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PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Kuwait, India hold seventh round of foreign office consultations

NEW DELHI: The seventh round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kuwait were held on Aug 26 in New Delhi, co-chaired by Aseem R. Mahajan, Additional Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs and HE. Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs (AFM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait. Ambassador Sameeh also called on Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (CPV & OIA).

During the meeting, both sides undertook a comprehensive review of



The seventh round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Kuwait were held in New Delhi, co-chaired by Aseem R Mahajan, Additional Secretary (Gulf), Ministry of External Affairs and HE. Ambassador Sameeh Essa Johar Hayat, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asia Affairs (AFM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait.

the bilateral relations and exchanged views on re-

Both sides discussed the various ongoing initiatives and avenues to further deepen our strategic partnership in various spheres including political, trade, investment, defence, energy, culture and people to people ties. They will continue to work closely on implementation of the roadmap drawn out under the guidance of the leadership of both the countries during the visit of PM Modi to Kuwait in Dec 2024.

It was decided to hold the meetings of the Joint Working Groups (JWGs) under the Joint Commis-

sion for Co-operation (JCC) on mutually convenient dates, at the earliest.

India and Kuwait share close historical multifaceted relations. Bilateral trade between India and Kuwait stands at US\$10.2 billion per annum [FY: 2024-2025]. The presence of over one million strong Indian community in Kuwait is a testament to the strong people-to-people ties.

Both sides agreed to hold the next round of Foreign Office Consultations in Kuwait at a mutually convenient date.

Nearly 18pc jump in women workforce in India

NEW DELHI: Female participation in the workforce has witnessed a significant surge, as highlighted in an official document from the Ministry of Labour and Employ-

trends were more prominent for the rural area with an increase in the women workforce by 96pc, nearly an increment of over two-fold, in cotrast to employment rates in cities during



Young girls are now running superfast trains in India.

ment. According to the data from Periodic Labour Force Surveys, recorded annually, the rate of women's employment grew from 22pc to 40.3pc in a span of seven years. These figures included female workers in both the urban and rural areas between 2017 and 2024.

the same period, which stood at 43pc.

While the official data show that the unemployment rate among working women fell from 5.6pc 2017-18 to 3.2pc in 2023-24, it has actually risen compared with 2.9pc recorded in 2022-23.

Citing the data from

(Cont. on page - 2)

Kerala Tourism Minister Mohammed Riyas receives PATA Gold award in Bangkok

BANGKOK: Reaffirming the success of its strategy to connect with travelers through digital media, Kerala Tourism walked away with the coveted PATA Gold Award 2025 for the "Most Engaging Social Media Campaign."

Minister for Tourism and Public Works PA Mohamed Riyas received the prestigious honour at a glittering Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award ceremony in Bangkok marked by the convergence of top tourism sector stakeholders from around the world.

Sreedhanya Suresh IAS, Additional Director (General), Kerala Tourism, was also present at the event.

The PATA Gold Awards 2025 ceremony and the gala dinner were hosted on the sidelines of the PATA Travel Mart at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre in Bangkok. The PATA awards honour exceptional achievements



Kerala Tourism Minister Mohammed Riyas Received the PATA Gold Award in Bangkok.

in the travel and tourism industry in the Asia-Pacific region. The awards were judged by a distinguished panel of 25 independent experts.

"Kerala Tourism's efforts to engage domestic and international tourists on the diversity of Kerala's tourist destinations through innovative and trending online content have yielded a massive

response, and this award is a shining recognition of our efforts in that direction," said Riyas after receiving the award.

This is not the first time that Kerala has been bestowed with the PATA Gold Award, which celebrates success stories in sustainable and inclusive tourism development, the minister added.

(Cont. on page - 2)



Opportunity for India

US President Trump's staggering 50pc tariffs on Indian exports has come into effect. Doubling an existing 25pc duty as sought by Trump is to punish India for buying Russian oil. Trump has raised pressure on India over the energy purchases, as part of the US campaign to end the conflict in Ukraine. The 50pc duty is applicable for goods such as garments, gems and jewellery, footwear, sporting goods, furniture and chemicals.

As the punitive measure kicked in, Trump took to his Truth Social platform and posted a picture of himself with an oil barrel. The image read, "America first" and "America is back".

India-US trade relations have expanded in recent years, but remain vulnerable to disputes over market access. The two nations launched talks on a large-scale trade agreement in Feb, following Modi's visit to Washington. The deal seeks to increase India-US annual trade to \$500 billion by 2030, but the terms of the pact are yet to be finalised. India has asserted its resilience to stand firm against US pressure, with Prime Minister Modi vowing he would "never compromise" the interests of the country's farmers.

