



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

## PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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### VISIT AT THE INVITE OF HH CROWN PRINCE SALMAN

# Modi leaves for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning April 22 (Tuesday) at the invitation of His Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, aiming to deepen co-operation in key sectors such as defence, energy and trade in what will be his first trip to the Kingdom in his third term.

This visit is guided by strong personal chemistry and mutual respect between Modi and HH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

During the visit, the two leaders will co-chair the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. The first meeting was held in New Delhi during the Crown Prince's state visit in Sept 2023 for the G20 Summit.

"This visit offers an opportunity to elevate the India-Saudi relationship to a new level, especially in energy co-operation, where we are aiming to add a strategic dimension," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. Saudi Arabia is India's fifth-largest trading partner and home to 2.7 million of its nationals.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince His Highness Mohammed bin Salman at their last meeting.

"This is a very important opportunity to compare notes on several issues of mutual concern in the related to the regional situation as well as the global developments and what you have referred to

the attacks by the Houthis with regard to shipping and navigation etc, is obviously something that India has been closely monitoring as well and also watching with some concern," Misri said.

Misri also said that the evolving situation in West Asia, particularly the Israel-Palestine conflict, would feature prominently in the bilateral discussions. "On the situation in West Asia and the current state of affairs between Israel and Palestine, we've seen developments that are certainly of concern. Saudi Arabia plays a very important role in addressing this issue," he noted.

Several MoUs are expected to be signed during the visit, spanning sectors such as energy, infrastructure, investment and technology. In 2023-24, bilateral trade between India and Saudi Arabia reached \$42.98 billion, with Indian exports totalling \$11.56 billion and imports amounting to \$31.42 billion. During the same period, Saudi emerged as India's third-largest supplier of crude oil and LPG, delivering 33.35 million metric tonnes of crude and accounting for 18.2pc of India's LPG imports.

## Remittances from Gulf: NRIs adopt wait and watch policy

**DUBAI:** At 23.16 Monday morning for one dirham, the Indian rupee has on highest level in the

### US asks foreigners to register under Alien Act

**WASHINGTON:** The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on March 12 had issued an Interim Final Rule (IFR) called Alien Registration Form and Evidence of Registration to document aliens living in the US and those who are not already registered with DHS.

The US this week introduced a new policy for "aliens" residing in its territory, invoking a rule asking foreign nationals aged 14 and older to register, provide fingerprints and carry proof of registration.

Non-compliance may result in fines up to \$5,000 or six months in prison.

year to date as the US dollar comes under renewed weakness. The current highest year-to-date showing for the rupee is the 23.14 on April 4.

Currency market sources say it's still not clear whether the higher rupee trend will continue. For Indian expats in the UAE and Gulf, this will mean close tracking of the rupee movements over the coming days to decide what will best help them on remittances.

"The rupee has strengthened considerably from the year's lowest point of 23.94, which was on Feb10," said NeelleshGopalan, senior FX analyst based in Dubai.

(Cont. on page-2)



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# India can make \$25b in exports , create 35 lakh jobs in hand-power tools sector

**WWW** India has the potential to capture a larger share of the global trade market for power and hand tools, targeting \$25 billion in exports over the next decade, which could create approximately 35 lakh jobs by achieving a 10pc market share in power tools and 25pc in hand tools, a NITI Aayog report has revealed.

Through fostering innovation, empowering MSMEs and strengthening industrial ecosystem, the country can solidify its position as a reliable, high-quality global manufacturing hub, according to the report on the sector. Launched by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, the report outlined a strategic path for the sector to enhance its

global competitiveness and capture a significantly larger share of the international market.

It suggested that the global trade market for power and hand tools, currently valued at about \$100 billion, is projected to grow significantly, reaching around \$190 billion by 2035.

Within this market, hand tools account for \$34 billion and are expected to expand to \$60 billion by 2035, while power tools, including tool accessories, represent \$63 billion and are anticipated to surge to \$134 billion, with electrical tools comprising the majority. India currently exports \$600 million in hand tools (1.8pc market share) and \$470 million in power tools (0.7pc mar-

ket share).

