them, 15 are from abroad. The competitions will continue till this Sunday, with Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas attending the closing ceremony on March 22. The event will get over the next day.



The first, second and third place winners in all categories will receive prizes of Rs 1.5 lakh, Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000 respectively. The flagging-off ceremony was attended by Idukki Tourism Deputy Director Shine KS, DTPC Secretary Jitheesh Jose, One Adventure representative Vinil Thomas and Paragliding Course Director Vijay Soni.

Qatar our spring board to enter global markets, says Lulu director

DOHA: As Qatar emerges as a key global investor and tech hub, many Indian companies are eyeing the country as a springboard to the Gulf region and nearby international markets, said Dr Mohamed Althaf, director of LuLu Group International.

Althaf revealed that many Indian business-

es see a strategic advantage in establishing connections with Qatar. “Many Indian companies are very enthusiastic because they all want to use Qatar as a springboard to access other markets that Qatar is close to like Africa, the MidEast, and even other countries in Europe, as well as the US.”

He highlighted Qatar’s world-class infrastructure as a key attraction. “There is a lot of understanding about trade infrastructure that Qatar created, including the Hamad Port, and we have one of the best airlines in the world, so people understand that from a cargo transportation point of view,” he noted.



Dr Mohamed Althaf, director of LuLu Group International.

Althaf also noted that the “enormous respect that Qatar has acquired in the last couple of decades” was highlighted during His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani’s recent state visit to India.

“Previously, Qatar was recognised as a major energy exporter; however, (Cont. on page-7)



Economy on fast track

That the Indian economy is performing well is no news at all. Various independent global agencies have already recognised this reality despite the fact that a large and diverse country like India has its own challenges to overcome. According to Morgan Stanley, India which has already overtaken the British economy, is set soon to beat the German economy as well and become the third largest economy in the world by 2028 (after overtaking Japan)-- that's just three years away.

This extraordinary achievement is not by chance or magic, but the result of years of strong leadership and bold economic reforms despite all odd things. Initiatives like "Make in India" and "Digital India" ignited a wave of industrial innovation, turning villages into manufacturing hubs and cities into thriving economic centres. Infrastructure projects reshaped landscapes, digital revolutions connected millions and landmark reforms attracted global investment.



India has the distinction of being both an industrial power as well as an agricultural giant. The world has taken notice of this unprecedented transformation amidst unstable global issues. India has a young, ambitious workforce which is driving progress and every milestone is a testament to the nation's relentless spirit. From tax reforms to financial inclusion, from renewable energy to cutting-edge technology, India's story is one of resilience and ambition.

By 2028, India's GDP is estimated to be US\$5.2 trillion, crossing the US\$5 trillion benchmark. Strategies to absorb oil price shocks and contain government borrowing at prudent levels would help India sustain high growth in the medium term. While most advanced economies are facing an economic slowdown, chronic shortages, high inflation and aging populations, the Indian economy is acknowledged to be the fastest-growing large economy by major multilateral organisations, including IMF.

In comparing the relative size of the economy, using GDP as a summary measure, two perspectives can be drawn. One relates to the conversion of the domestic currency using the market exchange rates and the other, using the PPP (purchasing power parity) conversion rate. The Indian economy is projected to overtake both Japan and Germany in 2027 (FY-28 for India) to become the third largest economy. In PPP terms, within the economy, India is already the third-largest economy, well above Japan and Germany. Further, at the end of 2027 (FY28 for India), the US economy would be only about 1.7 times that of India in PPP terms. In the next few decades, if India can maintain a real growth of about six per cent to seven per cent, it would be possible to catch up with the US economy.

True, there are, various critical economic parameters other than GDP that are relevant in such inter-country comparisons of economic growth prospects and potential. In the current century, unlike other major economies, the Indian economy has a significant advantage linked to the economic potential of its large size and age structure of its population. In terms of the share of working-age population, India is expected to overtake China in 2030. India is expected to maintain its current economic policies, banking on its population, potential and favorable geopolitical environment to attract FDI and trading partners. It is proved that only a strong government can deliver the benefits.