As per a government estimate, tariffs will impact \$48.2 billion worth of exports. Former Foreign Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Vardhan Shringla said New Delhi is working on minimising the impact by finding alternative markets. "We have Free Trade Agreements with Australia, the UAE and the UK, we are close to concluding a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. This means that we can access different markets and we would have the opportunity to divert some of our exports in that direction," he said.

"We have the most comprehensive, multi-faceted relationship with the US, the one that we have more than any other country. The strength of that relationship is the values and principles that we share, which will see us through any ups and downs in the relationship," Shringla pointed out.

A new SBI Research report believes that the US tariffs are likely to affect the GDP by 40 to 50 bps and higher input cost inflation. "As \$45 billion of exports will be impacted due to 50pc tariffs, at worst scenario, India's trade surplus will convert to trade deficit. However, we believe trade negotiations will restore confidence and improve export to US," the report added.

Amid higher tariffs, India's products might lose competitiveness, potentially benefiting countries like China and Vietnam, as tariffs imposed on India are also higher than those on other Asian countries such as China (30pc), Vietnam (20pc), Indonesia (19pc) and Japan (15pc).

The US remains India's largest export destination for textiles. Over the past five years, India has steadily gained market share in textiles while China's share has fallen significantly. The US remains the largest market for the gems and jewellery sector, accounting for nearly a third of the sector's \$28.5 billion annual shipments. With US tariffs rising from 25pc to 50pc, exporters are bracing for significant disruption. Ironically, this could mean American consumers themselves end up paying more. If the emerging India-Russia-China trade alliance against the US succeeds, the US can be taught a lesson. This will turn out to be a great opportunity for India.

LIPSYNCH

"Risk comes from not knowing what you're doing."
— Warren Buffett

Odisha tourism inks pacts to conserve heritage sites

BHUBANESWAR: The Tourism department signed MoUs with three organisations for conservation of existing heritage, introduction of adventure tourism and promoting Buddhist circuit.

The MoUs were signed with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M), the National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa and the Light of Buddhadharma Foundation International (LBDFI). Work under the third MoU will be carried out in collaboration with the Culture department.

Speaking on the occasion, deputy chief minister-cum-Tourism minister Pravati Parida said the MoUs represent Odisha's holistic vision to conserve heritage, diversify tourism offerings and expand its global footprint.

Under the MoU with IIT-Madras, the state will leverage advanced scientific techniques for struc-

tural audits and conservation of heritage monuments. The collaboration will cover detailed documentation, material testing, geo-technical investigations and preparation of project reports. It

viders in the state.

The third collaboration with LBDFI and Culture department will focus on reviving the state's Buddhist heritage and integrating it with religious tourism. The Buddhist



Sun temple Konarak, Odisha.

also includes sustainable re-use plans and project management consultancy support, aimed at ensuring long-term preservation of Odisha's historic sites. The tie-up with NIWS will introduce globally-accepted safety standards, safety audits and capacity-building programmes for adventure tourism operators, lifeguards and service pro-

sites to be covered under this are Ratnagiri, Udaygiri, Lalitgiri and Dhuli. Visitor amenities will be enhanced and digital engagement infrastructure developed at these sites. Besides, LBDFI will host annual prayer ceremonies at the sites and curate cultural and academic programmes highlighting Odisha's Buddhist legacy and the teachings of Guru Padmasambhava.

Culture minister Suryabanshi Suraj said the Buddhist tourism initiative is a historic partnership that will revive and promote Odisha's unparalleled cultural heritage.

Chief secretary Manoj Ahuja underlined the role of tourism in Odisha's Vision 2036, stating that the sector not only contributes to economic development but also helps preserve culture and generate livelihoods.

Nearly 18pc jump in women...

(Cont. from page - 1) the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), the government claimed an increase in the participation of women in the formal sector. The official document stated that over the past seven years, 1.56 crore women have joined the formal workforce, while the number of women in the unorganised sector recorded on the e-shram portal until Aug 2025 was over 16.69 crore.

Outlining an increment of more educated females in the nation's labour force, the report indicated over a per cent rise in the employability of female graduates between 2013 and 2024. A similar trend was indicated for post-graduate females, with numbers rising from 34.5pc to 40pc between 2017 and 2024.

The share of self-employed women rose sharply by 30 percent-

age points, from 51.9pc in 2017-18 to 67.4pc in 2023-24, according to PLFS data. This increase has been linked to government efforts at both the central and state levels, with around 70 schemes at the national level and over 400 at the state level aimed at supporting female entrepreneurs, ranging from Lakhpati Didi to PM SVANidhi schemes as per the official document.

Kerala Tourism Minister Mohammed Riyas...

(Cont. from page - 1) Earlier, the Kerala Pavilion was formally inaugurated by Nagesh Singh, Ambassador of India to Thailand. Trade partners Kairali Ayurvedic Health Resort and Trip N Stay Holidays were part of the Kerala Pavilion. The meme-based digital makeover of Kerala Tourism, blending humour, cultural relevance, and storytelling, has received

widespread online engagement.

