



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

## PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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# Emerging Trends in HR-Mobility to Russia

Recent initiatives by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA-OE), in co-ordination with Indian Missions in Russia, have yielded promising trends in human resource mobility. The recent RA delegation meetings with Foreign Employers (FEs) and key stakeholders in Moscow and St. Petersburg reflect a positive shift in HR placement opportunities. These developments, facilitated through MoUs and collaborations between the Recruitment Agencies (RAs) fraternity and prospective employers, have opened new avenues for structured dialogue and strategic partnerships. There is a noticeable increase in awareness



among Russian employers regarding the availability of skilled Indian workers. This is further reinforced by growing trust in Indian RAs, backed by government



support and enhanced credibility mechanisms. Looking ahead, sustained diplomatic engagement and the creation of a robust feedback loop between RAs, the MEA-OE, and Indian Missions can significantly strengthen placement pipelines. This will also promote safe and ethical migration practices, aligning with India's broader vision of becoming a global HR supplier under the 'Viksit Bharat' initiative. "Continued collaboration will be key to unlocking the full potential of this emerging corridor," said Shri V.S. Abdulkareem, President of the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL).



During the recent visit to Russia, Mr ABDULKA-REEM-Presidnet - IPEPCIL, delighted to meet the Indian Diplomats Mr Ramkumar Thangaraj , Counsellor( Economic & Commerce Wing) Ms Tadu Mamu-Counsellor ( Consular ) at Embassy of India, Moscow and Mr E. P. Daas, First Secratery, Consulate General of India, St Petersburg, Russia and apprised the encouraging trends of R A fraternity with the prospective Employers and stake holders of Russia in respect of HR mobility from India after the support of Indian Mission initiative to conduct the RA delegates and Employers (FE) and stake holders meet and request to continue such events in every year to strengthen the bonds with the stakeholders and FEs in Russia

# France brings changes to residence permits for foreign workers, students

**PARIS:** France has implemented key changes in the French immigration system that allow foreigners to come and study or work in the country. Significant changes to the French immigration system have been introduced. These changes mostly affect residence permits for foreign nationals who wish to live in France for academic or professional purposes. The new rules substitute the more

straightforward term "Talent" for the previous "Passport Talent" classification. It creates two primary categories out of the six existing resident permit categories: To draw in medical professionals, a new multi-year residency permit called "Talent – Medical and Pharmacy Profession" has also been developed. The "passport talent" residence permit is

(Cont. on page-2)