LIPSYNCH

"Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning". ----- Bill Gates

IndiGo to add 14 new destinations

NEW DELHI: IndiGo is planning to add 14 new destinations next financial year (FY2026) and expects low double digit growth in passenger traffic and capacity, said the company in its latest investor presentation. The airline also said that it will get the delivery of more than one new aircraft per week next financial year, and would increase its headcount by 3,000 employees in FY26.

As per the investor presentation, the airline currently operates in 131 destinations (91 Domestic, 40 International). In CY2024 the airline flew 113 million passengers, a growth of 10pc on a year-on-year basis.

Following the bullish outlook, shares of IndiGo soared more than five per



cent breaching Rs 5,000-mark for the first time.

Nuvama Alternative and Quantitative Research indicates, Inter-globe Aviation, the parent company of IndiGo, is likely to become part of the Nifty 50 index when the next index review takes place in Sept. IndiGo said that it will be receiving the Airbus A321XLR aircraft in FY26 which will allow them to launch new routes in Asia and Europe. Airbus A321XLR, which has a flying range of 7.5-8.5 hours, will be configured with 12 business class and 183 economy class seats.

The airline would also be commencing Europe operations in FY26 would be damp-leasing three more Boeing B787s.

It expects to increase its international capacity share, or the proportion of its total available seat kms for international routes, to 40pc from 28pc currently, as per the investors' presentation.

IndiGo reiterated that by 2030 it aims to have a fleet of more than 600 plus aircraft factoring for lease returns. Currently the airline has 439 aircraft in its fleet which includes 33 aircraft under wet lease.

Air New Zealand, Air India plan direct flights between India, New Zealand

MUMBAI: Star Alliance Partners -- Air New Zealand and Air India -- have signed a MoU wherein the two airlines will explore the introduction of a direct service between India and New Zealand

The MoU was signed at an event in Mumbai in the presence of the Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon and other dignitaries.

The MoU includes the establishment of a new code-share partnership on 16 routes between India, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, conferring travellers more choice and convenient access between the two countries.

Customers will now be able to travel from the Indian cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai on Air India, and connect at Sydney, Melbourne or Singapore



onto Air New Zealand-operated flights to Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington and Queenstown.

"India represents a key growth market for Air New Zealand and we are excited about the opportunity to enhance connectivity for travellers between our two countries. We are committed to working collaboratively to grow the travel market over the coming years, ensuring a strong foundation for a successful direct service by 2028," said Greg Foran, Chief Executive of Air New Zealand.

Campbell Wilson, Managing Director, Air India

said that this partnership will not only strengthen our presence and simplify customer journeys but also help us develop traffic so that, in time to come, we may viably operate a non-stop service between India and New Zealand, which we and Air New Zealand have committed to explore together with the respective authorities.

Currently, Air New Zealand customers travelling between New Zealand and India benefit from strong connectivity options via Singapore Airlines, offering a smooth transit through Singapore.

(Cont. on page-7)

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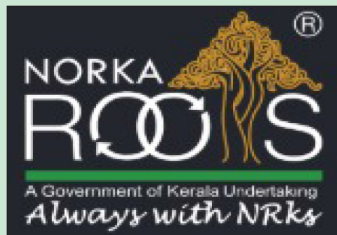
Always contact licensed recruitment agents registered with the government.
List available on www.emigrate.gov.in

Illegal Agents

Avoid dealing with unregistered agents or brokers to prevent fraud.

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 Clas-

sification (via Mumaris+), HRD Attestation, and Dataflow Verification from the Saudi

Commission for Health Specialists can apply.

Norka Roots Chief Executive Officer Ajith Kolassery 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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Overseas News And Employment (ONE) will be a reliable interface between job providers and job seekers.