To achieve the potential of \$25 billion in power and hand tool exports over the next decade, the report delved into the issues impacting hand and power tools sectors and recommends three key

categories of interventions which are essential. Developing world class hand tool clusters with advanced infrastructure is critical, requiring three or four clusters aggregating around 4,000 acres. These clusters operating

under a public-private partnership (PPP) model would feature plug-and-play infrastructure, worker housing and facilities like connectivity and convention centres to streamline operations," said the report.

## Expats can start business in Oman

**MUSCAT:** The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP) has said that foreign investors, including expatriates, can apply for a commercial register for starting a business, but under certain conditions.

The conditions include the mandatory employment of at least one Omani citizen after one

year from the company's establishment, while domestic workers and those in similar categories of jobs can't open a commercial register.

Expatriates bound by employment contracts with government or private entities can establish a company subject to the Foreign Capital Investment Law with the approval.

**MUMBAI:** India's foreign exchange (forex) market has seen strong growth in recent years, with average daily turnover nearly doubling from US\$32 billion in 2020 to \$60 billion in 2024.

This significant development was highlighted by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra during his address at the 24th FIM-MDA-PDAI Annual Conference in Bali.

Malhotra noted that India's financial markets have become more dynamic and resilient over the past few years. He said: "Over the past few years, we have witnessed significant developments that have transformed our markets into a dynamic and resilient force....Almost doubling of average daily turnover in the forex

market from \$32 billion in 2020 to \$60 billion in 2024".

He pointed out that the forex market is not the only one to show growth. The overnight money market has also expanded, with average daily volumes rising by 80pc --from about Rs 3-lakh-crore in 2020 to over Rs 5.4-lakh-crore in 2024. Similarly, the government securities (g-secs) market has seen a 40pc increase in average daily volumes, reaching Rs 66,000 crore during the same period.

Speaking about the larger role of financial markets, Malhotra said they are vital for India's economic progress. "If India is to navigate the

shifting tides and fulfil its aspirations, financial markets will have to play a crucial role," he said.

Financial markets are not only places for raising capital and trading assets, but also key enablers of economic growth, he added.

He also shared that despite global challenges, India's government securities market remained stable throughout the year. Gross market borrowings by the central and state governments totalled Rs 24.7 lakh crore in FY 2024-25 and were completed smoothly. The governor said: "The government securities market has however, remained rock-steady throughout the year".

## Indian national held while smuggling cash

**LUSAKA:** Zambian customs officials said they arrested an Indian national who had attempted to smuggle more than \$2 million in cash and gold worth \$5 lakh through the country's main airport.

The 27-year-old was on his way to Dubai when his attempt was thwarted by a multi-agency team at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) said. He was intercepted with \$2,320,000 in cash and seven pieces of what they suspected to be gold valued at \$5 lakh.

Images shared by Zambian media showed

stacks of \$100 bills held together with rubber bands. The money was packed into a black bag, which was then placed inside a larger polypropylene suitcase. "Investigations into the matter are ongoing," DEC said, warning "those involved in trans-national organised crimes that the long arm of the law will catch up with them soon".

The southern African country has abundant reserves of minerals, including copper and gold. But its economy is impoverished and more than 60 percent of the population lives in poverty, according to World Bank.

## Gold prices close to Rs 1 lakh per 10gm

**MUMBAI:** Gold prices were ruling around Rs 95,000 per 10 gm (24 carat) and are potentially reaching the Rs 1 lakh-mark by Akshaya Tritiya.

The present price of 24-carat gold in India is Rs96,420 per 10 gm, which is a gain of 1.22pc from its previous close. While high prices give chances for investors who buy gold as a financial asset, they also put a strain on Indian buyers' budgets for weddings and gift.

Between 2013 and 2023, Russia's reserves increased from 1,035 to 2,333 tonnes. In 2023, China's reserves increased from 1,054 to 2,235 tonnes. Turkey's gold holdings rose from 116 tonnes in 2013 to 540 tonnes in 2023, placing it in third position.

Central banks have been buying gold in huge quantities recently. With 8,134 tons of gold reserves as of December 2024, the US led the world, followed by Germany. With reserves of

2,280 and 876 tons of gold, respectively, China and India are far behind.

