



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: TUESDAY, 30 JUNE, 2026 • VOL. NO. 3 • Issue No. 42 • DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 7 PAGES

Passport fees hiked to Rs 2,500 for new, Rs 5,000 for Tatkal

NEW DELHI: The central government has amended the Passports Rules, 1980, revising the payment structure for the essential travel document and increasing the fee for both the new passports and the Tatkal service.

The new fee structure will come into effect from July 1.

For a fresh or reissued passport with 36 pages, the fee has been increased from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500. For the Tatkal passport, the fee has been hiked from Rs 3,500 to Rs 5,000.

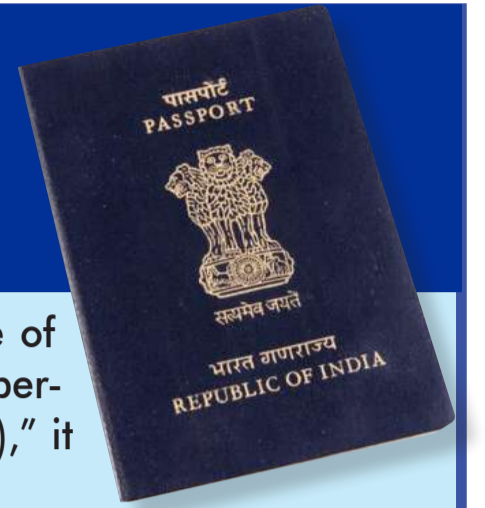
The application fee for a fresh passport or a reissued one with 60 pages has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,500. For the Tatkal service, applicants will be asked to pay Rs 6,000, as against Rs 4,000 earlier. "In exercise of the powers conferred by section

24 of the Passports Act, 1967 (15 of 1967), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Passports Rules, 1980, namely -- 1. (1) These rules may be called the Passports (Amendment) Rules, 2026. (2) They shall come into force with effect from the July 1, 2026," the Ministry of External Affairs' notification reads.

"The validity of passports issued under serial number I(a) shall not exceed 10 years and the validity of passports issued under serial number I(b) shall be for five years or until the applicant attains the age of 18 years, whichever is earlier," the MEA said.

"There shall be a discount of 10pc in passport fee for fresh applications (and not for re-issue) in

respect of minors up to the age of eight years and senior citizens (persons above the age of 60 years)," it added.



Walk-in for your passport

MUMBAI: Those with passport applications pending for more than 45 days can simply walk-in to the Mumbai passport office at Videsh Bhavan, Bandra-Kurla Complex, without prior appointment on all working days except Wednesdays between (9 AM and 11 AM) for their passport.

The Regional Passport Office (RPO) in Mumbai made the announcement that entry without prior/online appointment was now available under specified categories. The number of pending days will be calculated from the date of submission, it said. People can go to the office on all working days except Wednesday between 9-11 am. Applicants that appear in the following category can walk-in irrespective of the date of application:

- 1) Diplomatic and official passport.
- 2) Request for re-dispatch of passport/police clearance certificate (PCC) returned back undelivered.
- 3) Surrender of Indian passport upon acquiring foreign citizenship.
- 4) Request for closure of pending passport application.

Applicants who have already scheduled online appointment to a later date may also avail the walk-in entry facility in case their applications are pending over 45 days.

Health declaration mandatory for in-coming passengers

NEW DELHI: India has made it mandatory for all international travellers arriving in the country to fill an online health self-declaration. As health authorities track the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Africa, India has launched AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 to strengthen airport surveillance. Announced by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the contactless digital platform requires all international arrivals to

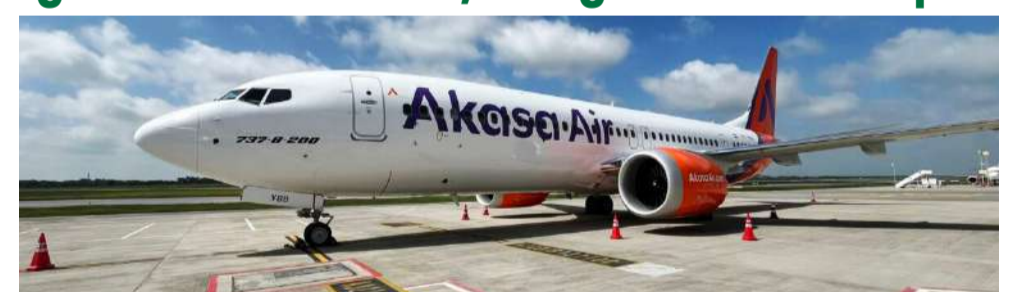
fill out a health self-declaration form online before boarding.