FOREX RATES

As on 20th March 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	86.8	86.98
British Pound	113.02	113.25
Euro	95.14	95.33
Japanese Yen	0.58	0.59
Swiss Franc (CHF)	99.55	99.75
Canadian Dollar	60.89	61.02
Australian Dollar	55.39	55.5
Norwegian Krone	8.26	8.27
Swedish Krona	8.64	8.66
New Zealand Dollar	50.5	50.61
Hong Kong Dollar	11.22	11.24
Kuwaiti Dinar	283.54	275.40
Singapore Dollar	65.54	65.67
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.26	23.31
United Arab Emir-	23.74	23.79

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01

TAMILNADU :

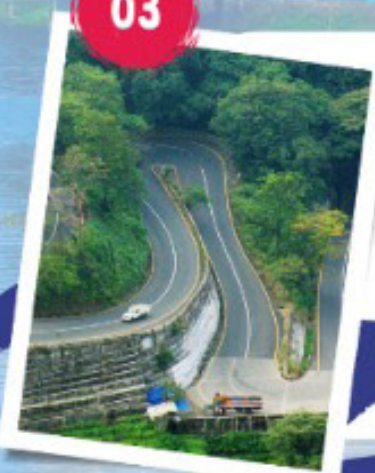
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Kanyakumari | Coimbatore Isha Centre



02

PONDICHERY :

Paradise Beach | Aurobindo Ahrm |
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 :

Tirupathi | Visakhapatanam | Araku
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

Is job offer through e-mail formal?

I received a job offer from a Dubai-based company that I accepted via email. I did not sign anything but emailed the company to say I was accepting it. Now, I have received a better offer from another company that I really want to accept. Will I face any legal trouble if I decline the first offer now?

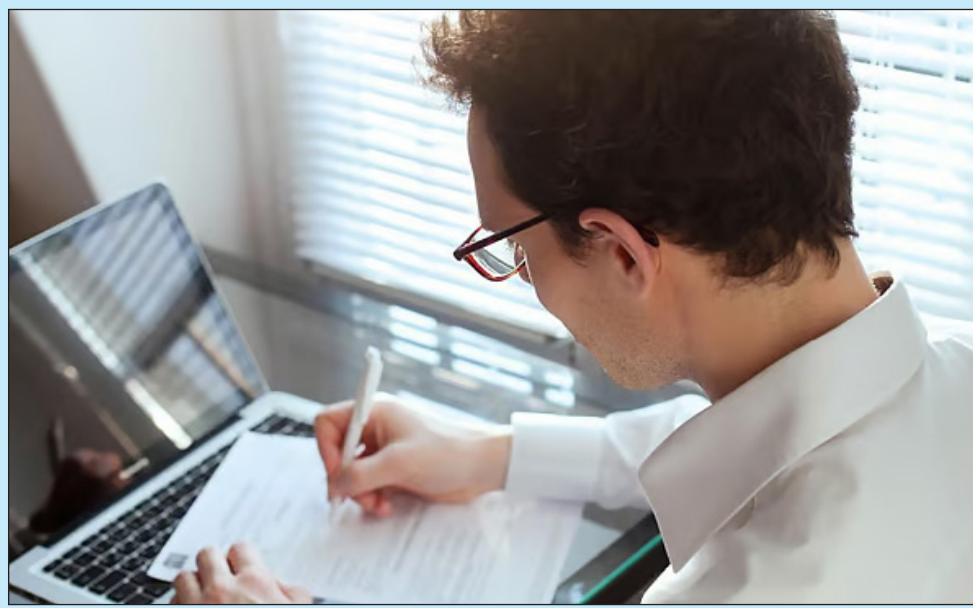
An offer letter may be issued by an employer to an employee in the format stipulated by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE) and in accordance with Ministerial Decree No. 46 of 2022 regarding Work Permits, Job Offers and Employment Contracts Forms. Thereafter, an employer and employee need to sign an employment contract in line with Article 2(1) of the Ministerial Decree No.

46 of 2022, which states: "Pursuant to the provisions of the Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations, an employer who wishes to employ any employee must abide by the following:

Utilise the approved standard employment contract that conforms with the job offer when requesting the issuance of the work permit. It is permissible to add more benefits to the employee in the contract than those mentioned in the job offer. It is also permissible to add annexes to the contract provided that it does not conflict with the provisions of the decree-law and its executive regulations."

