



**KUWAIT NATIONAL DAY & LIBERATION DAY SUPPLEMENT**

**OVERSEAS JOBS ON PAGE 3**

PUBLISHED ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

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# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MUMBAI: TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY, 2026 • VOL. NO. 3 • Issue No. 7 • DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 6 PAGES SUPPLEMENT+ 6 PAGES

**25th AND 26th  
FEBRUARY**

# KUWAIT NATIONAL DAY & LIBERATION DAY 2026



**HH Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah  
Emir of Kuwait**



**HH Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah  
Prime Minister of Kuwait**



**H.E. Emad Abdulaziz Al Kharaz  
Consul Gneral of Kuwait, Mumbai**



**Congratulations & Best Wishes on the Occasion of  
65th National Day & 35th Liberation Day  
of the State of Kuwait**



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

On the occasion of the 65th National Day and the 35th Anniversary of the Liberation of the State of Kuwait, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, His Excellency Emad Abdulaziz Al Kharaz, Consul General of Kuwait, Mumbai and to the people of Kuwait.

Kuwait stands as a symbol of resilience, progress and visionary leadership. The IPEPCIL fraternity proudly values the strong and historic friendship between India and Kuwait. The Indian community in Kuwait continues to play a vital role in strengthening these enduring bonds.

On this proud occasion, we celebrate Kuwait's achievements and look forward to a future of shared prosperity and deeper co-operation.

Warm congratulations to the leadership and people of Kuwait.



V.S. ABDULKAREEM  
PRESIDENT - IPEPCIL

# Kuwait National Day down the memory line

The Kuwait National Day is celebrated on Feb 25 every year. This special holiday commemorates the day that HH Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah became the ruler of Kuwait in 1950. Al-Sabah was an exceptional leader. During his reign, he signed a treaty that secured Kuwait's independence from Britain, putting an end to its status as a British protectorate in 1961. It was also during Al-Sabah's rule that the Constitution of Kuwait and Parliament of Kuwait were formally established.

The first celebrations were held in 1963. People in Kuwait celebrate this day by going to different places, watching fireworks at night, hanging out with friends and more. People decorate their houses with colorful lights, flags and even candles are lit at dinner time. The historical places like Kuwait National

Museum, Al Bahhar Entertainment Historical Village, Mirror House, and Kuwait Towers are decorated with light. Flags are hoisted in buildings and displayed in public spaces. The streets are alive to the early hours of the next morning each year. National Day is a public holiday in Kuwait.

In the early 17th century, Kuwait was established as a small fishing village with a tiny population. By the end of the 18th century, Kuwait began to flourish and it became a major trading and boat building site. In 1756, the Al-Sabah family assumed power to rule Kuwait. Kuwait became independent in 1961 and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah from the Al-Sabah family became emperor — this event is celebrated as National Day in Kuwait. The British protected the country against the invasion by

the Turks in the same year. Officially known as the "State of Kuwait", Kuwait is a country located in Western Asia. It shares borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia, as well as a maritime border with Iran. Home to



**Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**

the world's sixth-largest oil reserves, Kuwait is the fifth richest country in the world. Its currency, the "Dinar", is the most valued currency in the entire world.

Kuwait National Day is always celebrated with pomp and excitement.

Public events are held, as people gather in parks, restaurants, beaches and on the streets to commemorate the beautiful day. On the streets of Kuwait, the country's national flag is displayed with pride and

proved the development plans that will be built to promote Kuwait as a global financial and commercial centre. These projects are supposed to bring investment and income resources for the citizens. Along with this, the Emir is working tirelessly to build the nation's unity and solidarity among the people. Thus far, Kuwait has emerged as a fair, just and tolerant nation. From the day of its independence, Kuwait has made great progress and achieved prosperity. Normally, most countries celebrate their national day on the same date they gained independence. For Kuwait, it would mean that National Day is celebrated on June 19, marking the date of independence in 1961. However, the first National Day holiday actually took place on this date in 1962.

official receptions are organised by embassies, consulates and permanent missions. The Emir of Kuwait is working very hard to make the country a major economic port and a thriving democracy. He has ap-