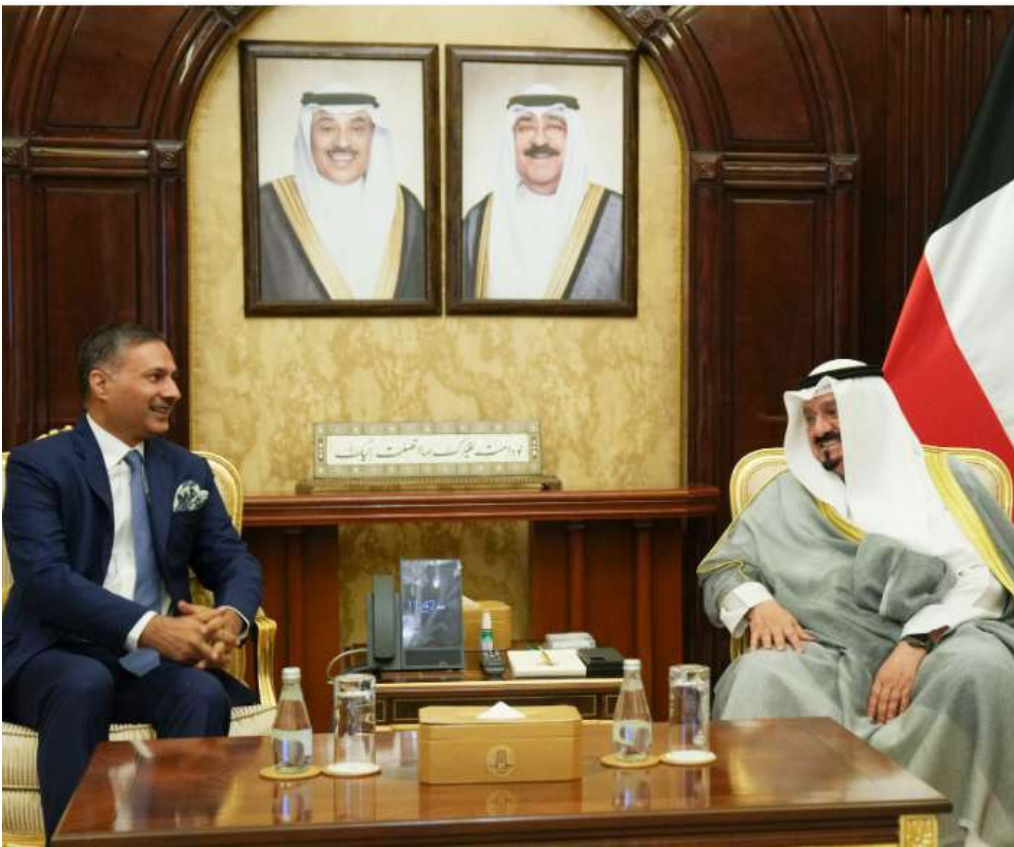
# NRI woman found dead in Sharjah



**SHARJAH:** An Indian expat woman from Kerala was found dead in in her Sharjah apartment early Saturday, coinciding with her 30th birthday and the first day of a new job, her family has confirmed. The deceased, AthulyaSekhar, was found dead in her flat in Rolla area, according to her sister and brother-in-law living

Sharjah.The death of the mother to a 10-year-old girl has sent fresh shockwaves through the expat community from Kerala The tragedy comes just weeks after the highly publicised death of another 32-year-old Malayali woman, and her 16-month-old daughter in Sharjah, in

(Cont. on page-2)



His Highness Prime Minister of Kuwait Shekh Ahmad Abdullah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr Adarsh Swaik at Bayan Palace in Kuwait City on Monday.



# New rules for H-1B visas soon?

**WASHINGTON:** The Trump administration is considering a significant shift in how some H-1B visas are allocated. In a recent filing to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) revealed it is exploring a "weighted selection process" for applicants under the capped portion of the H-1B visa programme.

The visa programme is distributed via a random lottery system, which does not prioritise applicants based on skill level or employer. Each year, 85,000 H-1Bs are granted under the statutory cap, with large tech firms such as Amazon, Meta and Microsoft often securing a significant share due to the sheer volume of applications they submit.

The visa programme has become a flashpoint in US immigration policy.



While President Donald Trump's base has pushed for stricter immigration controls, prominent tech figures like Elon Musk have defended the H-1B system as vital for innovation. Critics argue that

the programme displaces American workers, while supporters say it helps fill gaps in highly specialised roles that US companies struggle to staff locally.

Though the DHS filing offers limited specifics on the proposed changes, it signals a potential end to the lottery system, especially for the capped portion of the programme. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is named as the agency that would implement the new system.

Policy experts have long criticised the randomness of the current lottery system. A recent report by the Institute for Progress argued that replacing the lottery with a merit-based approach—such as ranking applicants by salary or experience—could improve the programme's economic value by as much as 88pc. Connor O'Brien from the Economic Innovation Group called the idea of prioritising high earners "a no-brainer," saying it would help attract rare global talent that could benefit US industries.

## Salary requirements for UK work visas under review

**LONDON:** The Migration Advisory Committee has been assigned two additional tasks: reviewing salary requirements for work visas and reviewing the new Temporary Shortage List.

On May 12, the UK government published its Immigration White Paper, setting out plans for reducing net migration by tackling the underly-

ing causes of workforce shortages and reliance on international hiring. Now, the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has been given two additional tasks – to review salary requirements for work visas and to review the new Temporary Shortage List (TSL). UK to implement a full reset of immigration laws starting next week. The salary require-

ments for skilled worker visas are complex and have evolved over time. Workers must be paid at least the higher of either a general threshold or an occupational going rate.

There are discounts relating to the Immigration Salary List (ISL) (which will be abolished, as set out in the Immigration White Paper), PhD qualifications, new entrants, and occupations on national

pay scales. There are similar, but different, rules for Health & Care Worker visas and the Global Business Mobility and Scale-up routes.

Immigration White Paper makes it clear that salary thresholds must rise, must ensure that international recruitment is never a cheap alternative to fair pay and must reflect the new changes to the UK's immigration system.