The move follows the WHO's decision to classify the outbreak in central Africa as a global health emergency. The portal, called Air Suvudha 2.0, was launched on June 25 and applies to all passengers flying into India from any country, including the large number of Indians travelling from the UAE, where

direct flights to Indian cities operate daily

Akasa to start direct flights from Mumbai, Bengaluru to Udaipur

NEW DELHI: Akasa Air has announced its foray into Rajasthan with the launch of daily non-stop flights to Udaipur from Mumbai and Bengaluru. The new services will commence on Oct 15, 2026, with bookings now open through the airline's official website, mobile app,



and online travel agencies. Udaipur is the latest addition in Akasa Air's expanding domestic network.

(Cont. on page - 2)

TAFI (WI)- FlyCreative Global Holidays organise familiarisation tour to Wayanad

WAYANAD: Travel Agents Federation of India - Western India (TAFI-WI), in co-ordination with FlyCreative Global Holidays, successfully conducted a familiarisation (FAM) tour to Wayanad, bringing to-

gether travel industry professionals to experience and promote the unique tourism potential of this beautiful destination.

Nestled amid the Western Ghats, Wayanad stands as one of Kerala's most attractive eco-friendly destination, offering a perfect

blend of pristine nature, biodiversity, heritage, wellness, adventure and responsible tourism experiences. Known for its lush green landscapes, mist-covered mountains, forests, waterfalls, wildlife (Cont. on page - 2)



GLIMPSES ON PAGE 7

How remittances by overseas Indians boost our economy?

NEW DELHI: Remittances have become the unsung hero of India's macroeconomic stability in the face of global economic challenges, unpredictable Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs) and a growing merchandise trade deficit.

In fiscal year 2026, India received US\$ 140 billion in remittances, a figure that has continuously increased over time and shows a robust 35 million Indian diaspora, who send money back to the country for investments, savings and family maintenance costs. Indian diaspora is seen as the country's soft

power in terms of people, skill, culture which has potential to shape India's interests abroad.

However, as we have already seen, the same soft power also helps India to bring the crucial "hard" currency back to the country. The nation's current account deficit is kept under control by remittances and deposits.

Structure of Balance of Payments (BoP): The Current Account and the Capital Account (CAD) make up the BoP. The current account classifies remittances as "Invisibles." Services, income and transfers are

examples of invisibles in India's BoP. Remittances are classified as personal or private transfers, which are included in the Cur-

rent Account's Net Secondary Income (NSI).

Reducing Trade Gap: India's economy is structurally CAD due to a growing

merchandise trade gap, that increased from \$6 billion in 2000-01 to \$284 billion in 2024-2025. Remittances alone accounted for 47.5pc of this massive trade deficit in 2024-2025.

A large amount of this trade deficit is com-
(Cont. on page - 6)

UAE-India flights: Are airfares dropping?

DUBAI: Indian expatriates travelling home for the holidays are getting some relief after a short drop in airfares on UAE-India routes, as airlines restore capacity and more flights return to the market.

Travel agents said fares, which had surged earlier

this month due to limited flight availability, high summer demand and regional disruptions, have eased slightly on some sectors.

However, they cautioned that prices remain higher than last year and could rise again as the peak travel season continues.

Raheesh Babu, COO of Musafir.com, said UAE-India fares that had climbed to around Dh3,500-Dh3,600 have now dropped to about Dh2,600 on some Kerala sectors. "Availability has increased - the number of Indian flights have increased - supply has gone up a bit," Babu said.