## 25th AND 26th FEBRUARY 2026

# KUWAIT NATIONAL DAY & LIBERATION DAY



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# 25th-26th February 2026

# KUWAIT

# NATIONAL DAY

# & LIBERATION DAY



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## India-Kuwait economic, commercial ties

India and Kuwait enjoy traditionally friendly relations which are rooted in history and have stood the test of time. Geographic proximity, historical trade links, cultural affinities and presence of large number of Indian nationals in Kuwait continue to sustain and nurture this long-standing relationship. India has been a natural trading partner of Kuwait and until 1961 Indian

Rupee was the legal tender in Kuwait. Till the discovery and development of oil, Kuwait's economy revolved around its fine harbour and maritime activities which included ship building, pearl diving, fishing and voyages to India on wooden dhows carrying dates, Arabian horses and pearls that were traded for wood, cereals, clothing and spices.

Kuwait is a petro-



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Indians in Kuwait City.**

leum-based economy, with estimated crude oil reserves of 101.5 billion barrels (about six per cent of world reserves), and proven natural gas reserves of 1,784 billion cubic metres (about 63 trillion cubic feet). Oil revenues constitute the main source of income and amount to approximately 94 pc of the state's revenues. Kuwait offers an open, competitive and affluent market for consumer goods and project exports, the fourth largest amongst the GCC countries after the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The country has a Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) of about US\$1 trillion, which

is managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA).

Historically, India-Kuwait relations have always had an important trade dimension. India has con-

### PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES

Major Indian companies having presence in Kuwait include EPCs such as L&T, Shapoorji Pallonji, Kalpataru Power Transmission, Afcons, KEC International as well as IT/ITES firms including Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) and Tech Mahindra. Indian EPCs have been executing projects in various sectors in Kuwait, some details follows:

L&T is an Indian multinational engaged in EPC Projects, Hi-Tech Manufac-

turing and Services. It operates in over 50 countries worldwide, including extensive experience in the GCC. A strong, customer-focused approach and the constant quest for top-class quality have enabled L&T to attain and sustain leadership in its major lines of business for over eight decades. The company is present in the oil & gas, power and electricity and Infrastructure sectors in Kuwait.

### INDIAN PSUs IN KUWAIT

Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) has significant presence in Kuwait since 1980. TCIL is one of the key contractors for the Ministry of Communication, as well as other ministries, departments and oil and gas companies. LIC International started operations in Kuwait in 1996.

New India Assurance Company has been present in Kuwait since 1953

and provides insurance solutions for motor vehicles, commercial properties, house and contents as well as construction and engineering insurance, employer's liability, carrier's liability and public liability etc. Oriental Insurance Company began operations in Kuwait in 1959 and offers motor, marine and general insurance covers for personal and corporate clients.



*Congratulations & Best Wishes  
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National Day & Liberation Day  
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**25th-26th February 2026**

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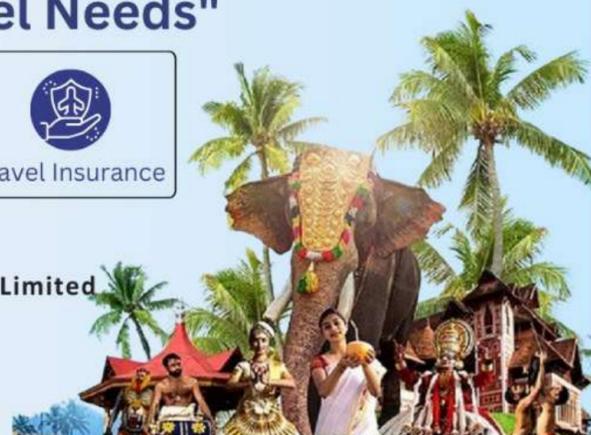
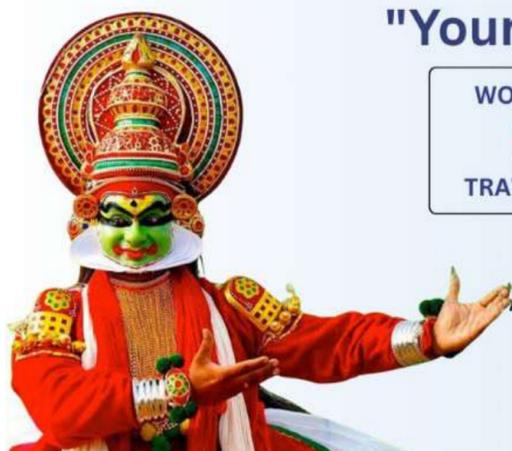
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# GLIMPSES OF KUWAIT NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED IN MUMBAI