(Cont. on page-7)

## France brings changes to...

(Cont. from page-1) available to foreign employees and self-employed individuals. It allows up to four years of stay, with employment contracts exceeding three months.

The European Union has amended conditions for the entry and residence of foreign nationals for highly qualified employment. The amendments include derogatory time limits for notifications of decisions and the issue of multiannual residence cards. The provisional residence permit for mobility EU Blue Card beneficiaries allows them to work for up to 30 days after application submission. The new mentions

on multiannual residence cards and long-term resident cards for former Blue Card holders are also included.

The changes will affect various sectors, including employers, research establishments, foreign nationals applying for residence permits and administrative services responsible for foreigners' entry and residence, as well as students and researchers. In some recent changes, France's new regulation allows for citizenship rejection based on illegal immigration history, despite having valid documents for five years. People who may speak French but have no knowledge

## NRI woman found dead in Sharjah

(Cont. from page-1) what the police said was a murder-suicide. The forensic report had confirmed that the woman had died by hanging herself after suffocating the child to death on July 8. The incident had reportedly stemmed from marital conflicts.

Athulya's death has sparked serious allegations of domestic

abuse by her husband. Her parents living in Kollam district in Kerala have filed a case against the civil engineer working in Dubai and her family members here are in the process of filing a complaint against her husband in the UAE as well. "We will be visiting the Sharjah Police for completing the formalities of filing the case tomorrow.



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British Pound	115.08	116.73
Euro	99.42	101.51
Japanese Yen	57.77	58.69
Swiss Franc (CHF)	106.54	108.91
Canadian Dollar	62.23	63.63
Australian Dollar	55.64	56.85
Norwegian Krone	8.34	8.58
Swedish Krona	8.78	9.03
New Zealand Dollar	50.78	51.91
Hong Kong Dollar	10.79	11.13
Kuwaiti Dinar	288.0648	277.1247
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Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.58	23.29
United Arab Emirates	23.12	23.78

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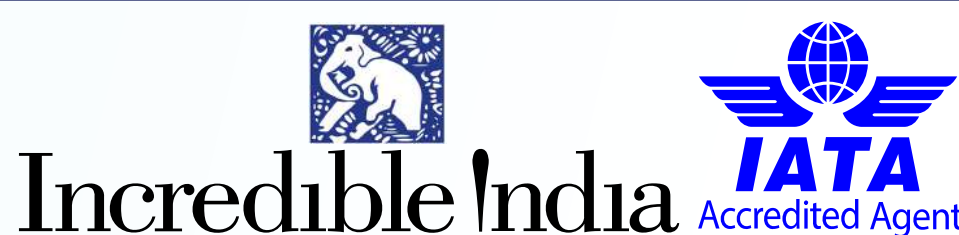
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### Day 2 Agatti – Water Sports & Sightseeing

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.



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# GULF FAQs

## Can Chatbots like ChatGPT manage my salaries better?

In the UAE's fast-evolving digital finance landscape, AI (artificial intelligence) apps like ChatGPT and Gemini are gaining traction for personal finance—so much so that people are asking them their salary and expenses to get budgeting help. But can

everyday money management. Starter financial planning: AI can recommend saving amounts for retirement or debt repayment by analysing user income data. Fraud alerts: Advanced AI models flag unusual transactions — ideal for preventing unauthorised spending. These

Dhabi, planning for kids' education, or facing unexpected events demands human expertise. No emotional support: AI doesn't offer empathy during financial stress or market volatility.

Ethical blind spots: Algorithms depend on past data, not moral or cultural judgement—potentially misaligned with ethical investing.

AI finance tools are gaining adoption—from Dubai millennials to Abu Dhabi SMEs—eager for convenience. In Forbes' recent survey, using AI for finance was the second-most popular use case, after simple queries. Some innovative apps even gamify budgeting with progress bars, automated savings transfers, and smart AI alerts—bringing a fresh, engaging twist to managing money in the UAE.

In short—AI can guide your daily dirham decisions, but for the roadmap to your future, you still need a trusted human partner.



### AI really replace a human financial advisor?

Automated budgeting, expense tracking: AI tools categorise UAE dirham spending, track bills, subscriptions and help set basic budgets. Smart financial nudges: Automated reminders for payments, portfolio checks, and basic calculations streamline

tools excel at fast data processing, trend spotting, and helping users cut back on unnecessary expenses or subscriptions.

