



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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95th SAUDI NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED IN MUMBAI



Saudi Consul General His Excellency Suliman Eid Alotaibi, Chief Protocol Officer of Maharashtra Ms. Manisha Patankar-Mhaiskar, consul generals of GCC countries and other dignitaries at the cake-cutting ceremony and the reception to celebrate Saudi National Day at Trident in Mumbai on Tuesday (More pics on page-8)

Sri Lanka MICE Expo 2015 opened by PM Amarasuriya

COLOMBO: The Sri Lanka MICE Expo 2025 (SL-MICE Expo 2025), organised by the Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism, was officially inaugurated at Cinnamon Life, City of Dreams, Colombo, under the patronage

novations—creating opportunities for networking, business growth and international collaboration.

Over the course of the Expo, more than 10,000 B2B meetings are expected to connect 110+ local vendors with international buyers. To further promote Sri Lanka's offerings, the SLCB has organised a post-event familiarisation tour, enabling hosted buyers to experience the country's world-class MICE facilities,



of Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya. Designed to position Sri Lanka as a premier Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) destination, the multi-day event has attracted more than 115 hosted international MICE and travel operators, along with media representatives from 30 countries. The Expo serves as a vital platform for both local and global stakeholders to showcase products, services, and in-

ties, rich cultural heritage, modern infrastructure and scenic beauty—reinforcing Sri Lanka's appeal as a dynamic destination that blends professionalism with unique travel experiences.

More than just an exhibition, Sri Lanka MICE Expo aspires to be a gateway to transformative experiences, driving economic opportunities and strengthening the nation's presence on the global MICE map.

Saudis, expats celebrate national day

RIYADH: Green lights illuminated Riyadh as the Kingdom celebrated its 95th national day on Tuesday — with cars adorned by flags, streets filled with music and children exchanging candy and bracelets in traffic — the people's patriotism was on full display.

Crowds gathered across the city to bask in the heritage of the Kingdom and its vision moving forward and the excitement at King Abdullah Financial District was no exception. Foreigners and locals alike took part in the day's activities, including Flaminia Avola from Italy, who has been



living and working in the Kingdom since May.

"Until now I can say that it is an amazing experience, and national day is so fantastic. You have so many things to do."

Avola took her mother to KAFD to view all the dif-

ferent amenities and said that she was most excited to see the fireworks show.

Carl Tuazon, an administrator from the Philippines, has lived in Saudi Arabia for almost 10 years. "All the people are very co-operative and really generous in many ways," Tuazon said, adding that he encounters kind and generous people every day, from his days at work to social outings such as national day. "I'm very excited for the 2030 Vision of the crown prince, and I'm looking forward to seeing the changes here in Saudi Arabia." English teachers Mirna Al-Sabagh from Egypt and Nada Bouzir from Tunisia also said about their experience living in Saudi Arabia for the past few years.

UK, Germany ready to hire skilled Indians

LONDON: The White House's move to impose a steep \$100,000 fee on H-1B visa applications could sharply curb immigrant work authorisations, with monthly approvals falling by as many as 5,500, according to economists at JPMorgan Chase. But Germany and the UK are moving quickly to position themselves as attractive alternatives for

skilled Indian professionals.

According to JPMorgan Chase economists Abiel Reinhart and Michael Feroli, while the impact of the new visa fee is small relative to the overall US labour market, the effect will be heavily concentrated on technology companies and Indian professionals, who account for the ma-

(Cont. on page - 2)



The H-1B imbroglio

After watering down the original H-1B visa fee issue, the Trump administration as a face-saving measure has made changes in the selection process. According to a new proposal, the government would rework the H-1B visa selection process to favour higher-skilled and better-paid workers.

The new process, if finalised, would give heavier weight to applications by employers who pay high wages if annual requests for the visas exceed the statutory limit of 85,000, the notice said. The move aims to better protect Americans from unfair wage competition from foreign workers, it claimed.

President Trump launched a wide-ranging immigration crackdown after taking office in Jan, including a push for mass deportations and trying to block citizenship for children of immigrants in the US illegally. In recent days, his administration intensified its focus on the H-1B program, popular with tech and outsourcing companies for hiring skilled foreign workers.