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**DUBAI:** UAE residents planning an Eid Al Fitr getaway are facing airfares that have nearly doubled from Feb levels, with travel agents saying prices are also 15 to 20pc higher than last Eid.

India is also a key market, with many in the business community taking a five-day leave and combining Eid with school holidays. Tour operators have blocked seats for multiple destinations as part of Eid packages.

From Dubai, return tickets to London cost Dh4,075. Off-season fares to the UK capital are currently available for Dh1,837. Fares to Lisbon are Dh4,674, while

fares to Osaka stand at Dh7,995. Tickets to Almaty are Dh2,901, to Bangkok Dh4,005, and to Phuket Dh4,855.

From Abu Dhabi, return fares to Amsterdam are Dh2,730, London Dh4,090, Zurich Dh3,890, Berlin Dh3,310 and Saint Petersburg Dh3,505. Travel agents say demand has been building up since early Jan, with many residents locking in tentative travel dates between March 19 and March 28 to maximise the break.

Raheesh Babu, COO of

## Eid airfares from UAE nearly double as demand surges



Musafir.com, said Japan is seeing huge demand during the cherry blossom season towards the end of March. "Japan is seeing huge demand because of the cherry blossom season at the end of March. How-

ever, visa appointment delays are still an issue," he said. He added that Japan is comparatively more expensive this Eid. "There is great demand. Compared with other destinations, Japan is slightly more ex-

pensive — about 20pc higher. Packages are ranging between Dh11,000 and Dh12,000 during the cherry blossom season."

Babu said Europe is also seeing strong interest, particularly in Switzerland, Paris and the Netherlands, although Schengen visa appointment delays continue. "Normal packages to Switzerland, Paris and the Netherlands are also seeing high demand. Schengen visa appointments for genuine tourists are getting

( Cont. on page - 2 )

## Coimbatore airport expansion to be completed by 2028

**COIMBATORE:** Union Aviation Minister Rammo-han Naidu said that the central government is working to establish two new small airports in Tamil Nadu at Neyveli and Vellore.

"These two are small airports with short runways. For Neyveli, most of

the work is done, and the project has been submitted for licensing to the DGCA. Once the DGCA grants approval, operations can begin. At Vellore, the boundary wall construction is expected to be completed by the end of Feb 2026, after which the airport can

proceed toward operational readiness," he said.

Naidu, along with Union ministers L Murugan and Muralidhar Mohol, inaugurated various passenger-centric initiatives, including the UDAAN Yatri café and Digi Yatra gates at Coimbatore airport.

Addressing Coimbatore Airport's expansion, he said the prime minister has a special focus on the city as Coimbatore is one of India's fastest-growing urban centres. "Earlier delays were caused by challenges in land allocation by the state government, which has been addressed now. The new terminal will grow from the current 18,000 sq metres to 75,000 sq metres, with a projected annual passenger footfall of up to 1.5 crore in the next 20 years. The project carries a budget of Rs 2,100 crore and targets completion by the end of 2028."

The minister also stressed the need for better international links, especial-

( Cont. on page - 2 )



FlyCreative Online Limited CMD VS Abdulkareem with Ambassador of Finland to India His Excellency Kimmo Lahdevirta and Sanjay Awasti of IOM.

