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Saudi, India to co-operate in several fields, including energy

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and India have agreed to co-operate in several fields, including defence industries and exploring joint projects in refineries and petrochemicals, according to a joint statement.

The two countries agreed to boost co-operation in the energy sector, including in the supplies of crude and liquefied petroleum gas, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The statement, which was released after a short visit to the Kingdom by Prime Minister Modi, emphasizes their shared stances on several issues. They agreed on the importance of enhancing co-operation and coordination between the two countries in international organisations and forums, including the G20, the IMF and the World Bank, to support efforts to address the challenges facing the global economy.



Saudi Crown Prince HH Mohammed bin Salman and PM Narendra Modi shaking hands after agreements signing ceremony in Jeddah.

They also welcomed the expansion of the Saudi-Indian Strategic Partnership Council

political solution to the crisis in Yemen. The Indian side appreciated the Kingdom's efforts

Khan, ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia. The Indian side also expressed its appreciation to the Kingdom for its continued care of 2.7 million Indian citizens living in Saudi which reflects the strong ties between the two peoples, Touching on the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor intended to boost trade, Khan said: "Both the leaders agreed that it is a vision which is beneficial to everyone in the region."

Khan emphasized the progress made since the IMEC's launch in 2023, with Saudi Arabia and India, along with other global partners, that are committed to enhancing infrastructure, including railways and port links. "This corridor will increase the passage of goods and services, boosting trade across regions," he added.

Saudi Arabia and India also

(Cont. on page-2)

MEA-OE clarification regarding RC for overseas recruitment of workers

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- A WELCOME STEP BY MEA&PoE TOWARDS GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT.
- APPRECIATION TO MEA AND THE OFFICE OF THE PROTECTOR GENERAL OF EMIGRANTS FOR REAFFIRMING THAT ALL OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT FROM INDIA--- WHETHER ECR OR ECNR --- MUST BE CONDUCTED SOLELY THROUGH MEA/PoE AUTHORISED AGENTS ONLY.

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A friend indeed

Though forced to cut short in the middle due to terrorist attack in India, the much anticipated Modi-Prince Salman high-level meeting in Jeddah could finish all the planned agreements. True, the terrorist attack in Kashmir and the death of so many innocent tourists, snatched away the sheen of the meeting.

Modi and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held official talks and co-chaired the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC). Crown Prince strongly condemned the ghastly terror attack in Pahalgam in Kashmir and offered deepest condolences on the innocent lives lost. The two leaders resolved to combat terrorism tooth and nail.

The two leaders discussed co-operation in the fields of energy, defence, trade, investment, technology, culture and people-to-people relations. Modi thanked His Royal Highness for the support and welfare extended to the Indian community in Saudi Arabia. He also appreciated the support provided by the Saudi government for the Indian Haj pilgrims. They welcomed the understanding reached by the Task Force in multiple areas, which builds on the earlier commitment of Saudi Arabia to invest \$100 billion in India across multiple sectors including energy, petrochemicals, infrastructure, technology, fintech, digital infrastructure, telecom, pharma, manufacturing and health. In this context, they particularly welcomed the agreement to collaborate on establishing two oil refineries in India, as well as the progress achieved on taxation issues. Modi proposed that to further strengthen economic ties both countries could work for connecting payment gateways and trade settlement in local currencies.

They discussed progress in India-Middle East Europe Economic Corridor [IMEEC], particularly the bilateral connectivity initiatives being undertaken by the two sides. Both leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Both Modi the prince expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the work of the two Ministerial Committees under the Council, namely: (a) the Committee on Political, Security, Social and Cultural Co-operation and its subcommittees, and (b) the Committee on Economy and Investments and its Joint Working Groups. The two leaders also welcomed the expansion of the Strategic Partnership Council with the establishment two new ministerial committees. In this context, to reflect the deepening of the defence partnership, the leaders agreed on the establishment of the Ministerial Committee on Defence Co-operation. Acknowledging the growing momentum in cultural co-operation between the two sides in recent years, they also agreed to establish a Ministerial Committee on Tourism and Culture Co-operation.

The leaders welcomed the signing of four bilateral MoUs and agreements in the fields of space, health, sports (anti-doping) and postal co-operation on the occasion of the visit.

India and Saudi Arabia enjoy a longstanding relationship, built on historical trade ties and deep socio-cultural connections. India and Saudi Arabia share close and friendly ties with a long history of socio-cultural and trade contacts. As strategic partners, the two countries share strong bilateral relations across various areas including political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, health, education, culture and people-to-people ties. Needless to mention, the Arab kingdom is also home to more than two million Indian nationals who have long played a pivotal role in its labour market, helping construct many of the country's mega-projects while sending billions of dollars in remittances back home each year.