With a cross-platform rollout across Instagram, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn, the campaign generated a reach of over 1.2 million and more than 89,700 engagements, while also driving user-generated content, influencer collaborations, and viral success through relatable, Kerala-rooted humour.

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GULF FAQs

Choosing a legal guardian: What every parent in must know?

How can I secure my child's future through will in the UAE?

Every parent works tirelessly to provide a life of security, stability and love for their children. But true protection goes beyond the present; it includes preparing for the unexpected and making decisions today that can safeguard your child's tomorrow. One of the most meaningful ways expat parents in the UAE can do this is by appointing legal guardians for their minor children through a registered will. This decision ensures that, should anything happen, your child's care and upbringing will be entrusted to the people you choose, not left to chance.

Why appointing a legal guardian is so important? In the UAE, many parents don't realise that if some-

thing happens to the father, the mother is not automatically considered the legal guardian of minor children. Without a registered will, this can lead to court involvement and decisions that may not reflect your wishes. Stating a clear guardian in your UAE will helps avoid confusion and ensures a smooth transition of care.

Choosing a legal guardian is not just a legal box to tick. It's a deeply per-

sonal act that reflects your values, beliefs, and hopes for your child's future. Without a registered will in place, guardianship decisions may default to complex court proceedings, potentially resulting in unexpected delays or decisions that don't align with your wishes. But with a legally recognised will, your intentions are clearly documented and enforceable under the UAE law.

"It's not just paperwork,

it's protection. Appointing a guardian secures your child's future, exactly the way you intended," says Muhammad Tariq, managing partner at Legal Inz. How the UAE law supports guardianship planning? In the UAE, parents can formally appoint legal guardians for their minor children through registered wills under both the DIFC Wills Service Centre and the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department (ADJD). These frameworks allow for the appointment of permanent guardians, who will assume long-term responsibility, as well as temporary guardians based in the UAE, who can step in immediately to provide care until the permanent guardians are able to take over.

Many also name alternate guardians to cover unforeseen changes in

circumstances. Parents can also structure their will to include layered guardianship appointing multiple guardians in a defined order of priority. This ensures there is always a trusted caregiver available to step in for the child. This structure ensures a smooth and uninterrupted transition of care, offering legal clarity, emotional stability and the reassurance that a child will always be looked after by trusted individual(s) from the very beginning.

Along with guardianship instructions, a will also allow parents to outline how their assets should be distributed, including naming their minor children as beneficiaries. This ensures not just care, but financial security, is preserved according to their wishes.



UAE to prosecute social media users for violating content standards

Is it true that the UAE is going to prosecute social media users for violating media content standards?

The National Media Office has issued a decision to refer a group of social media users to the Federal Public Prosecution for violating media content standards. The office stressed that such measures are taken as part of its commitment to fostering a responsible media environment, safeguarding social values and protecting communities from non-constructive content. The office also urged everyone to use social media platforms in ways that respect media ethics and values.

In its statement, the National Media Office announced that it had referred the social media users after monitoring, reviewing and evaluat-

ing the content they had published and continued to publish. It was found that these individuals had violated the standards of purposeful media content that align with ethical principles.

Emirates Society for Consumer Protection warns of fake platforms charging consumers to resolve complaints. The National Media Office emphasised the following: The office's monitoring team operates around the clock to detect and address any violations of standards and social values with precision. The team alerts platform users of their violations and urges them to comply with regulations, laws and directives. These measures are aimed at ensuring a responsible media environment and protecting communities from

non-constructive content.

In March, the National Media Office issued a statement underscoring the importance of all social media users in the country adhering to values and principles that

violating these guidelines, in accordance with the laws in force in the UAE, which aim to preserve a safe and balanced digital environment that fosters mutual respect.

Sheikh Abdullah Al



reflect the state's policies and its approach of respect, tolerance, and co-existence. The statement also affirmed that the office, in co-operation with relevant authorities, will take the necessary legal action against anyone vi-

Hamed, chairman of the National Media Office and chairman of the UAE Media Council, affirmed that media responsibility is a civilisational and ethical commitment that reflects the UAE's values of respect and tolerance.

"Words are a trust," he said, "and those who carry them are responsible for making them a bridge for closeness, not a tool for offence."

"Our actions are aimed at safeguarding words from descending into offence. We stand for freedom that respects others and upholds constructive dialogue. A word that plants respect yields trust, while a word that breaches ethics subjects its author to accountability," he said.

"We call on all users of social media platforms to abide by ethical and legal standards. Conscious participation safeguards the nation's reputation, preserves the individual's standing, and strengthens bridges of trust with peoples of brotherly and friendly nations."