## India-Finland-EU workshop charts path for ethical recruitment

**NEW DELHI:** A multi-stakeholder workshop on Ethical and Transparent Recruitment was jointly hosted by International Organization for Migration (IOM) India and Business Finland, bringing together key stakeholders across the India-Finland-EU recruitment corri-

dor. The workshop saw participation from employers, recruitment agencies, skill development and training institutions, government bodies and civil society organisations, aiming to build a shared understanding of fair recruitment practices. ( Cont. on page - 2 )

## Forex reserves hit all-time high

**MUMBAI:** India's foreign exchange reserves climbed by \$8.66 billion in the week ended Feb 13, 2026, pushing the total reserves to a record \$725.7 billion.

The rise was led by an increase in foreign currency assets (FCAs), which surged by \$6.94 billion during the week. FCAs, the largest component of the reserves, reached \$650.8 ( Cont. on page - 2 )



# Kuwait plans freelance visa

**KUWAIT CITY:** Kuwait is moving towards introducing a regulated freelance visa, as part of an effort to overhaul its labour market and curb the long-standing trade in residency permits.

The proposal, announced by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Al Yousef during a recent meeting with private sector representatives, would allow expatriates to work independently without a traditional sponsor, under a structured and legally supervised framework.

Authorities say the move is intended to address per-

sistent challenges linked to unregulated labour, residency brokerage and inflated daily wages in certain low-skilled professions, where workers are sometimes paid more than KD25 per day for basic services.

Critics of the current system argue that weak oversight has contributed to inconsistent service standards and limited accountability, while supporters believe the new approach could improve transparency, protect workers from exploitation and raise

quality.

According to preliminary guidelines, the first phase of the scheme would focus on simple professions. Annual fees are expected to range between KD750 and KD1,000, subject to renewal and compliance with regulatory requirements. Applicants would be required to register a verified residential address, provide an approved email account, submit clear personal data and meet additional criteria to be announced by the competent authorities.

## Navi Mumbai International Airport launches DigiYatra



**NAVI MUMBAI:** Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) has launched DigiYatra facility, almost

two months after commercial operations began. The private airport operator stated that NMIA was one of five airports in the country to get the civil aviation ministry's DigiYatra system. People who were at the airport could watch the opening ceremony live.

The operator said that three passengers cut the ribbon at the biometric entry points and used the DigiYatra e-gates to mark the occasion. According to a post on X, Navi Mumbai International Airport and five other airports digitally took part in the statewide launch of the ministry of civil aviation's DigiYatra

( Cont. on page - 6 )

## Eid airfares from UAE ...

( Cont. from page - 1 ) pre-blocked. Prices are 15 to 20pc higher than last year's Eid," he added. He noted that unique Far East destinations such as South Korea and Japan are popular with families and couples. Phuket and Krabi in Thailand are also seeing strong bookings due to vi-

sa-on-arrival access. Other hassle-free destinations, such as Georgia, Baku and Almaty, remain attractive. "Last-minute bookings will be costly. It is better to pre-plan.

A lot of people planned with tentative travel dates between March 20 and 27 or 28," he added.



**Santeri Ojala, Head of International Operations, Business Finland, addressing the workshop.**

## India-Finland-EU workshop...

(Cont. from page - 1) es and responsible talent mobility.

With growing demand for skilled Indian professionals in Finland and the wider European Union, discussions focused on ensuring recruitment processes are transparent,

ethical, and cost-effective for workers, while aligning with international labour standards. The initiative marks an important step towards strengthening co-operation and promoting fair, worker-centric mobility between India and Europe.

# Odisha tourism budget gets 25pc hike, new scheme for homestays

**BHUBANESWAR:** The state government will launch a new Odisha Homestay Establishment scheme to promote community-based tourism and also roll out a Tourism Land Bank initiative to meet the growing land requirement for the hospitality sector.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said the scheme would promote community-based tourism by encouraging homestay development across rural and emerging destinations, generating local livelihoods while offering

authentic and immersive experience to visitors.

"The state targets attracting more than five crore domestic and seven lakh foreign tourists and creation of 25,000 hotel keys by 2047. Land has already been identified at 15 priority destinations and is under verification and processing by IDCO. For acquisition of land parcels, payment of premium and development of trunk infrastructure, Rs 150 crore is allocated for 2026-27," Majhi said.