However, he noted that fares remain higher com-



pared with last year. Some July travel sectors had seen fares rise to nearly Dh3,000 earlier this month. The UAE-India aviation corridor is among the world's busiest international air markets, driven by strong business, tourism and family travel links between the two countries.

June to August is traditionally one of the most expensive periods for air travel, as millions of passengers fly for school holidays, family visits and summer vacations. For

(Cont. on page - 6)

Tourist visa to Bangladesh resumes after two years

NEW DELHI: India has decided to resume tourist visas for Bangladeshi nationals after nearly two years.

This was announced in Dhaka by India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi, soon after he presented his credentials to President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

"I am very happy to announce that we are resuming our normal visa applications for tourist visas, which can be submitted from June 28, 2026. We will continue to facilitate medical visas in urgent cases on humanitarian consideration and grounds. Visa applications continue to be issued through the five visa cen-

tres — Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet and Khulna ---We hope that this will further strengthen the people-to-people ties between our two sovereign nations," Trivedi said in his brief remarks to the media at the Indian Visa Application Centre in Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka.

India had suspended tourist visas in Aug 2024, soon after the ouster of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the face of widespread protests against her regime, and continued with the suspension as bilateral relations with Dhaka remained frosty under the caretaker government of Nobel laureate Moham-

mad Yunus.

In a related development, the home ministry issued an order granting Trivedi cabinet minister status in the Table of Precedence — the official hierarchy of government functionaries.

The order clarified that this is a "measure personal to him without amending the Table of Precedence".

The FAM trip enabled sanctuaries, plantations and rich tribal culture, Wayanad provides travellers an opportunity to reconnect with nature while supporting sustainable tourism practices.

The FAM trip enabled stated: "We are delighted to launch services to Udaipur, a city that represents India's rich cultural heritage and continues to see strong demand across leisure and hospitality. With direct connectivity from Mumbai and Bengaluru, customers will have more convenient access to one of the country's most iconic destinations."

Akasa to start direct flights from Mumbai, Bengaluru to Udaipur

(Cont. from page - 1) work. The place is famous for its palaces, lakes, luxury hospitality sector and destination weddings. The city has witnessed growing demand from travellers in major metropolitan markets.

With the launch, passengers travelling from Mumbai and Bengaluru will have an option direct daily

access to Udaipur without requiring a stopover. The airline also mentioned that the move is aimed at enhancing connectivity to one of India's most prominent tourism and hospitality destinations while catering to rising demand for leisure and experiential travel. Announcing the launch, Anand Srinivasan, Co-Founder and CEO,

TAFI-WI FlyCreative Global Holidays...

the tour operators to explore the destination's diverse offerings, including eco-resorts, nature trail, plantation experiences, local culture, adventure activities and wellness opportunities. Such initiatives help travel agents gain first-hand knowledge and create meaningful travel experiences for visitors seeking authentic and responsible holidays.

Wayanad's significance lies in its commitment towards preserving its ecological wealth while promoting tourism that benefits local communities. The destination reflects Kerala's vision of sustainable tourism by encouraging conservation, community participation

and environmentally conscious travel.

Speaking on the occasion, Jitul Shah of TAFI, highlighted the importance of strengthening domestic and international tourism circuits by showcasing destinations like Wayanad, which represents the future of responsible travel—where nature, culture, and hospitality come together harmoniously. TAFI-WI and FlyCreative Global Holidays reinforces the travel industry's commitment to promoting destinations that offer enriching experiences while protecting the natural heritage for future generations, remarked VS Abdulkareem, CMD, FlyCreative Online Limited.

