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Indian Ambassador in Kuwait presents her credentials

KUWAIT CITY: Ambassador of India to Kuwait Her Excellency Paramita Tripathi, presented her credentials to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait, in a formal ceremony at the Bayan Palace in Kuwait city. Prior to the ceremony, the ambassador was accorded a Guard of Honour. Ambassador Tripathi is the 20th and the first woman ambas-

sador of India to Kuwait. His Highness the Amir warmly welcomed the ambassador and conveyed his best wishes for her success in fulfilling her responsibilities. He also underscored the historic and friendly relations between India and Kuwait, highlighting strong civilizational ties and vibrant people-to-people connections.

He reaffirmed the high importance attached by

Kuwait interest to the enhancement of bilateral co-operation in areas of mutual interest.

During the audience, Ambassador Tripathi conveyed the warm greetings and best wishes from President Draupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the 1.4 billion people of India. She reaffirmed the special relationship with Kuwait as a trusted friend, a respected voice in the



Ambassador of India to Kuwait Her Excellency Paramita Tripathi presented her credentials to Amir of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Gulf and as an important member of the GCC. of the current regional situation and reiterated

The Ambassador expressed India's solidarity with Kuwait in light of India's unequivocal support for peace and stability. (Cont. on page - 2)

Baku Travel & Tourism partners with FlyCreative Global Holidays-India to Drive B2B Growth

BAKU (Azerbaijan): Marking 15 years of excellence in Azerbaijan's tourism sector, Baku Travel & Tourism has announced a strategic representation partnership with FlyCreative Global Holidays (A Division of FlyCreative Online Limited) to expand its Destination Management Company (DMC) services across the Indian market.

This milestone reflects Baku Travel & Tourism's evolution into a trusted DMC, known for delivering curated, high-quality tourism solutions, while actively positioning Azerbaijan as a growing global destination.

The newly established collaboration with FlyCreative-India is aimed at strengthening B2B engagement, enabling seamless access for Indian travel trade partners and enhancing destination visibility among India's outbound travel segment.

The partnership will focus on structured trade outreach, customised itiner-



VS Abdulkareem, Founder & CMD, FlyCreative Online Limited and Aziz Siriev, CEO of Baku Travel & Tourism.



aries and efficient ground-handling services tailored to the Indian market. Commenting on the development, the CEO of Baku Travel & Tourism, Aziz Siriev, said: "Our 15-year journey has been built on trust, quality and meaningful partnerships. India is a key growth market and through this collaboration, we aim to deliver greater value and accessibility to our trade partners." Backed by a strong network of a global alliances (Cont. on page - 2)



Akasa Air to launch direct Mumbai-Hanoi flights

MUMBAI: Akasa Air is to launch direct flights between Mumbai and Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, marking its seventh international destination and a significant push into South-east Asia's high-demand travel corridor.

The airline will operate

four weekly non-stop flights starting Sept 4, 2026, with bookings already open on its website, mobile apps and leading online travel platforms. The move is expected to strengthen both tourism and business links between India and Vietnam.



The expansion comes amid a sharp rise in outbound travel from India to Southeast Asia, with Vietnam emerging as a preferred short-haul destina-

tion due to its accessibility, cultural appeal and competitive pricing. Industry data indicates growing demand for direct connectivity, particularly from metro cities as Indian travellers increasingly opt for international leisure breaks.

(Cont. on page - 2)



From chips to ships

India-Korea relationship goes back to several centuries though formal diplomatic ties were established only in 1973. Both the countries have since upgraded their ties to a "Special Strategic Partnership," officially recognised in 2015. After the Korean war, South and North Korea became two separate entities --- south a free economy largely supported by the US and north a communist country helped by Russia and China.

According to the 13th-century Korean text Samguk Yusa, Princess Suriratna from Ayodhya (India) travelled to Korea in 48 AD, married King Kim Suro of the Gaya Confederacy and became Queen Heo Hwang-ok. Even today, many Koreans trace their ancestry to this union and Ayodhya is visited by a large number of Koreans. Rabindranath Tagore wrote a famous poem dedicated to Korea titled "Lamp of the East". During President Lee Jae-Myung's visit this week, India and South Korea deepened their strategic ties. They agreed to enhance defence co-operation (South Korea is facing a grave threat from North Korea on one said and China on the other), focusing on anti-aircraft systems, co-development and technology transfer. A comprehensive framework for shipbuilding, including a new greenfield shipyard and skill training, was also established. Already, Korean automobile industry is flourishing in India.