The chief minister said

the state government would also undertake holistic development of riverfronts at Sambalpur and Cuttack on Mahanadi, Bhubaneswar on Daya, Baripada on Budhabalanga and another on Baitarani river on the theme of cultural expression, tourism

( Cont. on page - 6 )

## Coimbatore airport...

( Cont. from page - 1 ) ly to Dubai, Singapore, Southeast Asia and Western countries. "This is a broader challenge shared by many airports and depends on bilateral air service agreements between nations. The government aims to develop more aviation hubs and support Indian carriers to achieve this," he said.

To increase the competition in the aviation sector, the government has approved three new private airlines, he said. Emphasising the importance of expanding the number of carriers and finding ways to link them with aircraft leasing mechanisms to bring more planes into India's aviation ecosystem, he said, currently India operates around 840 planes, but demand exceeds this, with orders pending for 1,700 more planes. Ac-

## Forex reserves hit all-time high

( Cont. from page - 1 ) billion, thus showing underlying strength in external liquidity. Gold reserves also contributed to the uptick, rising by \$1.26 billion to reach around \$45.0 billion. Meanwhile, special drawing rights (SDRs) with IMF edged up by \$237 million and India's reserve position in IMF rose by about \$225 million. The annualised rise in India's foreign exchange reserves comes amid a context of stable capital flows, currency stability and proactive reserve management by the central bank. FCAs, which in-

clude the US dollar, euro, yen, and other currencies, made up the bulk of the overall reserves. At \$650.8 billion, FCAs accounted for roughly 89.7pc of the total reserve stock.

Gold holdings, maintained for diversification and valuation support, stood at about 6.2pc of the total while SDRs and IMF reserve positions combined contributed the remaining share. The rise in reserve levels can help India manage external challenges, including volatile capital flows, import bills and currency pressures.

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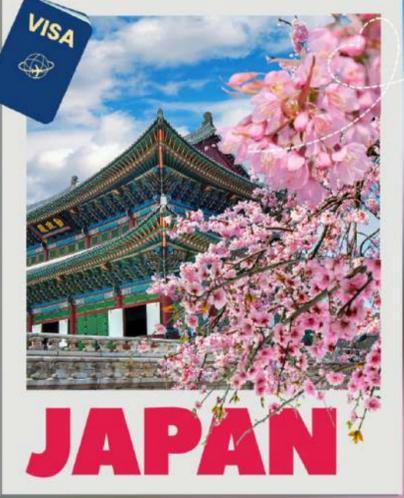
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**FOREX RATES**  
 As on 23rd February 2026 (In rupees)

Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	90.21	91.38
British Pound	121.92	123.61
Euro	106.29	108.53
Japanese Yen	58.44	59.35
Swiss Franc (CHF)	116.31	118.81
Canadian Dollar	65.69	67.15
Australian Dollar	63.61	64.98
Norwegian Krone	9.37	9.64
Swedish Krona	9.89	10.17
New Zealand Dollar	53.72	54.89
Hong Kong Dollar	11.4	11.75
Kuwaiti Dinar	285.2081	302.4808
Singapore Dollar	71.02	72.62
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.74	24.48
U A E Dirham	24.3	25

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## Kerala woman in Sharjah jail returns home

**SHARJAH:** A woman from Kerala has returned home after spending time in detention, following legal intervention co-ordinated by a lawmaker in her hometown and a UAE-based legal services firm. The woman, from Arimpur in Thrissur district, had travelled to Sharjah on a housemaid visa after reportedly paying large sums to an agent. She worked for about two years before her visa expired.

According to Yab Legal Services, the agent later demanded an additional Dh9,000 (approximately Rs 220,000) to renew the visa, an amount she was unable to pay. She subsequently continued working without valid documentation. During this period, her sponsor reportedly filed a

complaint with immigration authorities stating that she had absconded. The woman was later stopped by police while visiting a supermarket to purchase household items and was taken into custody as part of legal proceedings related to her residency status.