Domestic air travel records steady annual growth

NEW DELHI: India's domestic aviation sector continued its upward trajectory in 2025, with airlines carrying 977.79 lakh passengers between January and July, according to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

This marked a 5.9pc increase year-on-year, compared with 923.35 lakh passengers carried in the same period of 2024. However, on a month-to-month basis, the industry faced a slight slowdown. Passenger traffic in July 2025 dropped by 2.94pc compared with June, with airlines flying 126.05 lakh passengers in July, down from 129.87 lakh the previous month. Despite the monthly dip, most airlines managed to maintain strong passenger load factors (PLFs), reflecting sustained demand and efficient capacity utilisation.

Holiday for Prophet's birthday announced

ABU DHABI: Employees in the public and private sectors will have a public holiday on Friday, Sept 5, to mark the Prophet Mohammed's birthday.

An announcement for the public sector was made by the Federal Authority for Government HR. In a social media post, the authority said it issued "a circular to the ministries and federal entities regarding the Prophet's birthday holiday in the federal government for the year 1447 AH".

IndiGo, the country's largest airline by market share, recorded a passenger load factor (PLF) of 84.1pc in July 2025, marginally lower than 85.4pc in June. Despite the slight dip, IndiGo continues to dominate domestic skies, leveraging its vast fleet and extensive route network.

The airline's high PLF underlines sustained demand, even in a seasonally weaker month.

Trump's new rule to cut short US stay for millions of international students

WASHINGTON: Trump's new proposed rule will bring big changes for foreign students on visas in the US.

The Donald Trump Administration is bringing back a new rule that never was because the Biden Administration pulled the plug on its original proposal in 2021. Homeland Security announced a fresh warning for foreign students in the US in its bid to limit the amount of time they and certain other non-immigrant visa holders are allowed to remain the country without further screening and vetting.

According to an official news release DHS, the proposed rule making headlines seeks to curb what the Trump government calls "visa abuse," paving the way for US authorities to properly vet and keep an eye on certain visa holders, in-

NEW DELHI: The recent move by the US to impose steep tariffs on Indian goods is expected to weigh on the US economy, pushing up inflationary pressures and impacting growth, according to a report by State Bank of India (SBI).

The report said that US GDP could be affected by 40 to 50 basis points due to the new tariffs, while the economy is also likely to face higher input cost inflation. "We believe that US tariffs are likely to affect US GDP by 40 to 50 bps along with higher input cost inflation," it noted. The report highlighted that signs of renewed inflationary pressure have already started emerging in the US, mainly due to



the pass-through effects of the recent tariffs and a weaker dollar.

It also flagged that import-sensitive sectors such as electronics, automobiles, and consumer durables are feeling the impact most sharply.

The report stated that inflation in the US is now expected to remain above the two percent target through 2026, driven by

supply-side factors arising from higher tariffs and exchange rate movements.

The US has imposed tariffs on about \$45 billion worth of Indian exports. Labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and gems, and jewellery are expected to face moderate pressures.

However, exports of pharma, smartphones and steel are relatively insulated due to exemptions, existing tariff structures, and steady domestic demand in the US.

The report also noted that if all \$45 billion worth of exports are hit by the new 50pc tariffs, India's trade surplus with the US could turn into a trade deficit in the worst-case scenario.

cluding foreign students, professors and physicians. Having gone into overdrive, Homeland Security and its sub-branch, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), are already issuing a slew of warning day in-and-out.

The latest step now especially targets foreign students who have advantageously been making the most of the nonimmigrant visa status to become "forever students," who remain "perpetually enrolled in higher education

courses" to stay in America. A DHS spokesperson further highlighted in the news release that foreign students, including Indians, and visa holders have long been allowed to stay in the US "virtually indefinitely."

Watch out! New rules from Sept 1

NEW DELLHI: If you use an SBI credit card, be ready for changes starting Sept 1. The bank has announced that reward points will no longer be given on certain transactions. These include spending on digital gaming platforms, some merchants and government-related transactions. This means cardholders might lose some benefits they were used to.

HALLMARKING MAY START ON SILVER TOO: Just like gold, the government is planning to introduce hallmarking on silver jewellery and items starting Sept 1, 2025. However, buying hallmark silver will not be compulsory. Customers can still choose to buy hallmarked or non-hallmarked silver, based on their preference.

LPG GAS CYLINDER PRICE MAY CHANGE: Like every month, new prices for LPG gas cylinders will be announced on Sept 1. The price could go up or down, depending on international fuel rates.

Last month (Aug), there was no change in LPG prices, but there's no guarantee for Sept.

CNG AND PNG PRICES ALSO UNDER WATCH: Along with LPG, CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) and PNG (Piped Natural Gas) prices are usually revised at the start of each month. For the past few months, prices have remained stable, but there is always a chance of increase or decrease depending on fuel costs and government decisions.