During President Lee Jae-Myung's visit, both the countries are focused more on exchanging defence technology. India is looking at different kinds of anti-aircraft missile systems and other military hardware, including co-development and technology transfer with South Korea, after Prime Minister Modi held bilateral talks with the South Korean President.

Again the two leaders agreed to discuss the establishment of a Korea-India Defence Accelerator to support defence startups as New Delhi and Seoul focus on deepening their strategic and commercial relationship. Lee Jae-Myung's visit to India comes amidst the West Asia conflict and North Korea testing a number of missile systems last week, heightening the situation across the Korean peninsula. Like its neighbour Japan, South Korea is a technically highly advanced country with massive family-owned conglomerates known as "chaebols" led by Samsung, SK Group, Hyundai Motor and LG. Samsung is the largest by market capitalisation, often followed by SK Hynix, LG Energy Solution and Hyundai Motor. These firms dominate global markets in technology, automobiles and energy storage.

India and South Korea are looking to deepen economic ties, with industry leaders highlighting strong opportunities in technology, manufacturing and supply chain integration. At the India-Korea Business Forum, leaders pointed to India's reform momentum and Korea's advanced tech capabilities as a powerful combination. From semiconductors to digital ecosystems, both sides see long-term collaboration driving trade, investment, and innovation in a shifting global landscape.

Modi and President Lee Jae Myung expanded the co-operation across energy, critical minerals, shipbuilding, semiconductors and steel, set a target to double bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030 and announced Seoul's entry into the International Solar Alliance and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. The two sides also agreed to resume stalled negotiations to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), with the next round scheduled for May.

Amid global tensions, Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung Pitched their ties as a "message of peace and stability". Modi correctly said the co-operation would expand "from chips to ships". That sums up India-South Korea friendship.

Editorial
By El. Vaidyanathan

Indian Ambassador in Kuwait...

(Cont. from page - 1)
ity. She conveyed India's commitment to continued engagement with Kuwait in advancing shared objectives.

The ambassador expressed appreciation for the continued support extended to the Indian community in Kuwait, which serves as a living bridge between the two nations. She highlighted the shared commitment of both countries to further strengthen the India-Kuwait strategic partnership by deepening co-operation across key sectors, including trade and investment, defence and security, energy and healthcare, science and technology, innovation and skill, and people-to-people ties.

The ambassador emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration on regional and global issues of mutual interest, underscoring the shared commitment of both countries to rule of law, international law and the UN.

India and Kuwait enjoy historically close and friendly relations, underpinned by strong historical and economic ties, geographic proximity, cultural affinity, and deep-rooted people-to-people connections.

Oman-UAE rail project is 40pc complete now

MUSCAT: Hafeet Rail Company (Hafeet Rail), a joint venture project between Etihad Rail, Oman Rail and Mubadala Investment, has announced the completion of 40pc of the total work of the railway project between the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, one of the most prominent joint strategic projects in the field of in-

frastructure, transportation, and logistics in the region.

The project covers a distance of 238 km and is aimed at developing a transportation system that will contribute to deepening the economic integration between the two countries.

Construction work is continuing at an accelerated pace at several strategic locations along the routes, such as Al Ain, Buraimi, Wadi al Jazi and Suhar. The route passes through urban and industrial areas, mountainous terrain and deep valleys, which requires specialised engineering solutions that include large-scale excavation and the implementation of large engineering facilities such as bridges

(Cont. on page - 6)

Akasa Air to launch...

(Cont. from page - 1)
Akasa Air said the new route is part of its broader strategy to build a strong international network linking India with key global destinations. Hanoi, known for its historic architecture, centuries-old heritage and globally recognised cuisine, has seen a steady surge in Indian footfall over the past few years.

Anand Srinivasan, Co-Founder and CEO of Akasa Air, said the launch underlines the airline's focus on expanding into high-growth markets. He noted that Vietnam has become one of the most attractive destinations for Indian travellers and direct connectivity is expected to further accelerate travel demand.

Baku Travel & Tourism partners...

(Cont. from page - 1)
and commitment to innovation and digital integration, Baku Travel & Tourism continues to reinforce its position as a preferred

DMC partner for international markets.

This strategic move signals a forward-looking approach to deepen bilateral tourism flows and unlock

new opportunities for collaboration between AZERBAIJAN and INDIA, said VS Abdulkareem, Founder & CMD, Flycreative Online Limited.