## Remittances from... (Cont. from page-1)

"Purely from the actual remittance rates, an Indian expat got rates of 23.50 plus for three weeks this year. For the major part, sending money home meant rates of 23.30-23.40. "From those levels, current rates mean Indian expats have lost some of their advantage with the rupee firming up."



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FOREX RATES		
As on 21st April 2025 (In rupees)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	84.58	85.68
British Pound	113.11	114.75
Euro	97.1	99.14
Japanese Yen	60.11	61.05
Swiss Franc (CHF)	104.18	106.43
Canadian Dollar	61.01	62.38
Australian Dollar	54.1	55.31
Norwegian Krone	8.01	8.25
Swedish Krona	8.77	9.03
New Zealand Dollar	50.46	51.6
Hong Kong Dollar	10.76	11.09
Kuwaiti Dinar	285.52	273.77
Singapore Dollar	64.61	66.04
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.25	22.95
United Arab Emirates	22.79	23.44

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# flynas launches flights to Geneva, Man, Krakow, Rize and Casablanca

flynas launches flights to Geneva, Man, Krakow, Rize and Casablanca and more than 20 cities around the world

As of June 21, flynas will launch four new weekly direct flights between Jeddah and El Alamein, increasing its flight frequency to the Egyptian resort, which is already linked with the Kingdom through direct flights from Riyadh.

On Monday, June 23, flynas will begin operating direct flights between Riyadh and Rize, its latest summer destination in Turkey. The coastal city on Turkey's eastern Black Sea coast will also be connected



by three weekly direct flights from Jeddah as of June 27.

Starting June 24, three

flynas will connect Riyadh to Milan with three weekly flights. The following day, three weekly direct flights will operate between Riyadh and Krakow, Poland, making flynas the first Saudi national carrier flying to Poland.

With these new additions in summer 2025, flynas summer destinations network will include up to 20 cities spread across Africa, Europe and Asia, including the existing destinations of El Alamein, Hurghada, Sharm El-Sheikh, Sarajevo, Salzburg, Tirana, Vienna, Prague, Antalya, Bodrum, Istanbul, Trabzon, Batumi, Baku,

Tbilisi and Saalah.

Passengers travelling with flynas can book their flights through all flynas booking channels: [www.flynas.com](http://www.flynas.com), the flynas app, the call centre (920001234) or travel agents.

flynas operates 139 routes to more than 70 domestic and international destinations in 30 countries with more than 1500 weekly flights and has flown more than 80 million passengers since its launch in 2007, with the aim to reach 165 domestic and international destinations within its growth and expansion plan, and in line with the objectives of Vision 2030.





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# GULF FAQs

## New UAE Personal Status Law 2025 covers marriage reforms, custody, parental rights

**What are the salient features of the new UAE Personal Status Law?**

The UAE's new Personal Status Law has come into force. Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2024 places greater emphasis on balancing parental rights, safeguarding child welfare and introducing more modern provisions for Muslims residing in the UAE. The legislation imposes stricter penalties, ranging from Dh5,000 to Dh1 lakh for offences such as assaulting a minor's property, unauthorised travel with a child, abuse, neglect or failing to provide adequate care

and support for parents when required. The new law replaces Federal Law No. 28 of 2005 on Personal Status.

Who does the new UAE Personal Status Law apply to?

"The UAE's new Personal Status Law, Federal Decree Law No. 41 of 2024 has broad and inclusive scope. By default, the law applies to UAE citizens and residents. However, non-Muslim citizens and certain UAE residents can opt for a different law. Furthermore, the new law may also apply to non-UAE residents, under certain conditions," Lud-

mila Yamalova, founder and managing partner of HPL Yamalova and Plewka DMCC, says. Yamalova provided a detailed breakdown of the law's scope and the groups impacted by the recent changes:

### **1. UAE CITIZENS :**

Muslim citizens - The UAE Personal Status law applies to all UAE Muslim citizens. One party is Muslim (mixed marriages) --- The law also applies to those UAE citizens, where one of the parties is Muslim (for example, in cases of an Emirati Muslim husband married to a Christian woman). Non-Muslim

citizens - Non-Muslim UAE citizens can either: Opt for the application of a specific religious law to govern their personal matters or choose another legally permissible law in the UAE. If no option is chosen, the UAE Personal Status Law applies by default.