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF DIGITALISED ADVERTISEMENTS WITH ONE E-NEWSPAPER

TAP ON THE YELLOW BANNER BELOW THE ADVERTISEMENT TO CONNECT WITH ADVERTISERS

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR GROUP OF COMPANIES IN QATAR FOR THEIR CIVIL WORKS
Walk-in-Interview July 1st week onwards
For More details & Job Description Visit:
<https://we.tl/t-G814XuYvXKUae72>

- Project Director
- Project Manager
- Construction Manager
- Sr. Planning Engineer
- Jr. Planning Engineer
- QAQC Manager
- QAQC Engineer
- QAQC Inspector
- Sr. Procurement Engineer
- Procurement Assistant
- Project DC
- Draftsman
- Engineering Manager
- Architect
- Land Surveyor
- Logistics Manager
- Logistics Assistant
- Storekeeper
- Sr. MEP Coordinator
- Carpenter
- Steel Fixer
- Mason
- Helper

MEDHA H.R. CONSULTANTS
AN ISO 9001-2015 COMPANY
Solaris-1, D-wing-48 & 50, Opp. L&T Sanofi, Gate No: 6, Powai, Mumbai-72.
Tel: 022-40220315/16/17/18, 8898770810, 9004683054, 9322205213
Email: recruit@medhahr.com | www.medhahr.com
Lic: B-0520/MUM/PER/1000+/10/8579/09

www.medhahr.com

one OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT
PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Providing information about overseas projects and job opportunities for job-seekers

8828737706 / 8828656610 - prince@overseasne.com / media@overseasne.com - www.overseasne.com
GLOBAL REACH, INSTANT ACCESSIBILITY!

flyCreative Online LIMITED

World Visas, One Trusted Platform
WWW.FLYCREATIVE.IN

Specialist in VISA for all countries

Quality documentation | Knowledge on regulations
Seamless process of filling forms | Complete guidance on the entire process

18002099923 | Support@flycreative.in | www.flycreative.in

www.flycreative.in

flyCreative Online LIMITED

B2B deals for Kerala

Cochin • Munnar • Thekkady • Kumarakom • Alleppey
• Varkala • Kovalam • Wayanad.

From misty hills and lush forests to serene backwaters and pristine beaches, experience Kerala's finest destinations in one unforgettable journey.

INCLUSIONS :

- Accommodation
- Meals
- All transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Toll, Parking, drivers Bata, road tax & fuel charges.
- All Taxes

REGISTER ON :
www.flycreative.in
CALL OR WHATSAPP :
8828800805
MAIL US ON :
south@flycreative.in

Contact : 8828800805 | 022-22077955/56/57 | south@flycreative.in
www.flycreative.in

www.flycreative.in

VYTHIRI VILLAGE RESORT: WHERE LUXURY MEETS UNTAMED BEAUTY OF WAYANAD

By Prince Manjilil

Nestled in the heart of Kerala's enchanting Wayanad district, Vythiri Village Resort is more than just a luxury retreat- it's an unforgettable experience where nature, comfort and hospitality come to-

gether in perfect harmony. Spread across nearly 30 acres of lush greenery, the award-winning five-star resort offers guests the rare opportunity to reconnect with nature without compromising on world-class comfort.

Often referred to as the "Green Paradise of Kerala," Wayanad is renowned for its mist-covered hills, dense forests, waterfalls, wildlife sanctuaries, caves, tea and coffee plantations and refreshing climate. It is a destination that captivates travellers from across India and around the world, making it one of Kerala's most sought-after holiday destinations.

Set amidst this spectacular landscape, Vythiri Village has earned a reputation for offering



exceptional hospitality to families, honeymooners, corporate groups, and international travellers alike. With more than 300 elegantly designed rooms, including deluxe rooms, suites, cottages, duplex villas, Jacuzzi cottages, and luxurious pool villas, every guest can find accommodation that perfectly matches their travel style.

Beyond its premium accommodation, the re-

sort is a destination in itself. Guests can indulge in multi-cuisine dining experiences, rejuvenate with wellness activities, relax beside the stunning infinity pool, or participate in adventure activities such as ziplining, cycling, archery, stream walks, yoga, swimming, and campfire evenings. For business travellers and event organisers, Vythiri Village offers one of South India's largest hi-tech convention centres,

capable of hosting up to 1,500 guests with modern lighting, sound systems, conference facilities, and ample parking. This has made the resort a preferred venue for corporate conferences, destination weddings, and large-scale social events.

The vision behind this remarkable property belongs to N. K. Mohamed, whose contributions to tourism and education have earned national recognition, including the prestigious Tourism Man of the Year 2002 award. His commitment to sustainable tourism and guest satisfaction continues to shape the resort's outstanding reputation.