No tailored advice: AI lacks emotional insight and personal context—crucial for UAE expats or those with family-based financial goals. Poor at complex scenarios: Buying a villa in Abu

## Is a partner liable for a bounced cheque?

**I am a Dubai resident and a partner in a LLC company. There are three other partners. The company recently incurred huge losses due to the manager's actions. He issued cheques to customers — signed by him — without checking whether there were sufficient funds in the company's bank account to cover these payments. As a result, the cheques bounced. One customer contacted me and threatened to inform the police if he does not receive payment. He said he will give my name and contact number to the police. According to UAE Commercial Law, am I responsible for the bounced cheque? Am I obliged to pay the customer from my pocket in the absence of funds in the company's account?**

According to the law, the questioner cannot be held criminally liable for the cheque as long as he has not signed it. The threat by the cheque-holder has no basis, and the police will not summon the questioner in this regard. The criminal liability shall be borne by the individual who signed the cheque. In case the case is forwarded to the civil court, the questioner's private funds have no bearing on the value of the cheque. Its value shall be realised only through the assets of the company. However, I would like to point out an important issue. If the collapse of the company results from fraud and deception by the partners to obtain the people's money unjustly, then the public prosecution may step in upon the creditors' request and the case may take another direction.

## Gratuity dispute

**I am a resident of Dubai. I have submitted my resignation after working in a company for more than six years. My employment contract is for an unlimited period. My company is calculating my end-of-service gratuity on the basis of 21 days for each year. The company informed me that I am not entitled to more than that on the grounds that I have chosen to resign. What does the UAE Labour Law say about this issue?**

Article 137 of the UAE Labour Law provides for the following: "Where a worker who is bound by a contract of unlimited duration leaves his work of his own accord after continuous service of not less than one year and not more three years, he shall be entitled to one-third of severance pay provided for in the preceding article; where the continuous period of service exceeds three years, but does not exceed five years, he shall be entitled to two-third of such severance pay; where the continuous period of service exceeds five years, he shall be entitled to the full severance pay."

## Post-dated cheques

**I am a resident of Sharjah. I rented a warehouse in the emirate for the purpose of carpentry work last year. I signed a tenancy contract for three years and paid the rent through post-dated cheques for three years. Currently, my business is losing money and I am no longer able to afford the rent. I requested the landlord to terminate the tenancy contract and return the cheques given to him. He refused and asked me to honour the contract until its expiry date. As per him the tenancy**

**contract is an obligation for both parties. How do I get out of this problem? Do I have the right to file a case before the Sharjah Rent Committee demanding the termination of contract considering that I cannot pay the rent? The remaining cheques will be returned by the bank because of insufficient balance in my account. What does the the Sharjah rent law say on this issue?**

The questioner should send a two-month notice to the landlord informing him that he is facing a financial problem in his business and wishes to

terminate the contract after two months from the date of the notice. In case an amicable settlement cannot be reached with the landlord, the complaint will be forwarded to the rental court. The court may terminate the tenancy contract after taking into account the circumstances of the questioner, especially his financial problem.

Further, the competent court might direct the questioner to pay rent to the landlord for two months only. Thus the court may decide to terminate the contract and return the questioner's cheques.



# Govt aims to raise share of tourism to 10pc of GDP

**NEW DELHI:** Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said India is aiming to align the share of tourism in the country's GDP to global benchmarks. Shekhawat said the government is targeting to increase the share of tourism to 10pc of the GDP by 2030.



**Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.**

"Our vision is to enhance the tourism sector's contribution to GDP to 10pc by 2030. India is progressing economically, and the perception of

tourism has changed significantly since Covid-19. We are working with the states towards experien-

tial tourism," Shekhawat said in his address during a session on India's Soft Power: Catalysing Global Ascendancy at the CII Annual Business Summit on Friday in New Delhi.

Shekhawat highlighted that India's rising stature on the global stage is a result of renewed national pride and a transformed

self-image. With its deep-rooted cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and spiritual depth, India has historically been a global centre for knowledge and wisdom—and is now reclaiming that position with confidence.

Speaking on India's soft power, Sanjay Jaju, secretary, Ministry of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting, underscored India's unique civilisational journey and its diverse cultural expressions and stressed on how ancient legacies like the Natya Shastra and vedas, along with storytelling epics, music and mudras, are continuing to shape India's vibrant creative economy.