After her family filed a missing complaint in India, Manalur Member of the Legislative Assembly MuraliPerunelli intervened in the case and sought assistance from Salam Pappinisseri, CEO of Yab Legal Services. The firm later co-ordinated with authorities and completed the required legal procedures, including securing an out-pass within two days. It also arranged her flight ticket, facilitating her return to India.

## ADVISORY SAYS POSSIBLE US STRIKES

### India asks its citizens to leave Iran

**NEW DELHI:** Indians in Iran have been advised to leave amid possible US strikes in the days to come. In its latest advisory, the embassy of India asked its citizens to "leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights." The advisory applies to everyone in Iran - students, pilgrims, business persons and tourists.

"The Jan 14, 2026 advisory is hereby reiterated that all Indian citizens and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests

or demonstrations, stay in contact with the Indian embassy in Iran and monitor local media for any developments," the advisory read.

Indians in Iran have also been advised to have their travel and immigration documents, including passports and IDs, readily available with them. They are requested to contact the Indian embassy for any assistance.

The Indian embassy has also issued emergency numbers and email: +989128109115; +989128109109;

+989128109102; +989932179359 cons.tehran@mea.gov.in

Indian nationals in Iran are also asked to register with the Indian embassy.

The advisory comes after new anti-government protests erupted in Iran on Saturday following 40-day memorials for people killed in Jan during anti-government rallies.

According to Iran's state news agency, students protested at five universities in the capital, Tehran and one in the city of Mashhad on Sunday.



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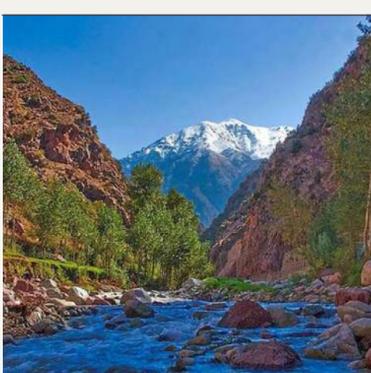
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# GULF FAQs

## Will teenagers get summer jobs in UAE?

**I have two sons aged 16 and 14. During the upcoming summer break I want them to take up temporary jobs. What's the legal way to go about this?**

Pursuant to your query, it is assumed that your minor sons intend to take up employment during the summer vacation with a mainland employer based in the UAE. Therefore, the provisions of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations (the Employment Law), Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the Implementation of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations (the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022) and Administrative Resolution NO. 38 of 2022 Concerning the Guidelines for Implementing Ministerial Resolution No. 46 of 2022 regarding Work Permits, Offer Letter and Employment Contract Forms (the Administrative Resolution No. 38 of 2022

on Work Permits) are applicable.

In the UAE, a minor who is between 15 and 18 years old, with the consent of a parent/guardian, may take up employment once he or she obtains a medical fitness certificate issued

the following:

a. A written consent from the Juvenile's parent or guardian.

b. A certificate of medical fitness for the required work issued by the medical institution.

c. The actual hours of

d. A Juvenile may not be asked to work from 7pm to 7am.

e. A Juvenile shall not be employed on any hazardous or hard work or on any works that are by nature detrimental to health, safety or morals. Such works shall be specified by decision of the minister after co-ordination with the concerned entities.

f. A Juvenile shall not be asked to work overtime and shall not be kept at workplace after the working hours or employed

the Decree-Law and the provisions of this Article, pursuant to the following rules:

a. The institution shall be registered with the government authorities in charge thereof.

b. Its actual and registered objective shall be professional qualification or training or charity, educational or volunteer work."

Further, an employer may grant a minor a "Juvenile Work Permit" upon fulfilling the aforementioned requirements as stipulated by law. This is in accordance with Article 6(1) (g) of the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022, which states, "Subject to the provisions of Article-6 of the Decree-Law, Juvenile permit: This type of permit is issued to a person who has reached 15 years of age but is not over 18 years and is employed at an establishment registered with the Ministry."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, employment of juveniles in the UAE is legally permissible subject to compliance with the employment law and its implementing regulations. Accordingly, your 16-year-old son may undertake temporary employment during the summer break provided that the prospective employer obtains a Juvenile Work Permit from the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization and all statutory conditions are satisfied, including parental/guardian consent, medical fitness certification, prescribed working hours and restrictions on night work and hazardous duties. However, your 14-year-old son does not meet the minimum legal working age and therefore cannot be employed until he is 15-year-old.



by the concerned authority. This is in accordance with Article-5 of the Employment Law, which states: 1. It shall be prohibited to employ any person who has not attained the age of 15.