The Trump administration had said on Friday it would ask companies to pay \$100,000 per year, opens new tab for H-1B visas. Some large tech companies warned visa holders to stay in the US or quickly return, sparking a chaotic scramble to get back to the US. The White House later clarified that the fee would apply only to new visas.

The planned regulation posted on Tuesday would change an existing lottery process to obtain the visas if demand surpasses supply in a given year, creating wage tiers where higher-paying jobs would have a better chance of being selected. The process to finalise a regulation can take months or even years. The notice suggested that the new rules could be in place for the 2026 lottery, meaning before a March registration period.

Trump, a Republican, sought to reshape the H-1B process during his 2017-2021 presidency, but was stymied by federal courts and limited time at the end of his presidency. A similar regulation, opens new tab that aimed to shift the lottery process toward higher-paid applicants was delayed by Trump's Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, before it could go into effect in March 2021.

The total wages paid to H-1B workers would increase to \$502 million in fiscal year 2026, which begins on Oct 1, the notice said, citing US Department of Homeland Security estimates. Wages would increase by \$1 billion in fiscal 2027, \$1.5 billion in fiscal 2028 and \$2 billion in fiscal 2029-2035, it said. An estimated 5,200 small businesses that currently receive H-1B visas would suffer a significant economic impact due to losses.

The Trump administration says that the current lottery often favours lower-wage roles. According to DHS, data shows that higher-paying positions are the least represented among approved petitions. The new rule would shift incentives for employers to offer stronger salaries and apply for more senior-level roles.

However, if the emphasis is solely on higher wages, new graduates, even in legitimate specialty roles in STEM and other fields, could be disadvantaged. Startups and smaller companies may also struggle to compete, since they often can't match the top salaries of larger employers. It remains unclear whether DHS will take total compensation into account under the new proposal. Under the current rules, only base salary is considered — stock options and other incentives are excluded. Let this imbroglio end now.

LIPSYNCH

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

---- Oscar Wilde

UK, Germany ready to hire skilled Indians

(Cont. from page - 1)
 jority of H-1B approvals.

German ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann issued an open call on the social media platform X to highly skilled Indian professionals, highlighting Germany's "reliable, modern, and predictable" migration policies. He likened the framework to a German car "that goes in a straight line with no zig-zags," in contrast to recent US policy shifts. Indians, he emphasised, are among the top earners in Germany, contributing significantly to the economy and welfare system.

Computer-related roles represented nearly two-thirds of approvals in fiscal 2024, while 71pc of all visas were granted to Indian nationals. Of the 141,000 new H-1B petitions approved last year, about 65,000 were processed abroad, making them most vulnerable to the fee.

"If all of them were to stop, it would reduce work authorisation for immi-

grants by up to 5,500 per month, unless immigrants are able to use other visa categories to get employment," a Bloomberg report quoting Reinhart and Feroli said.

Notably, the policy shift comes as US hiring has cooled significantly, with employers adding an average of just 29,000 jobs per month over the past quarter. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell attributed part of the slow-

down to reduced immigration.

Dual benefits Nobel laureate Paul Krugman argues that allowing highly educated foreigners to work in the US significantly boosts GDP and tax revenues while narrowing income inequality by expanding the supply of skilled labour. With most H-1B holders in the technology sector, their presence also generates "positive externalities,".

Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates Saudi National Day

Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo shared photographs of himself in traditional Saudi attire, celebrating the Saudi National Day which fell on Sept 23. A tall player at 6 feet 1 inch (1.85 metres), Ronaldo was a formidable athlete on the pitch. Originally a right-winger, he developed into a forward with a free-reined attacking style. He was able to mesmerise opponents with a sleight of foot that made sufficient space for openings in opposing defenses.



New Zealand offers skilled residence pathways for foreign workers

WELLINGTON: New Zealand has announced changes to the Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa that will help employers retain skilled workers. A Skilled Migrant Category Resident Visa lets foreign workers stay in New Zealand indefinitely. After holding this visa for two years in a row, they can apply for a Permanent Resident Visa that lets them travel in and out of New Zealand indefinitely.

Two new residence pathways will be introduced under the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) Resident Visa in Aug 2026. One is for migrants in skilled roles who have at least five years of directly relevant work experience, and the other is

for migrants in specified skilled roles in trades and as technicians.