## Air India's revised flight schedule

**MUMBAI:** As part of the revised schedule, Air India will resume its thrice-weekly service between Ahmedabad and London Heathrow from August 1 to Sept 30.

Air India announced a partial restoration of its international flight operations, which had been scaled back following the June 12, Ahmedabad plane crash involving flight AI171. As part of the revised schedule, the airline will resume its thrice-weekly service between Ahmedabad and London Heathrow from Aug 1 to Sept 30. This move will temporarily replace the existing five-times-a-week service on the Ahmedabad–London Gatwick route.

## Ex-Kerala CM Achuthanandan passes away at 101

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** A dominant figure in Kerala politics for several decades and a founding member of the CPI(M), former chief minister Velikkakathu Sankaran Achuthanandan, popularly known as Comrade VS or **Salary requirements for UK work...**

**(Cont. from page-2)**

Changes to the Immigration Rules, under which occupations below RQF level- 6 continue to be eligible for the Skilled Worker route where they appear on either: an expanded Immigration salary list, containing the existing entries plus occupations at RQF levels 3-5, which the MAC identified as being in shortage in its 2023 review and 2024 rapid review



just VS, died at a hospital here on Monday. He was 101 years old.

He had been staying away from public life since 2019, when he suffered a stroke. A month back, he was admitted to a hospital following a cardiac arrest, and had been on life support system since then.

Achuthanandan was one of the 32 leaders of the undivided Communist Party of India to walk out in 1964 and form the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

**MUSCAT:** The Ministry of Labour has announced that from Sept 1, 2025, obtaining a Professional Classification Certificate in accounting, finance and auditing will be a mandatory requirement for the issuance and renewal of work permits for all individuals employed in relevant positions.

Accordingly, all current employees in this field, as well as any individuals to be employed in the future, must obtain this certificate from the Sector Skills Unit for Accounting, Finance, and Auditing.

The ministry will only issue work permits upon submission of the approved certificate, under the specified roles. Work permits will not be issued after the aforementioned date without the required certificate. All establishments are urged to ensure compliance and take the necessary actions for implementation.

List of occupations requiring professional classification in the accounting, finance and auditing sector:

- 1 Accounts Technician,
- 2 Assistant External Au-

- ditor, 3 Assistant Internal Auditor, 4 Internal Auditor, 5 External Auditor, 6 Cost Accountant, 7 Credit Analyst, 8 Financial Analyst, 9 Accounts Manager, 10 Tax Manager, 11 Chief Financial Officer (CFO), 12 External Audit Manager, 13 Internal Audit Manager, 14 Senior Internal Audit Manager, 15 Financial Controller, 16 Senior External Audit Manager, 17 Head of Internal Audit Department, 18 Chief Financial Officer (CFO), 19 External Audit Partner and 20 Chief Audit Executive (CAE),

## Bogus job agents cheat Punjabi youth

**JALANDHAR:** Illegal job agents are again on the prowl in Punjab. Balwinder Singh (25) from Baja village in Kapurthala miraculously escaped from the clutches of a notorious Colombian gang after being held hostage in jungle camps for nearly five months.

Balwinder's family said they paid Rs 28 lakh to four agents from Amritpur to send him to the US in 2024. However, the agents allegedly trafficked him through Mumbai and multiple countries, eventually handing him over to a Colombian gang. Held captive along with four other youths from Punjab and Haryana, Balwinder was subjected to inhuman conditions. According to

the family, three of the youths were tortured to death, with videos of the brutalities circulated to extort more money from their families.

The criminals reportedly suffocated victims using plastic bags, burned them with metal rods, poured melted plastic on them, and inflicted deep cuts using blades. Balwinder, who was confined nearby, heard the screams of those being tortured. Balwinder managed to escape. He trekked nearly 600 km through dangerous terrain before reaching a Colombian city and contacted his family after five months of silence.

His mother Shinder Kaur said the family had sold their three-acre land



and house to arrange funds for the journey. "His father is chronically ill but forced to work as a daily wager. We live in a rented accommodation. We just want Balwinder home safely." The family approached Rajya Sabha MP Balbir Singh Seechewal, currently in Canada, who escalated the matter to the Ministry of External Affairs and contacted the Indian embassy in Colombia for Balwinder's safe repatriation.