LIPSYNCH

“Too much of something is just as bad as too little of it.” — An Arab proverb

SPC to create new committees

RIYADH: The second leaders meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was co-chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah.

The Council reviewed the work of the various committees, subcommittees and working groups under the SPC, which encompass political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, agriculture, culture and people-to-people ties. The discussions were followed by signing of the minutes by the two leaders.

To reflect the deepening of defence partnership over the past few years – including joint exercises, training programmes, and collaboration in defence industry, the Council decided to create a new Ministerial Committee on Defence Co-operation under the SPC.

To strengthen cultural and people-to-people ties, which has significant momentum in recent years, the Council decided to create a new Ministerial Committee



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and HH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman held official talks and co-chaired the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) in Jeddah.

on Tourism and Cultural Co-operation under the SPC.

The four committees under the India-Saudi Arabia SPC shall now be as follows:

(1) Political, Consular and Security Co-operation Committee.

(2) Defence Co-operation Committee.

(3) Economy, Energy, Investment and Technology Committee.

(4) Tourism and Cultural Co-operation Committee.

II. High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTF)

Building on the commitment of Saudi Arabia to invest \$100 billion in India in multiple areas including energy, petrochemicals, infrastructure, technology, fintech, digital infra-

structure, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing and health, the joint High-Level Task Force on Investment came to an understanding in multiple areas to rapidly promote such investment flows.

Both sides agreed to collaborate on establishing two refineries in India.

The progress made by HLTF in areas such as taxation is a major breakthrough for greater investment co-operation in the future.

III. List of MoUs/Agreements: MoU between the Saudi Space Agency and the Department of Space of India on Co-operation in the field of Space Activities for Peaceful Purposes.

New guidelines for job agency licensing in UAE

ABU DHABI: The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) has announced six essential conditions for the licensing of recruitment agencies.

Saudi, India to co-operate....

(Cont. from page-1) signed four agreements on space, health, anti-doping and postal services, involving the two nations' regulatory and umbrella bodies. Additionally, there was a joint commitment to develop two oil refineries in India, and agreements to advance collaboration on taxation to encourage investment.

The two nations have also agreed to continue

These agencies, which play a crucial role in both employment intermediation and temporary staffing, will now need to meet strict regulatory requirements to operate legally in

the country.

The new guidelines aim to protect both workers and employers from potential exploitation or malpractice. Here's what agencies need to know to comply with these new licensing conditions.

The recruitment agencies may offer services in employment intermediation, which involves facilitating job matches between employers and job seekers or temporary employment and outsourcing, where the agency employs workers to provide services to third-party clients.

By implementing these stringent requirements, MOHRE aims to regulate the recruitment sector effectively.

joint programs on clean energy, specifically in electrical interconnections and green hydrogen, with a feasibility study underway to develop grid connectivity.

Khan reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's position as India's fourth-largest trading partner. “The trade issue was definitely discussed, and both sides are committed to enhancing and diversifying trade,” he said.

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British Pound	112.72	114.4
Euro	96.19	98.29
Japanese Yen	59.46	60.42
Swiss Franc (CHF)	102.12	104.42
Canadian Dollar	60.97	62.39
Australian Dollar	53.96	55.16
Norwegian Krone	8.02	8.27
Swedish Krona	8.69	8.95
New Zealand Dollar	50.38	51.51
Hong Kong Dollar	10.79	11.13
Kuwaiti Dinar	285.52	273.77
Singapore Dollar	64.34	65.79
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.32	23.03
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Dubai airport introduces new passport control initiative

DUBAI: Dubai International Airport (DXB), the world's busiest and most modern airport, is set to enhance passenger experience further.

In a major leap towards a seamless journey, some passengers at DXB can now travel without stopping for identity verification as part of immigration procedures. Coinciding with the ongoing Dubai AI Week, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs

(GDRFA) – Dubai has launched its latest passport control initiative in the First and Business Class lounges at Terminal-3.

According to the GDRFA, the “Unlimited Smart Travel” service integrates cutting-edge AI technologies for facial recognition and identity verification.

“This service has been developed in line with the Directorate’s vision to improve the quality of life for travellers and

enhance the efficiency and smoothness of travel procedures,” the GDRFA said in a statement.

The Directorate noted that the service represents a “qualitative leap” in smart mobility.

“It strengthens travellers’ trust and reliance on smart systems, increases the throughput capacity from one traveller to 10 individuals simultaneously, and contributes to raising the satisfaction of both customers and staff.