The New Zealand work experience requirements will be modestly reduced for some current pathways. This change reduces the amount of New Zealand work experience required for most migrants, from a maximum of three years to a maximum of two years.

Other changes also include removing the requirement to have an increased wage rate when applying for residence. Instead, migrants will only need to maintain the same median wage rate throughout their required period of New Zealand work experience. New Zealand is also reducing the amount of time

that migrants with New Zealand university qualifications need to work in New Zealand before they can get residence.

Two New Residence Pathways: Skilled work experience pathway — for migrants in skilled roles (ANZSCO skill level -1 to 3) with at least five years of directly relevant work experience, including two years in New Zealand earning at least 1.1 times the median wage.

Trades and technician pathway: For migrants in specified trades or technician roles who hold a relevant Level-4 or higher qualification and have at least four of post-qualification experience, including 18 months in New Zealand paid at or above the median wage.

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Japanese Yen	59.24	60.18
Swiss Franc (CHF)	110.32	112.78
Canadian Dollar	63.13	64.58
Australian Dollar	57.92	59.21
Norwegian Krone	8.77	9.02
Swedish Krona	9.28	9.55
New Zealand Dollar	51.02	52.17
Hong Kong Dollar	11.18	11.53
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WILL BE A RELIABLE INTERFACE BETWEEN JOB PROVIDERS AND JOB SEEKERS

US faces shortage of doctors, healthcare staff

NEW YORK: The Trump administration's plan to dramatically raise fees for H-1B visas is drawing concern from US healthcare groups who say the move could worsen staffing shortages as more than half of healthcare workers consider changing jobs within the next year.

The US Department of Homeland Security is reviewing policy changes that would increase the cost of applying for H-1B visas to as much as \$100,000 from the current top of \$4,500. The H-1B program allows US employers to hire foreign workers in specialty fields like technology, engineering, medicine and academia.

The visas are widely used by the US healthcare

sector to recruit international medical graduates or foreign-trained doctors and other professionals trained abroad. The American Academy of Family Physicians emphasised that international medical graduates account for more than one-fifth of practising family doctors and are disproportionately likely to serve in rural areas.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services reported that in fiscal year 2025 there were about 442,000 unique H-1B visa beneficiaries across all sectors, with 5,640 petitions approved in the healthcare and social assistance industry alone. The influential American Medical Association warned that fees as high as \$100,000 could

choke off the international physician pipeline."With the US already facing a shortage of doctors, making it harder for international medical graduates to train and practice here means patients will wait longer and drive farther to get care," said AMA President Bobby Mukkamala.

Hospital and doctor groups warned that the fee increase could sharply reduce the number of foreign-trained doctors entering the US system. For many hospitals already stretched thin, that could also mean fewer specialists and higher burdens on domestic medical staff. The American Hospital Association said hospitals rely on the program as a short-term measure to fill gaps in the workforce.



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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.

**Day 5** Bangaram – Water Sports & Optional Island Tour

Indulge in water sports. Optional day trip to Thinnakara & Parali Islands (INR 1200 extra).

**Day 6** Departure

Transfer to Agatti by boat (45 mins) and board flight to Cochin.

GULF FAQs

What are a wife's rights if husband abandons her, their children?

My husband and I got married in Dubai a few years ago. We've been experiencing some differences, and recently, he packed his bags and left our home, abandoning me and the children. What are my legal rights in this situation? He has not sent a divorce notice yet, but if he does, I am prepared to challenge it in court. What are my rights in this scenario? Is he still obligated to pay rent and other household expenses, given that he chose to leave?

It is assumed that you are a non-Muslim resident of Dubai, and you are married to a non-Muslim; therefore, the provisions of the UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims are applicable. A non-Muslim individual who is a UAE resident may file for a divorce as per the provisions of the enacted UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims or may also apply his or her respective family law under which he or she is married.

This is in accordance with Article 1 of the Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil Personal Status, which states, "The provisions of present Decree-Law shall apply to non-Muslim citizens of the UAE, and to non-Muslim foreigners who reside in the State unless one of them invokes the application of their respective law, in relation to matters of marriage, divorce, estate, will and proof of affiliation, without prejudice to Articles 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 of the referenced Federal Law No. 5 of 1985."