### **2 . UAE RESIDENTS :**

UAE residents (in general) - By default, the new Personal Status Law applies to all UAE residents. This is unless they have the option and choose to apply a different law.

### **3. NON-MUSLIM RESIDENTS:**

Non-Muslim UAE resi-

dents can choose to apply: Their own religious law, The law of their home country or another mutually agreed-upon law, for example, Abu Dhabi Law No. 14 of 2021 on Civil Marriages and its Effects or the law of Mauritius, where the parties got married.

### **4. NON-UAE RESIDENTS :**

The law may also apply to non-residents in specific circumstances, such as: Divorce proceedings involving a UAE citizen or resident as the plaintiff and a non-resident as the defendant. Cases where neither party holds UAE residency but claims the UAE as their place of residence.

## Don't film police officers on duty

**Can I film police officers on duty in Dubai?**

A Dubai court convicted a woman and her friend for recording a video of police officers and assaulting them during questioning. One defendant was found guilty of violating privacy laws, while the other was convicted of resisting and assaulting law enforcement officers. The case dates back to Jan 2024, when the two Kazakh women were taken to Al Barsha police station following a reported altercation with a taxi driver outside Global Village.

While inside the station, one of the defendants filmed female police officers on her mobile phone without their consent. The law enforcement officials requested her to hand over the device. When officers attempted to seize the phone, the second defendant resisted, kicking and hitting the officers to prevent them from taking it. As a result of the altercation,

three police officers sustained injuries, including bruises and scratches, as documented in medical reports. "We received a report of two women harassing a taxi driver in the parking area of Global Village. Police officers were dispatched to the location, and the two female suspects were brought to Al Barsha Police Station," testified one of the female officers involved in the incident. "While at the station, I saw one of them filming us, so I informed the duty officer, who requested her phone. When asked to hand it over, she refused. Since we were in the reception area with other visitors present, we attempted to escort them to a private office, but one of them resisted and used force against us." The officer told the court that the first defendant struggled and resisted arrest, while the second defendant was responsible for filming the officers. One of the defendants was charged with resisting



and assaulting police officers, while the other was charged with unlawfully recording govern-

ment personnel.

During court proceedings, the first defendant denied the charges

against her, while the second defendant admitted to filming the officers but claimed she was doing so to document their actions. However, both women were convicted. The first defendant was sentenced to three months in jail, followed by deportation, for resisting and assaulting police officers. The second defendant was fined Dh2,000, and the mobile phone used for recording was confiscated.

## A woman can be arrested for drunk in public

**Can a woman be arrested for being drunk in public and sentenced to jail?**

Of course yes. Recently, a woman was arrested for being drunk in public sentenced to six months in jail with Dh20,000 fine. The Dubai Criminal Court sentenced the woman identified as RH to six months in prison and imposed a fine of Dh20,000 on her. The Gulf national was arrested recently while she was drunk in a public place and caused a riot. She

had also assaulted members of the Dubai Police and directed obscene words at them.

In Dubai, consumption of alcoholic beverages is only permitted in restaurants or lounges that have a valid alcohol licence. It is prohibited to consume alcohol in public.

The court also ordered deportation of the woman from the country while referring her case to a competent civil court. Earlier, the Dubai Public Prosecution had

ordered to refer RH and the criminal case to the Dubai Criminal Court to adjudicate the case. The Dubai Public Prosecution had issued a statement clarifying why the woman was arrested after she made certain allegations that were circulating on social media. Further, the Public Prosecution had underlined that the law applies equally to all residents and visitors, ensuring that everyone's rights and responsibilities are respected within the city.



# India may sign bilateral trade pact with US

**SAN FRANCISCO:** India is in advanced discussions with the United States to finalise a bilateral trade agreement and the first phase of the pact could be signed by the fall this year, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

“The progress of the agreement or the trade agreement that we are working on, at least the first tranche, is something which we hope to conclude positively by the fall this year,” she said.