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GULF FAQs

After cancellation of work visa, can a person use his bank account?

My husband lost his job recently and as per the rules, he has 30 days to leave the country. If his work visa is cancelled, can he continue using his bank account? He is currently looking for another job and we would want to keep the same account?

Based on the information provided and the applicable regulations in the UAE, the cancellation of a residency visa does not automatically lead to the freezing or closure of a bank account. Additionally, an account is not considered dormant if the customer's address is known or if they are actively using a bank account (s). Dormancy of accounts is governed solely by the UAE Central Bank regulations. This is under Article 9 (d) of UAE

Central Bank Regulation No. 29/2011 (dated Feb 23, 2011) on Regulations Regarding Bank Loans & Other Services Offered to Individual Customers, which states:

"None of the opened accounts can be considered "dormant" if the customer's address is known or if the customer is present and has other active accounts with the bank. Accounts are classified as dormant only in accordance with the provisions of these regulations issued by Central Bank in this regard."

An individual's bank account may be listed as a "dormant account" in the UAE in accordance with UAE Central Bank Circular No.1/2020 (dated January 15, 2020) on Dormant Accounts. An account may be classified as dormant only if



it has had no financial or non-financial activity for three years, and there has been no communication from the account holder. This is in accordance with Article 2 (1) (1) of the UAE Dormant Bank Account Regulations, which states:

"Criteria for Determining Dormant Accounts and Unclaimed Balances:

An individual/corporate savings or call or current account where there have been no trans-

actions (withdrawals or deposits) or non-financial actions (service requests, due diligence, particulars, update etc.) for a period of three years from the date of the last transaction on the account, other than transactions initiated by the bank (such as interest and charges posted by the system or manually), and there has been no communication from the customer (whether written or electronic)."

Therefore, based on the standard banking practices in the UAE and the legal provisions mentioned, your husband can still continue using his bank account after his visa is cancelled, as long as he keeps the account active and maintains communication with the bank.

However, due to the change in residency status, the account may be classified as a non-resident account, which could be subject to different terms, conditions or requirements. This does not necessarily result in the immediate freezing or closure of the account.

It would be advisable to inform your bank that he has lost his employment, and he will be back in UAE on a new employment visa.

How long can parents sponsor children on a residency visa?

I hold a regular two-year visa in the UAE. I am a father two kids—a girl and a boy. I wish to understand how long I can sponsor their visas in the UAE?

A foreigner who has obtained a residence permit in the UAE may sponsor family members to reside there. This is in accordance with the Article 9 of Federal Law by Decree No. (29) of 2021 Concerning Entry and Residence of Foreigners.

"A foreigner who has obtained a residence permit in the state may bring in his family members, in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the Executive Regulation of this Law by Decree."

A foreign resident may sponsor his spouse, sons under the age of 25, un-

married daughters, and children with special needs (regardless of age) based on guidelines set by the authorities. Additionally, the residence permits for family members will be valid for the same duration as the sponsor. This is under the Article (54) of Cabinet Resolution No. (65) of 2022 Issuing the Executive Regulations of UAE Immigration Law which states,

"The foreigner residing in the state (male or female) may bring in his family members, including the husband and children who have not reached 25 or unmarried daughters. Children with special needs, regardless of age, in accordance with the regulations issued by the ICA Chairman: The foreigner

who has obtained a Green Residence Permit may bring in his first-degree relatives and the Family Members Residence Permit shall be granted for the same period of residence as the guarantor/head of the family, and in all cases, the validity term of residence for family members shall not exceed the validity term of the residence of the Guarantor/Head of the family."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of the law, you may sponsor your daughter without any age restrictions until she is unmarried. However, you may sponsor your son's residency visa in the UAE until he attains the age of 25. Furthermore, for additional clarifications, you may reach out to (GDRFA).

How long can a divorced woman get alimony?

I am a Muslim man. A year ago, I divorced my wife. The court ruled for her to receive monthly alimony and custody of my four children: boys aged 13 and 15, and girls aged 16 and 17. My question is: Until what age am I legally obligated to pay child support? 2. What are the conditions to extinguish custody according to the new law?

According to Article 106 of the Federal Decree-Law No. (41) Of 2024 on the Issuance of the Personal Status Law: "The maintenance of a child who has no money is the responsibility of his father, until the girl marries or works, and until the boy reaches the age at

which his peers can earn a living, unless he is a student who continues his studies with usual success in accordance with custom and in accordance with what the court estimates ".