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British Pound	126.14	127.91
Euro	109.07	111.4
Japanese Yen	58.65	59.58
Swiss Franc (CHF)	118.55	121.19
Canadian Dollar	68.09	69.63
Australian Dollar	66.6	68.05
Norwegian Krone	9.92	10.23
Swedish Krona	10.01	10.3
New Zealand Dollar	54.75	55.97
Hong Kong Dollar	11.79	12.15
Kuwaiti Dinar	311.1	291.1261
Singapore Dollar	72.94	74.6
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Pay panel hikes minimum salary to Rs 69,000

NEW DELHI: The National Council (Joint Consultative Machinery) has proposed major salary reforms under the eighth Pay Commission, including Rs 69,000 minimum pay and 3.83 fitment factor. The plan focuses on inflation-linked wages, higher increments and simplified pay structures for central government employees and pensioners.

The NCJCM has recommended a minimum basic salary of Rs 69,000 per month. This figure is based on rising inflation, retail prices and the cost of supporting a family of five. The goal is to ensure employees can meet essential living expenses comfortably.

A key demand is a uniform fitment factor of 3.83, which will be used to revise both salaries and pensions. In addition, the annual increment rate is proposed to be increased from three per cent to six per cent, helping employees see faster income growth over time.

The proposal also focuses on reducing complexity in the pay system. Several pay levels may be merged—for example, Levels 2 and 3 into Level 3 and Levels 9 and 10 into Level 10. A one-time upgrade has also been suggested for Level 5 employees. A simplified pay matrix up to Level 13 is expected to make administration easier.

There was no snag, only adverse weather, clarifies FLY91 about Hubballi flight

MUMBAI: FLY91 has clarified on some "fake and highly sensationalized" news that went viral about FLY91 flight IC3401 (Hyderabad–Hubballi) on April 19. "We would like to be clear that there was no technical snag and no safety issue at any point, as incorrectly reported by some sections", the airlines said.

The flight departed from Hyderabad at 15:14. As it approached Hubballi, the crew was cleared for an ILS approach to Runway 26. During the final approach, the aircraft encountered moderate turbulence. In line with standard safety procedures, the crew decided to abort the landing and got into a holding pattern. Despite holding and repositioning (including

moving west of the airfield The airlines pointed out



and climbing to 7000 ft to avoid weather), conditions to land remained unfavourable, with turbulence and strong crosswinds reported.

The flight held for 70 minutes hoping for the weather to clear and then in co-ordination with ATC, the decision was taken to divert it to Bengaluru. The flight landed safely at 18:42 hrs (three hours and 28 minutes). It later operated back to Hubballi and onward to Hyderabad without any issues.

that it's important to understand that go-arounds and diversions are not failures—they are clear indicators that safety systems and pilot decision-making are working exactly as they should.

During the pre-monsoon period, this is very common and diversions happen across airlines on a near-daily basis." We were not the only aircraft affected at that time and two other aircraft in the vicinity had to hold/divert", the airlines clarified.



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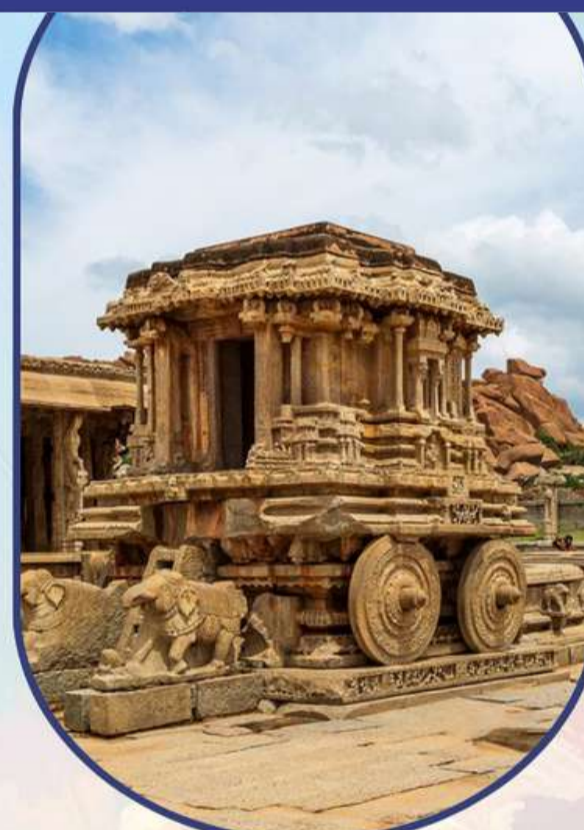


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GULF FAQs

Bus driver's injury claim faces hurdle over policy coverage limits

I am employed as a bus driver. About 13 months ago, I was involved in an accident that caused leg injuries, limiting the movement of my knee and ankle. I submitted a request to the insurance company for reimbursement of medical expenses and damages resulting from the accident. The insurance company refused to pay, claiming that my injury is not covered under the injuries listed



in the insurance policy addendum. Is the insurance company correct in this claim?