The provisions of the UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims allow an individual to obtain a di-

vorice in the first hearing of the court itself. This is in accordance with Article-3 of the UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims, which states, "Divorce cases that are filed in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law shall not be referred to the family guidance committees and shall be referred directly to the court to issue a judgement at the first hearing."

Furthermore, an individual may also seek a unilat-

cordance with Article-7 of the UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims, which states: "Unilateral divorce may be requested and granted if either spouse expresses in court his/her desire to separate and terminate the marriage, without any need to justify their reason or to demonstrate harm or to put the blame on the other party."

However, once a unilateral divorce is granted by the respective Person-

of the UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims, which states: "The divorcee, after issuance of divorce order, apply to the court to obtain an alimony judgement from her ex-husband. Any applications subsequent to divorce shall be added in the court using the form prepared to this effect. In the event that the conditions or controls of this alimony or other financial requests are not agreed upon in the marriage contract, the acceptance of the application and its duration shall be subject to the discretionary power of the judge after evaluating the following factors..."

The judge based on the alimony case filed by a woman against her ex-husband, may grant certain amount of alimony to such woman based on various factors including but not limited to duration of the marriage, age of wife, financial condition of each spouse, negligence

or any act due to which divorce has been obtained by the husband or wife, compensation by a spouse for any material or moral damage caused due to divorce, financial damages sustained due to unilateral divorce, payments related to custody and maintenance of children. This is in accordance to sub clauses -1 to 9 of Article-9 of the UAE Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims.

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, either of you may file for divorce in the Personal Status Court of Dubai and may obtain a divorce under the applicable provisions of the Personal Status Law for Non-Muslims. Furthermore, you may claim alimony from your husband. Your husband is obliged to provide maintenance for you until he remains married to you. However, he should provide child support to the children during the marriage and post-divorce.



eral divorce in the respective Personal Status Court in Dubai without providing any justification or reason for divorce. This is in ac-

al Status Court in Dubai, a divorced woman may claim alimony from her ex-husband. This is in accordance with Article-9

What changes in will can a couple make after parting ways?

My wife and I are parting ways on mutual terms. What changes am I legally permitted to make to my will in Dubai under these circumstances? What are the relevant rules and procedures I should be aware of?

Pursuant to your queries, the provision of the personal status for non-Muslims is applicable; it is assumed that you are not a Muslim by your faith, and you already have a will. A testator has full freedom to dispose of their estate



as they see fit, and such wills should be registered. Article 11 of the Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil Personal Status for Non-Muslims states: "The testator shall have the right to leave a will with the entire property he owns in the State

in favour of anybody he wants in accordance with the controls specified by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law."

You may at any time change your beneficiaries, remove your spouse, or alter executor appointments at your sole and

absolute discretion. The amended will must follow the required formalities, such as being in writing, signed before the competent authority, and, where necessary, witnessed so that it is legally enforceable in Dubai. In conclusion, you may update or revoke your will at any time to reflect your mutual separation. It is advisable to complete the process through the proper registry to ensure your wishes are valid under UAE law. You may consult a legal practitioner in the UAE for further advice.

Power bank use banned in flight, Emirates issues rules

DUBAI: Emirates has reminded passengers that updated rules for carrying power banks on board will take effect Oct 1, 2025, following an earlier announcement that all in-flight use of power banks will soon be banned.

From Oct 1, passengers will no longer be allowed to use rechargeable battery packs during flights. Power banks cannot be used on Emirates flights from Oct 1. According to a travel update on Emirates' website: "From Oct 1, using or charging a power bank on board Emirates flights will no longer be permitted. Customers may carry one power bank, which must remain in cabin baggage. Power banks are not allowed in checked luggage."

What passengers need to know: One power bank per passenger, up to 100



watt-hours (Wh). Power banks cannot be used to charge devices while on board. All power banks must show the capacity rating. Cannot be used or charged during the flight

Storage restricted to under the seat or in the seat pocket; overhead lockers are prohibited. Checked luggage cannot contain power banks (existing rule).

Emirates is enforcing the rules after a safety

review. Power banks can pose risks if overcharged or damaged, potentially

causing fires, explosions, or toxic gas release. The airline said the measures are designed to minimise onboard risks. For full details, check Emirates' Dangerous Goods Policy page.