Whether visitors seek adventure, relaxation, family bonding, romance, or business excellence, Vythiri Village offers an experience that leaves lasting memories.

FOREX RATES
As on 29th June 2026 (In rupees)

Currency	Bill Buy	Bill Sell
US Dollar	93.88	95.13
British Pound	123.69	125.46
Euro	106.34	108.61
Japanese Yen	58.04	58.97
Swiss Franc (CHF)	115.19	117.72
Canadian Dollar	65.63	67.14
Australian Dollar	64.52	65.93
Norwegian Krone	9.41	9.69
Swedish Krona	9.53	9.8
New Zealand Dollar	52.68	53.89
Hong Kong Dollar	11.82	12.19
Kuwaiti Dinar	313.5914	294.98
Singapore Dollar	72.09	73.71
Saudi Arabian Riyal	24.68	25.47
U A E Dirham	25.29	26.02

Incredible India
www.flycreativeglobal.com
Email: support@flycreative.in

www.flycreative.in

Your Trusted Travel Company Since 1978



A Destination Management Division of FlyCreative Online Limited.

BAKU

THE JEWEL OF THE CASPIAN

Experience the perfect blend of history, culture, modern architecture, and breathtaking landscapes in **Baku!**



- Explore the **UNESCO-listed Old City (Icherisheher)**
- Visit the iconic **Flame Towers & Fire Temple**
- Stroll along the beautiful **Caspian Sea Boulevard**
- Enjoy **shopping, nightlife**, and authentic Azerbaijani cuisine
- Experience the fascinating **Gobustan Mud Volcanoes**

TOP ATTRACTIONS

- ★ Old City | ★ Flame Towers | ★ Heydar Aliyev Center | ★ Baku Boulevard |
- ★ Gobustan NP | ★ Ateshgah Temple | ★ Yanar Dag

WHY CHOOSE FLYCREATIVE?



COMPETITIVE PACKAGE RATES
Best value for your travel



EXPERT TRAVEL ASSISTANCE
Guidance you can rely on



CUSTOMIZED ITINERARIES
Tailored to your travel needs



TRUSTED VISA SUPPORT
Smooth & hassle-free visa services



DEDICATED CUSTOMER SERVICE
We're here for you, always



BOOK YOUR **BAKU** GETAWAY TODAY!



98333 96453
93230 27987



tours@flycreative.in
ankita.chauhan@flycreative.in



www.flycreativeglobal.com

GULF FAQs

Can a company be held liable for injuries caused by its worker's actions?

I am the owner of a construction company --- during construction, one of my workers dropped a wooden bar over the head of a lady while she was crossing the street and got injured. The lady is claiming the company compensation for injuries and for losing her job because of her injuries. Is the company responsible for such compensation even though the worker's deed was a personal act?

According to Article (266) of the Federal Decree by Law No. (25) of 2025 Promulgating the

Civil Transactions Law "

1.A principal shall be liable for the harm resulting from a harmful act committed by their subordinate, when it is committed by them in the performance of their duty or because of it.

2.The relationship of subordination exists, even if the principal is not free to choose their subordinate, when the principal has actual authority over them in supervision and direction." And as per Article (267) of the same law, "The person liable for the act of another, whether a supervisor or a principal, has the right of recourse

against the person who caused the harm to the extent that this other person is liable for compensation."

The lady has the right to claim compensation from the company based on the liability relationship between the company and its worker and that the employer is responsible for the worker. The court will have the solely jurisdiction to estimate this compensation according to the situation and the documents submitted.

According to the Court of Cassation ruling - Dubai dated 02-09-2025 in Cassation No. 2025/35



Administrative Cassation: " the employer's liability arises when the employee commits an error while performing their duties or when the job is the direct cause of the error or necessary to enable the employee to commit it, or when the employee exploits their position or it assists them in committing the unlawful act or provides them with an opportunity to commit it.