Nirmala was interacting with the Indian diaspora during a community event in San Francisco, where she added that a reciprocal tariff issue is part of a broader trade negotiation strategy. “The long and short of engaging with the US is not just for this reciprocal tariff-related matter, but in the interest of... our largest trading partner with whom we need to have an agreement,” Nirmala said.

The Union Finance Minister is on a five-day trip to the US, where she will join the spring meet-

ings of IMF and World Bank, and the meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.

“I have come here because I also have IMF and World Bank meeting. I am scheduled to meet the Treasury Secretary,



Nirmala Sitharaman

my counterpart here. So the keenness with which we are engaging with the US administration, even as I talk, I think the US Vice-President is in India. He will be engaging with the prime minister, hopefully this evening or tomorrow,” she added.

The minister also underlined India’s growing role in global knowledge partnerships. She said World Bank and other global institutions, which are keen on India’s model for digital public infrastructure, skilling in AI, and job creation.

## Foreign investors infuse Rs 8,500cr into Indian equity markets

**MUMBAI:** Foreign investors have infused nearly Rs 8,500 crore into the country’s equity markets last week, after a phase of heavy outflows earlier in the month, supported by renewed investor confidence, resilient domestic economy and relative insulation from global trade disruptions.

During the holiday-truncated week ended April 18, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) made a net investment of Rs 8,472 crore in equities.

This includes withdrawal of Rs 2,352 crore on April 15, but investment of Rs 10,824 crore in the following two days, data with the depositories showed. While

the recent uptick in FPI activity signals a potential shift in sentiment, the sustainability of these flows will hinge on the evolving trajectory of global macroeconomic conditions, stability in the US trade policy and the continued strength of India’s domestic growth outlook, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate director - Manager Research, Morningstar Investment, said.

During the week, trading took place on just three days from April 15 to 17 -- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The stock market was closed on Monday and Friday due to Ambedkar Jayanti and Good Friday, respectively.

## US VICE PRESIDENT VANCE IN DELHI



US Vice President JD Vance received a ceremonial Guard of Honour on landing in Delhi along with his wife Indian origin Usha and children. They were received by Union Minister AshwiniVaishnaw at the Palam airport.

## Sensex gains 855 points

**MUMBAI:** The stock market witnessed a sharp rally on Monday rising for the fifth consecutive session amid expectations of a trade agreement with the US, strong quarterly performance by large private banks and foreign investors turning net buyers.

The benchmark BSE Sensex jumped 1,081 points or 1.08pc to hit an intra-day high of 79,635.05 level, while the Nifty50 index gained 337.90 points.

## Pope Francis Passes away



**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis died at the age of 88 in Rome, the Vatican confirmed in a video statement on Monday. He was the first Latin

American to lead the Roman Catholic Church and was elected as the supreme pontiff on March 13, 2013.

His passing away comes just a day after his surprise public appearance on Easter Sunday, greeting a crowd of more than 35,000 in St. Peter’s Square in what marked his most significant outing since recovering from a severe case of double pneumonia. He had been undergoing respiratory therapy.



initial part of the month was marked by aggressive FPI selling, driven largely by global uncertainties stemming from the US tariff policy developments.

However, renewed investor confidence was supported by India’s resilient domestic economy, relative insulation from global trade disruptions and comparatively attractive valuations given recent correction in the Indian equity markets, Srivastava said.

This reversal in FPI activity has been caused by two important factors. Firstly, decline in the dollar index to around 100-level and the expectation of further weakness in the dollar are nudging FPIs away from the US to emerging markets like India, VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments, said.

Secondly, both the US

and China are likely to report subdued growth this year, while India is expected to clock a growth rate of six per cent in FY 26 even in an unfavourable global environment. This relative outperformance of India in growth can lead to outperformance in the market, too, he added.

In March, FPIs withdrew Rs 3,973 crore and FPIs took out Rs 34,574 crore, while in Jan, the outflow was higher at Rs 78,027 crore.

Vijayakumar said that the focus of all investors including FPIs is likely to be domestic consumption themes like financials, telecom, aviation, cement, select autos and healthcare.