According to Clause "A" of Chapter Two of the Uni-

fied Motor Vehicle Insurance Policy Against Third Party Liability, and Clause 4 of Chapter Four concerning exceptions:

"The insurance does not cover third-party liability arising from accidents caused by the insured motor vehicle in the following cases: Accidents that occur to the insured, the vehicle driver or persons employed by the insured if they are injured during and because of work, unless they have obtained additional coverage under a rider or another policy."

Furthermore, pursu-

ant to Civil Cassation No. 289/2024 dated 23/5/2024:

"The insurance company has the right to limit its obligation to compensation to a specific type of injury sustained by the vehicle driver. It is not obligated to compensate for injuries not included in the policy's appendix."

Based on the above: The insurance company is required to compensate you only if there is an addendum specifying the types of injuries, as agreed between your employer and the insurance company.

Who is responsible for my entitlements after our company acquisition?

I worked for a company for five years until a new company, along with its two subsidiaries, acquired the old company. The new company informed me that I would be transferred to their organisation, so I signed a contract with them and worked for two more years. One month ago, I was terminated and requested my entitlements for the full seven years of service from the new company. However, they

refused, claiming that I only worked for them for two years. My question is: who is responsible for my previous entitlements?

According to Article 48 of the Labour Law, the new company is responsible for your previous entitlements. As the new employer (with whom you signed the employment contract and which acquired the company), it is solely responsible for all employee entitlements both prior to and following the transfer

of ownership, from the date the establishment's data was amended with the competent authorities. In such cases, the service is considered continuous by operation of law from the time the employee began working for the previous employer.

The relevant article states that: "The employment



contracts in force shall remain valid in the event of a change in the establish-

ment's form or legal status. The new employer shall be responsible for implementing the provisions of those contracts, in addition to executing the provisions of this Decree-Law, its Implementing Regulation and the resolutions issued for its implementation, as of the date of amending the establishment data at the competent authorities." Cassation Court Judgment No. 147/2025 (Labour) dated 9/12/2025 established and affirmed that the new employer is solely responsible for all employee entitlements both before and after the transfer of ownership.

Can a ship be attached to recover a debt ?

I have a loan against one person who owes a ship. Do I have the right to attach the ship in order to guarantee my money? What are the procedures of such attachment?

You can attach the ship only in case your debt is considered as maritime debt, according to Article 53 of the Federal Decree Law No. (43) Of 2023 Concerning the Maritime Law which exclusively de-

fines the maritime debts and stipulates that "Pre-judgment attachment shall be created on the ship in satisfaction of a maritime debt only, by a decision of the competent court".

THE PROCEDURES FOR SUCH ATTACHMENT ARE:

*You should submit the application to the competent court.

*You should submit a financial guarantee with the attachment to fulfil the

necessary needs for the security and safety of the ship and its crew during the period of attachment

*The competent court should accept the financial guarantee submitted by the attachment applicant.

*The attachment of the ship shall result in preventing the same from sailing.

*A copy of the Prejudgment attachment report shall be delivered by the

enforcement officer to the Ship Agent or to the captain of the ship or his representative. The Pre-judgment attachment applicant shall file a case for the validity of the attachment before the competent court in whose jurisdiction the attachment is executed, not later than five working days from the date of the attachment. Otherwise, the prejudgment attachment shall be considered null and void.

Saudi all set for Haj

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has stepped up preparations for the 2026 Haj season, with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman directing authorities to deploy all capabilities to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage as arrivals begin from around the world.



Speaking on behalf of King Salman bin Abdulaziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Crown Prince welcomed pilgrims and reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to serving the holy sites and caring for visitors to Mecca and Medina.

During a cabinet session, Prince Mohammed ordered the full mobilisation of operational, security and preventive plans, stressing the need to deliver the highest standards of service across the holy cities, pilgrimage sites and all air, land and sea entry points.

Meanwhile, Tawfiq Al Rabiah, Minister of Haj and Umrah, inspected the readiness of camps in Mina as part of field tours to assess service quality ahead of the Haj season.