Furthermore, Article 8(1) of the Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations states that: "The employer shall enter into

an employment contract with the employee according to the agreed model of work. The employment contract shall be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to the employer and the other to the employee, in ac-



cordance with the templates specified by the executive regulations of this Decree-Law."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, the job offer you received from a company in Dubai may be considered as an agreement

once you sign and accept the same. However, an offer letter may be an informal agreement and may be not enforceable by law. Whereas, a contract is a formal agreement and it is enforceable by law. Thus,

all contracts are agreements, but all agreements are not contracts.

As you have not signed anything with your prospective employer, you may decline the job offered by a company in Dubai and the said company may not force

you to be employed with it. This is in accordance with Article 14(1) of the UAE Employment Law, which states: "An employer may not use any means susceptible of obliging or forcing the employee or threatening him with any penalty, to work for him, or forcing him to do work or deliver a service against his will."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, you may decline the job offer by a company in Dubai and accept the new offer of employment if you feel it is beneficial to you. However, under other applicable laws in the UAE, acceptance by electronic mail may be binding. This needs to be examined further. You may consult a legal practitioner for further advice.

Losing job within a week, what to do?

I recently switched jobs and joined a new company in mainland Dubai. But I was terminated within a week of joining, citing the restructuring of the company. I'm clueless because the previous company is not hiring due to both firms being competitors. Can I take this new company to court and file claims? What are my rights in this case?

In the UAE, an employer may terminate an employee during probation by serving 14 days of notice to an employee. This is in accordance with Article (1) of the Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations, which states: "The employer may employ the employee on probation for a period not exceeding six months from the service commencement date. The employer may

terminate the employee during such period by giving the employee 14 days' prior written notice."

If an employer or employee does not comply with the notice period mentioned in the employment law related to the termination of an employment contract, the party breaching such provision of law may have to 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."

Furthermore, if an employee does not agree to terminate the employ-

ment relationship by mutual agreement, then he/she will have the right to



claim compensation for arbitrary dismissal. The termination of the employment relationship as part of a restructuring process with the employer may be considered arbitrary dismissal. In this regard, the provisions of Article 47 of the UAE Employment Law may be referred to. It reads as follows:

1. The dismissal of an employee by his employ-

er shall be arbitrary if the employee submits a serious complaint to the ministry or files an action proven to be valid against the employer.

2. The employer shall pay the employee a fair compensation estimated by the competent court if it is found that the dismissal is arbitrary pursuant to paragraph (1) above.

The amount of compensation shall be determined based on the type of work, the extent of harm sustained by the employee and the length of his service. In any case, the amount of compensation shall not exceed three months' wage of the employee calculated based on the last wage received by him.

3. The provisions of paragraph (2) above shall not prejudice the right of an employee to the pay in lieu of notice

and severance pay due to him under the provisions hereof." Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, your employer may terminate you during the probation period by serving a stipulated notice period with a valid reason. As you were terminated by your employer by only seven days of the notice period, you may approach the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and claim compensation from your employer for the remainder of seven days of the notice period not served on you while it terminated your employment contract. Furthermore, if you feel your employment was terminated without a valid reason, you may claim compensation of up to three months of salary from your employer on grounds of arbitrary termination.

New H-1B visa system in force

WASHINGTON: The new H-1B visa system is implemented by the Trump administration to make the process more transparent and effective.

The H-1B visa programme is undergoing significant changes from March 20, with Foreign Labour Access Gateway (FLAG) deleting old applications and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

implementing a new system for the process.

The H-1B visa system is a major route for foreign skilled workers looking to find work in the country. The new system is said to be implemented by the Trump administration to make the process more transparent and effective.

Any record older than five years will be deleted from the system. So, if the final determination



date of a case is March 22, 2020, the application will be deleted on March 22 this year. The employ-

ers have been asked to download any case older than five years by March 19.

What does the deletion of old H-1B applications mean for workers?

According to a report by the Financial Times, all temporary labour condition applications, including H-1B, will be deleted beginning on March 20 and eliminated from the FLAG system. Instead, the USCIS will launch a new application process that is touted to be more fair and equal for all applicants.