2. A Juvenile's employment is conditional upon

work shall not exceed six hours a day and shall be intercepted by one or more breaks, which shall amount in aggregate to one hour. Such break(s) shall be arranged such that no juvenile shall work for more than four consecutive hours.

on rest days or official holidays.

3. The Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law shall determine the Juvenile employment regulations and procedures to be observed by employer the works prohibited to juveniles and controls for exemption of entities aiming to provide a professional training to juveniles, including charity, education and training institutions, from certain provisions of this article." However, few of the aforementioned requirements may be exempted if a minor is involved in professional training, volunteer work or educational work by a charitable, educational and training institutions which are recognised by the authorities in the UAE. This is in accordance with Article 4 of the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022, which states, "Charitable, educational and training institutions and the other entities that have the objective of professionally training and qualifying juveniles shall be exempted from some provisions of Article (5) of

### Co refuses post-resignation benefits, what to do?

**I worked for seven years as a manager of a company and resigned nine months ago. In the final settlement, the company promised to pay me Dh40,000 for the three months following the end of my contract if I followed up on any work that the company requested. I did the work for a three-month period, but the company did not pay me the agreed-upon amount. What should I do?**

You are entitled to this remuneration in accordance with the agreement, but the burden to prove that you did the work that the company

requested falls on you.

Every agreement concluded between an employer and a worker, under which the worker agrees to perform services under the employer's supervision and guidance, is considered a bilateral contract, in which the employer is obliged to pay the agreed-upon wage to the worker.

Article-1 of the Labour Law defines a labour contract as every agreement concluded between the employer and worker, under which the latter is committed to working for the employer under his supervision and guidance in consideration of a wage payable by the em-

ployer.

Article 246 of the Civil Transactions Law states that the contract must be fulfilled in accordance with its contents and in a manner consistent with the requirements of good faith. Article-897 of the Civil Transactions Law assures the employee's right to such remuneration.

It states that if the worker is not prohibited to work for another employer or if he is not restricted to a specified time in his work for the employer, he shall not be subject to any contract of employment, but shall be entitled to his remuneration in accordance with the agreement.

## French visa issuance goes online

**NEW DELHI:** Planning a visit to France? Travelers must note that the French government has officially transitioned to a mandatory online visa appointment system for all foreign nationals. The new protocol requires applicants to request and confirm visa slots through official digital channels before visiting a consulate or visa application centre, according to the French government.

This digital-first approach applies to both short-stay Schengen visas and long-stay national visas. Informal booking methods and walk-in appointments have been permanently discontinued

to improve security, transparency and administrative efficiency.

The French embassy, in its official portal, said: "For short-stay visas, if you hold an Indian passport and are born in India, you must submit your application a minimum of five days prior to your scheduled departure.

For long-stay visas, you must submit your application one month prior to your scheduled departure.

What is the new visa appointment rule? France has moved to a fully digital appointment system. Every foreign national who needs a visa must first secure and confirm an online appointment before

visiting a visa centre or consulate. Walk-ins and informal booking routes are no longer accepted.

During the appointment, officials verify the documents and collect the required visa fees. Biometric data, including fingerprints and digital photographs, will be captured unless the applicant has provided such data for a Schengen visa within the previous 59 months.

French authorities have also warned applicants against using unofficial agents or websites promising "guaranteed" or "expedited" appointments for a fee. All legitimate bookings must be made through official government platforms.

## India Inc salary hike projected at 9.1pc

**NEW DELHI:** Salary increments in India are expected to rise by 9.1pc in 2026, as companies increasingly shift towards skill-based pay frameworks and sharper performance-linked rewards, according to an EY India report published on Monday. The projected growth reflects a slight decline from 9.3pc growth in 2025.