In these cases, the injured party has direct recourse against the em-

ployer, without needing to examine whether the latter committed an error or not. This liability arises only when a relationship of subordination exists between the employer and the employee and when the employee commits an error during or because of the performance of their duties, resulting in harm. The employer has the right to seek recourse, against his employee who caused the harm, for any compensation paid to the injured party."

How to apply for UAE Green Visa for skilled workers in Dubai?

I am a skilled worker in Dubai. I want to know how can I apply for the UAE Green Visa?

Highly skilled professionals in the UAE can apply for the UAE Green Visa, a five-year residence permit introduced as part of the country's updated visa system in 2022. The visa offers greater flexibility and allows holders to sponsor close family members while benefiting from a longer grace period if their residency is cancelled.

The Green Visa is valid for five years and can be renewed. Key benefits include: The ability to sponsor first-degree relatives. A grace period of up to six months after visa cancellation, allowing residents more time to remain in the UAE.

The UAE offers Green Residency under three categories: If you already hold a UAE residence

visa, it is recommended not to cancel it until your Green Residence permit has been approved.

To qualify as a skilled worker, you must: Hold a skilled worker permit issued by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) under a valid employment contract or work for a government, semi-government or free zone entity.

Be classified under skill levels 1, 2, or 3 in MOHRE's occupational classification system. Hold at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent qualification. Earn a minimum monthly salary of Dh15,000 . Documents required: Prepare the following documents: Passport copy valid for at least six months, recent passport-sized photograph, MOHRE work permit, employment contract (for government, semi-government, or free

zone employees), salary certificate or bank statement. Additional documents may be requested depending on your application.

Applicants can submit their application through an Amer Centre or online through the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) Dubai portal. The work visa application fee is Dh200, plus 5 per cent VAT. If the applicant is already inside the UAE, additional charges apply: Knowledge dirham: Dh10,

Innovation dirham: Dh10, in-country application fee: Dh500. The final amount may vary depending on the applicant's circumstances and any additional requirements.

The final amount may vary depending on the applicant's circumstances and any additional requirements.

Delayed wages - what to do?

What are the procedures and measures MOHRE applies for the establishments that delay wage payment according to the new law?

According to Annex No. 1 of The Ministerial Resolution No. 340 of 2026 Concerning the Wage Protection System, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) impose penalties on the establishments which delay its employees wage payment. These procedures depend on the length of the delay as follows:

Day 1: Electronic monitoring of the establishment begins.

Day 2: MOHRE issues automated notifications and warnings to non-compliant firms to pay wages.

Day 5: MOHRE suspends the issuance of new

work permits to the violating establishment with notification to the owner of the reason for suspension and a warning to pay.

Day 11: Fines are applied. Repeated violations within a six-month period cause the company

Day 16: For establishments with 25 or more workers, the ministry registers official labour disputes and automatically suspends all work permits.

Day 21: More severe legal actions apply, so that with fewer than 50 workers, including issuing an executive instrument against the establishment, precautionary attachment procedures against the establishment, travel bans on the person in charge and potential referral to the Public Prosecutor especially if the number of workers in the establishment exceeds 50 workers.

AI Tourism Vision launched to place Saudi as a global hub for tourism innovation

RIYADH: The Ministry of Tourism announced the launch of the AI Tourism Vision, a strategic step toward shaping the future of tourism through digital transformation and artificial intelligence. The vision aims to elevate tourism experiences, enhance op-

erational productivity, empower investors and professionals and strengthen Saudi Arabia's position as a global hub for tourism innovation.

The launch builds on the Kingdom's broader efforts to harness advanced technologies to support economic growth and enhance the competitiveness of key sectors. It also builds on the Riyadh Declaration on the Future of Tourism, adopted by the 26th General Assembly of UN Tourism, which called for accelerating the adoption of emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence, to reshape the future of global tourism.

The AI Tourism Vision



provides an integrated strategic framework for building a more intelligent, efficient and sustainable tourism ecosystem. It focuses on deploying AI across the visitor journey, supporting investors and tourism businesses and enabling national talent and professionals to use advanced technologies to improve service quality and unlock greater economic value.