The revised system

will select beneficiaries rather than applications, preventing duplicate entries for the same person. This eliminates the advantage that large corporations had in the previous system, which allowed them to submit multiple applications for the same individual. The registration fee will also shoot up significantly, from \$10 to \$215 per entry.

Another change is that the USCIS will require candidates to register online. Employers must register before filing the complete H-1B petition, which will help the USCIS expedite the process.

The new system promises better selection fairness for employees and more efficient application processing. It will also increase the expenses for the employers, who will now have to choose who they sponsor a little more carefully.

Are power banks allowed in Gulf flights?

DUBAI: For passengers travelling on UAE-based airlines, understanding the rules around carrying power banks is essential, especially following recent bans introduced by some international airlines.

Starting from April 1, 2025, Singapore Airlines will prohibit passengers from using portable power banks while onboard their flights. However, passengers can carry power banks in cabin baggage on all flights and are not permitted in checked luggage.

Additionally, since March 15, other carriers such as Thai Airways and AirAsia had

enforced a ban on using and charging power banks onboard. While passengers may still carry power banks in their hand luggage, they will not be permitted to use them during the flight.

Furthermore, EVA Air and China Airlines introduced similar restrictions starting March 1, 2025, prohibiting the use of portable chargers onboard. Air Busan has taken an extra step by banning the storage of power banks in overhead compartments, requiring passengers to keep them on their person throughout the flight.

In contrast, the UAE's General Civil Aviation

Before travelling, it is crucial to check with your airline about their specific policies on carrying batteries, battery-powered devices, and portable electronic devices.

Authority (GCAA) permits passengers to carry power banks on UAE-based airlines such as Emirates, Etihad, Flydubai and Air Arabia. However, there are specific rules that travellers must follow.

Other batteries

The GCAA classifies power banks as spare batteries and are only permitted in carry-on luggage. Other types of batteries, including lithium batteries, non-spillable batteries, nickel-metal hydride batteries and dry batteries for portable electronic devices, must also be carried in carry-on baggage only. Each battery must be individually protected to prevent short circuits. Additionally, the regulations limit the number of personal electronic devices (PEDs), including power banks, to a maximum of 15 per passenger. Each device must be packaged separately to prevent short circuits and must be completely switched off during the flight.

Air New Zealand, Air India...

(Cont. from page-2)

growth market for Air New Zealand and we are excited about the opportunity to enhance connectivity for travellers between our two countries. We are committed to working collaboratively to grow the travel market over the coming years, ensuring a strong foundation for a successful direct service by 2028," said Greg Foran, Chief Executive of Air New Zealand.

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nership will not only strengthen our presence and simplify customer journeys but also help us develop traffic so that, in time to come, we may viably operate a non-stop service between India and New Zealand, which we and Air New Zealand have committed to explore together with the respective authorities.

Currently, Air New Zealand customers travelling between New Zealand and India benefit from strong connectivity options via Singapore Airlines, offering a smooth transit through Singapore.

Qatar our spring board ...

(Cont. from page-1)

today, I have observed that Qatar's reputation outside this region, particularly in the south, is that it has emerged as a significant investor in technology and startups," Althaf pointed out.

Witnessing HH the Amir's state visit to India, Althaf emphasised that many companies there have admired Qatar's digital transformation. Similarly, he emphasised that business leaders in India were particularly impressed by Qatar's technological advancement.

"The impression of the business leaders I spoke with in India is that Qatar has achieved remarkable digital transformation, smart city projects and how the country has become a major hub for all kinds of startups and technology; these milestones are very well-admired," he stressed.

According to Althaf,

Qatar has made plenty of strides since it hosted a very successful FIFA World Cup in 2022. Since then, the country has transformed its global image from being primarily an energy exporter to a well-recognised investor in technology and startups, Althaf stressed, citing the second edition of Web Summit Qatar held last month.

Althaf also noted that Qatar is now "well known as a sports tech event headquarters" following "the fantastic World Cup that we all enjoyed in Qatar," adding that the country's "capacity to act as a conflict resolver" has also improved its international standing.

"Qatar-India relations, as well as the country's ties with many other countries in the south, are progressing beyond transactions. Before it was an export-import relationship, but Qatar is now discussing co-investing.