The report, titled "Future of Pay", stated that the global capability centres (GCCs) are expected to record the highest salary growth at 10.4 pc, driven by sustained global demand and investments in specialised digital skills. Financial services are pro-

jected to see increments of around 10 pc, followed by e-commerce at 9.9pc and lifesciences and pharma at 9.7pc, the report said.

The report also noted that overall attrition declined to 16.4 pc in 2025 from 17.5pc a year earlier. The decline, the report said, is consistent with a cooling labour market, where employee risk appetite has reduced.

Who's leaving? According to the report, over 80pc of exits were voluntary, indicating that attrition is "largely employee-driven and opportunity-led" rather than driven by "restructuring or forced separations".

## IndiGo appoints Rikhye as head of Operations

**MUMBAI:** The country's largest airline operator, IndiGo, has appointed Rohit Rikhye as the head of the Operations Control Centre (OCC). Rikhye will take over the charge from Jason Herter, who has been removed from the position in view of the December flight crisis.

However, the publicly listed aviation firm has not filed any letter with the stock exchanges about the decision. The decision to remove Herter has come after the civil aviation regulator DGCA recently asked the airline to take action against the OCC head.. The regulator had also asked the company not to

appoint Herter to any significant position in the future. According to sources, Rikhye was considered the most suitable candidate for the responsibility, as he has prior experience handling duty rosters.

## Japan to ban in-flight use of power banks from April

**TOKYO:** Japan's transport ministry has notified airlines that it will ban the use of power banks on airplanes from April after a series of incidents in which mobile batteries caught fire on flights, a source said.

The ban will not be limited to using power banks

## Modi to inaugurate Noida airport

**LUCKNOW:** UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on shared that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Noida International Airport in Jewar in March. Adityanath made the statement during an interaction with the Indian diaspora in Singapore.

"PM Modi will inaugurate Noida International Airport, Jewar, next month. This is about to be the largest airport in India," CM Adityanath said.

Highlighting the state's aviation infrastructure, CM Yogi said UP currently has the highest number of airports in the country. The Noida international airport at Jewar is expected to serve as a major passenger and cargo hub for the region once operational. Earlier in the day, Yogi reviewed a comprehensive presentation on skill de-



velopment and vocational training at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) in Singapore and witnessed the signing of key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen collaboration in technical education and aviation skills.

## Odisha tourism budget...

( Cont. from page - 2 ) ism development, climate resilience and livelihood for locals at an investment of Rs 500 crore. A provision of Rs 100 crore has been made from H&UD department budget and Rs 80 crore from Water Resources budget this year.

He also announced a Marine Aquarium and an international cruise termi-

nal at Puri, costing Rs 500 crore to boost tourism and global connectivity. Majhi said the government is also completing pending works under the ABHADA, Samalei, Ekamra and other temple and heritage development projects. Majhi said a state-of-the-art museum is proposed in Bhubaneswar with an estimated cost of Rs 800 crore.

to charge smartphones but will also extend to charging them via on-board power outlets. The ministry of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism has decided to strengthen its measures after urging travellers since July not to stow power banks in overhead compartments and to keep them within reach during flights. Lithium-ion batteries, commonly used in power banks, can ignite upon physical impact or due to gradual degradation, according to the ministry.

Mobile batteries are currently not allowed in checked baggage, and there are limits on the number and capacity permitted in carry-on luggage.

## Navi Mumbai International Airport launches DigiYatra

( Cont. from page - 2 ) programme. Passengers at NMAI watched the event in real time on a life-size screen.

DigiYatra uses facial recognition technology at airport checkpoints to process passengers without touching them or using paper. NMAI says that it includes measures to protect data privacy and security while also reducing wait times. The civil aviation minis-

ter's project aims to make flying easier. It uses facial biometrics as a digital ID to confirm a passenger's identity, travel information and other important details in order to speed up check-in and boarding. Some benefits of Digi Yatra are easy access to the airport terminal, faster check-in and boarding, paperless travel at the airport and the ability to register once for domestic flights.