"If a battery is overcharged or damaged, it can trigger 'thermal runaway'," Emirates explained.

Earlier this year, Emirates also reminded passengers of rules for carrying personal electronic devices (PEDs). Passengers

may bring or check in up to 15 PEDs, which must be packed separately and not attached to other items. Devices that are improperly packed or exceed the limit may be confiscated.

In addition, motorised devices such as smart bags, hoverboards, and mini Segways are prohibited due to their large lithium batteries. These items cannot be checked in or carried as hand luggage, even if other airlines allow them.

Freelancing now only for Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY: In a sweeping policy change aimed at tightening oversight and boosting local entrepreneurship, Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry has officially restricted 120 freelance business activ-

ities to Kuwaiti citizens only. The move, backed by a ministerial resolution, introduces a new framework for licensing, compliance and business operations, while extending freelance licences from one to four years.

Under Ministerial Resolution No. 168 of 2025, issued by Khalifa Al-Ajeel, Kuwait's Minister of Commerce, the country now mandates that only Kuwaiti citizens can own and operate freelance businesses under a licensed structure. The new resolution explicitly bars expatriates, including GCC nationals, from participating in any of the 120 defined freelance activities — whether as founders, partners.

The minimum capital requirement has been halved to KD 50, in contrast to previous requirements for similar company types. Multiple freelance activities can now be bundled under a single licence, but only if they are similar, complementary, or functionally linked to the main approved activity.

Licences can be obtained through the ministry's "Sahl" or "Sahl Business" applications, or via other approved digital platforms.

All existing licensed businesses, regardless of when they were originally established, must also adhere to the updated rules without exception — though their current licences still remain valid.

NRI promises 50,000 Jobs for Indians in Gulf in five years

RIYADH: Indian-owned Saudi Arabia-based industrial services provider Expertise is looking to create 50,000 jobs for Indians in the Gulf country by 2030 besides eyeing merger and acquisitions (M&A) and entering into new international markets, the company said.

The company currently employs over 15,000 people through its presence in six strategic segments that include equipment rental, facility management, civil construction and industrial services, manufacturing of modular building and trading of industrial materials.

"The aim is to create 50,000 jobs for Indians by 2030. We are continuously looking to grow and expand our presence. The transformation of Saudi Arabia and the rise of India are not parallel journeys; they are connected pathways," Mohammed Ashif

Karnire, CEO of Expertise, said in a statement.

"Together, through trade, investment, and human exchange, we are building a bridge of growth that will shape not just our nations (India and Saudi Arabia) but the global economy (as well)," he added.

"The future belongs to

those who act today and we believe that both Saudi Arabia and India are ready to lead this future together," said Karnire, who recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award for business excellence at the Business Leaders Future Summit organised by Media One.

Doctors may be spared \$1 lakh H-1B visa fee

WASHINGTON: The White House has indicated that doctors may be exempted from the recently announced \$100,000 application fee for high-skilled H-1B visas, following widespread concern from the medical community and shortage of doctors in the US.

White House spokesperson Taylor Rogers told Bloomberg News that the executive order signed by President Donald Trump includes provisions for exemptions. "The proclama-

tion allows for potential exemptions, which can include physicians and medical residents," Rogers said in a statement.

The executive order, which took effect Sunday, authorises the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive the fee if hiring a worker is deemed "in the national interest."

This clause could apply to doctors, especially in light of warnings about worsening physician shortages in rural areas. Since the announcement, several major

medical organisations have voiced alarm that the steep fee could deter international medical graduates from entering the US, potentially exacerbating healthcare access issues in underserved regions. Currently, the base H-1B application fee is \$215, plus other smaller processing charges. The new \$100,000 fee marks a dramatic increase, but the White House has clarified that it does not apply to current H-1B visa holders or those travelling abroad for work-related reasons.

H-1B visas allow US employers to hire foreign professionals in specialised fields, primarily in tech and healthcare. Valid for three years and renewable once, there are an estimated 700,000 H-1B visa holders in the US, along with roughly 500,000 dependents, according to economist Stephen Brown. Each year, 65,000 new H-1B visas are issued through a lottery system, with an additional 20,000 reserved for individuals holding advanced degrees.

GLIMPSES OF 95th SAUDI NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATED AT TRIDENT, MUMBAI