According to Article 115 of the same law: "the right to custody is extinguished in the following cases:

a. If one of the conditions that shall be met by the custodian is lost.

b. If the custodian fails to perform the duties of custody or is unable to perform them.

c. If the custodian moves to a place with the intention of residence, with which the interests of the child in custody shall not be met.

Modi gets fighter jet escort as Saudi rolls out aerial red carpet welcome

JEDDAH: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi's aircraft entered the Saudi Arabia airspace en route to Jeddah on Tuesday, it received a rare welcome — an escort by F-15 fighter jets of the Royal Saudi Air Force. This gesture, preceding the Prime Minister's two-day visit to the Kingdom, is a testament to India-Saudi Arabia blooming bilateral ties.



Saudi Air Force jets escort Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plane as it enters Jeddah on Tuesday.

The aerial escort is usually reserved for very select global leaders. Modi is in Jeddah to co-chair the second meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council and hold talks with HH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The two leaders are charting the future course of the bilateral relationship, with a special focus on enhancing co-operation in energy, defence, investment and regional security.

This gesture is being seen as deepening of defence co-operation between the two countries. Modi said India and Saudi Arabia have a natural interest in safeguarding peace and stability in the region and the growing defence and security collabora-

tion between the two countries is a reflection of deep mutual trust.

The high-profile visit comes amid the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), where both nations are playing key roles. Modi called the initiative "the new Silk Route of the 21st century".

"I value the personal warmth and trust we share. And, yes, this personal rapport has naturally translated into how both countries give priority to our partnership. HH Crown Prince Salman is a strong advocate of our bilateral ties. He has been a great supporter of the Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and our people living in Saudi Arabia deeply admire him", Modi said in a press interview.

Saudi one of India's most valued partners, trusted friend: Modi tells Arab News

JEDDAH: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the "limitless potential" of India's growing ties with Saudi Arabia as he arrived in Jeddah for a two-day visit, his third to the Kingdom since 2016. In an exclusive interview with Arab News, he described the Kingdom as "a trusted friend and strategic ally," emphasising how bilateral relations had expanded significantly since the creation of the Strategic Partnership Council in 2019.

"Our partnership has limitless potential," Modi said. "In a world full of uncertainties, our bond stands strong, as a pillar of stability." He praised Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman's leadership, calling him "a strong advocate of our bilateral ties" and a visionary who has inspired global admiration



through the reforms under Vision 2030.

"Every time I have met him, His Royal Highness has left a deep impression on me. His insights, his forward-thinking vision and his passion for fulfilling the aspirations of his people are truly remarkable," he said.

Highlighting shared economic ambitions, Modi noted that trade between the two countries had grown even amid global challenges, with energy, agriculture and fertilisers as key sectors.

He welcomed deeper integration of Saudi and Indian businesses, particularly in emerging sectors like green hydrogen and technology. "Indian companies have also maintained a strong presence across various sectors in Saudi Arabia," Modi said.

Modi congratulated the Kingdom for winning the bids to host World Expo 2030 and FIFA World Cup 2034, describing the dual successes as a matter of "immense pride." He also pointed to growing defence co-operation and landmark joint military exercises as signs of increasing strategic trust.

On the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), launched during the G20 Summit in Sept 2023, Modi said the project would be "a key catalyst of commerce, connectivity and growth in the entire region."

Over 40 Indian firms have regional HQs in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: More than 40 Indian companies have established headquarters in Saudi Arabia, with additional facilities in the defense sector expected in the near future.

Abdulaziz Al-Qahtani, chairman of the Saudi-Indian Business Council, made the comments as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Jeddah for a two-day visit. Al-Qahtani said the visit aligns with Saudi Arabia's broader push to localise defence spending, boost technology transfer and expand domestic investment across sectors that contribute to national gross domestic product.

In an interview with Al-Eqtisadiah, Al-Qahtani said Saudi investments in India are valued at around \$10 billion, including stakes by the Public Investment Fund in major companies such as Reliance

Jio Platforms, Reliance Retail, OYO Hotels and the Health Technology Co. "Al-Qahtani pointed out that the Saudi-Indian Business Council is working to encourage Indian investment in Saudi Arabia, identify investment opportunities in India, and transfer and localise technology in various sectors, such as space and defense," Al-Eqtisadiah reported. "It also aims to exchange expertise in education and training, benefit from mutual expertise in tourism and entertainment and co-operate in the healthcare sector, pharmaceutical and medical supplies industries and enhance integration in logistics services," the report added.

Al-Qahtani added that India has invited Saudi Arabia to invest in its growing defence sector, which has opened up to private investors.