A key milestone under the AI Tourism Vision is the launch of TourismX, a global platform dedicated to tourism AI acting as the new digital infrastructure for the future of the sector. TourismX reflects the ministry's view that artificial intelligence will become central to how destinations, experiences, businesses, and services are designed, managed, and delivered.



UAE gets direct air link to Northeast India

DUBAI: Air India Express will launch direct flights connecting Guwahati with Dubai and Abu Dhabi from Aug 2026, becoming the first airline to directly connect Northeast India with West Asia.

The Guwahati-Dubai service will begin on Aug 4, while flights between Guwahati and Abu Dhabi will start on Aug 7, the airline announced. The announcement comes days after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Air India would begin direct flights from Guwahati to Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The new routes will connect Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport with Dubai and Abu Dhabi. With these services, Guwahati will have direct international connectivity to four countries — the UAE, Thailand, Singapore and Bhutan.

Historically, travellers from India's eastern and northeastern states have often relied on connecting flights through major hubs such as Delhi and Kolkata for international journeys. Direct international links from the region have gradually expanded in recent years.

How remittances by...

(Cont. from page - 2) compensated by remittances, which operate as a huge, liability-free surplus, keeping the total CAD within a safe and manageable range (typically targeted below 2.5pc of GDP). Remittance inflows have, on average, covered the whole amount of India's merchandise trade imbalance since the middle of 2013. Maintaining the Rupee: Remittances offer a steady and constant supply of foreign currency (such as US dollars, euros and UAE dirhams) into the Indian economy, in contrast to FPIs, which are seen as hot money and can cause quick capital outflows during global concerns.

There is a steady de-

mand for the rupee when families change their foreign currency into INR for domestic consumption.

This protects the home currency from sudden declines brought on by unpredictable sell-offs by foreign investors. Non-Debt Creating Inflows: Remittances are private, non-returnable transfers, in contrast to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs), which entail future repayment obligations or dividend repatriations. Currency Reserves: They help build and maintain India's substantial currency reserves by reducing the need for the RBI to actively engage in the forex market.

Kudumbashree's community tourism gives locals a livelihood in Kerala

KOCHI: From viewing local communities as mere beneficiaries of tourism, a Kudumbashree initiative is working to provide them with a steady livelihood by facilitating their involvement in planning, managing and promoting leisure-industry projects in their own neighbourhoods.

"The informal launch of Kerala's community-based tourism (CBT) project happened in 2022," said an official with Kudumbashree's National Resource Organisation (NRO) who did not want to be named.

"It coincided with the

UAE-India flights:...

(Cont. from page - 2) UAE residents, the impact is particularly strong as outbound travel demand to India, Europe and other popular destinations rises sharply during this period.

Airlines typically sell their lowest-priced seats first during high-demand periods, leaving fewer cheaper options closer to departure dates.

launch of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative Entrepreneurship Development Programme (RKI-EDP). RKI-EDP was conceived as a recovery and resilience programme to help rebuild local economies in regions that had been severely affected by recurring floods. Alappuzha district, and the region of Kuttanad in particular, was among the worst impacted and therefore a key focus area under the programme."

The CBT initiative was formally rolled out in Kuttanad in January of 2025. "Kudumbashree NRO in 2023-25 had already test-

ed a few CBT models in Rajasthan (Ranthambore Tiger Reserve) and Sikkim (Pakyong district) under the Startup Village Entrepreneurs Programme," the official said. Explaining the project, she said: "The success of the Kuttanad pilot demonstrated that community-owned tourism enterprises could be a viable and sustainable livelihood model. This formed the basis for a phased, deliberate expansion of the CBT initiative across Kerala.

In the first phase, the initiative operated as a proof-of-concept with a small set of pilot panchayats within Alappuzha. Building on the feedback from this phase, FY 2025-26 saw the initiative expand into three districts — Idukki, Wayanad and Kannur — while the work in Alappuzha continued with a focus on strengthening institutions.

Across these districts, the CBT initiative was grounded in six new panchayats, each selected for its distinct tourism typology."

GLIMPSES OF TAFI (WI)-FLYCREATIVE FAM TRIP TO WAYANAD