He said preparations began early, with coordinated efforts among authorities to enhance camp readiness and operational efficiency. Al Rabiah said that new electronic systems have been introduced to monitor pilgrim movement and regulate entry and exit, supported by clear signage to guide timings and instructions, adding: "These measures support crowd management and enhance pilgrim safety, aligning with efforts to advance Vision 2030 and the Pilgrim Experience Programme."

IATO 41st Annual Convention to be held in Visakhapatnam from Sept 10-13

NEW DELHI: The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) is poised to host its prestigious 41st Annual Convention from Sept 10 to 13, 2026, in the scenic coastal city of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh—celebrated as the "City of Destiny" and the "Jewel of the East Coast."

This flagship industry event will be hosted with the full support of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Kandula Durgesh, Minister of Tourism, Ajay Jain, Special Chief Secretary (Tourism & Culture), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, and Amrapali Kata, CEO, Andhra Tourism Authority, have extended their full co-operation to ensure the grand success of the convention. Sharing details, Ravi Gosain, President, IATO, stated that the theme and key highlights of the convention are being carefully curated to address emerging opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector. The iconic Novotel Vi-

sakhapatnam Varun Beach will serve as the official venue, hosting all major activities including registrations, the inaugural ceremony, business sessions and vibrant evening programmes. Chief Minis-



**Ravi Gosain,
President, IATO**

ter of Andhra Pradesh and Union Minister of Tourism are expected to grace the inaugural session on Sept 10. The convention will also witness participation from senior officials of the ministry of tourism and representatives from approximately 17-18 State Tourism Departments.

Highlighting the scale of the event, Sanjay Razdan, Vice President, IATO,

shared that the association is aiming to attract 900-1000 delegates from across the country. He further added that curated post-convention tours will be organised to showcase Andhra's diverse tourism offerings, enabling stakeholders to promote these experiences in both domestic and international markets.

The three-day convention will feature high-powered business sessions, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers, and domain experts to deliberate on critical issues shaping the future of tourism.

Blending business with engagement, the event will also host a series of vibrant activities, including the "IATO Run for Responsible Tourism," recognition awards across multiple categories, and spectacular evening entertainment programmes. To add to the celebratory fervour, a lively "IATO's Got Talent - Karaoke Singing Competition" has been planned.



Yusuffali MA, chairman of Lulu Group, launched the "Lulu Minutes" at Lulu Hypermarket Riyadh in the presence of Mohammed Haris, Director of Lulu Saudi along with senior management officials and other dignitaries.

Lulu launches 'Lulu Minutes' ultra-fast delivery service

RIYADH: Lulu Retail officially marked a new milestone in its digital expansion with the grand launch of its ultra-fast delivery service "Lulu Minutes" in Saudi Arabia. Yusuffali MA, Chairman of Lulu Group, launched the "Lulu Minutes" at Lulu Hypermarket, Riyadh, in the presence of Mohammed Haris, Director of Lulu Saudi along with senior management officials and other dignitaries.

This smart launch introduces the updated Lulu 2.0 app, enhancing a digital infrastructure that currently serves 10 key cities across the Kingdom through a network of 45 stores. The service is available in Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, Hail, Tabuk, Yan-

bu, Khamis Mushait, Taif, Al Ahsa, Hafr Al Batin and Jubail. While the platform continues to offer flexible scheduled delivery options, the Lulu 2.0 upgrade and the Lulu Minutes feature ensure that fulfillment is now significantly faster and more efficient for customers.

"Lulu Minutes marks a significant step forward in redefining smart retail, giving customers instant access to products at their fingertips. Powered by advanced technologies, including AI-driven systems, we are committed to delivering a seamless, secure and best-in-class shopping experience that meets the evolving expectations of today's consumers," said Yusuffali.

Oman-UAE rail project...

(Cont. from page - 2) and tunnels, in addition to integrated flood protection systems, to ensure safe and sustainable operation of the system.

Abdulrahman bin Salem Al Hatmi, CEO of ASYAD Group, said that the pace of the implementation reflects the commitment to operate this project and start serving passengers and sector services, as planned. Excavation and backfilling work in the project is currently continuing on a large scale, with 27 million cubic metres of earthworks and concrete

works exceeding one lakh cubic metres and in parallel with the tunnel excavation works in tunnels-1 and 2. Engineering facilities are also progressing with work currently underway at 80 sites, in addition to the implementation of 900 wedges and 130 box culverts. Works are underway in key facilities in Suhar and Buraimi, in support of the project's future role in connecting ports, industrial zones, and logistics centres, enabling transit freight movement borders within an integrated regional system.