



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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IPEPCIL meets Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai, to address key industry challenges

MUMBAI: Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) represented by its President Mr V.S.ABDULKAREEM and the Executive Secretary Mr Athar Salim Qureshi held a crucial meeting with the Protector of emigrants, Mumbai Mr Barhat Rahul Manhardan IPS to highlight and address several pressing issues affecting the Overseas Recruitment fraternity and the welfare of Indian Emigrants. During the meeting, we have raised the serious concerns regarding the exploitation of intended emigrants, particularly through unregulated social media platforms. These unauthorized operators continue to mislead job seekers with fraudulent offers, undermining the credibility of Licensed Recruitment system and endangering the safety and rights of Indian



Protector of Emigrants, Mumbai Mr Barhat Rahul Manhardan IPS, IPEPCIL President Mr V. S. ABDULKAREEM and Executive Secretary Mr Athar Salim Qureshi in a meeting to discuss issues and challenges related to mobility of emigrants in a legal, safe and secured channel

workers abroad, quoted the recent incidents reported in the media IPEPCIL, assured the POE of its full support in cracking down on illegal agents and proposed collaborative efforts to identify and report such entities and reiterated its commitment to work

closely with the authorities in enforcing the Emigration Act and supporting awareness campaigns to educate potential Emigrants on safe and legal migration channels IPEPCIL urged POE to consider reasonable interpretation of Liabilities on RAs against complaints and

strongly advocated that, genuine MEA-OE registered RAs who function under the Legal framework and guidelines laid down by the MEA-OE should not be held responsible for the issues beyond their control, emphasized for a fair evaluation of RAs responsibilities.



IPEPCIL also raised the points of RC related services like renewals, change of Location, Branch approvals and the deficiencies noticed in the renewal of RCs for which immediate rectification is sought for the efficient performance of the approved RAs. The POE responded positively and assured that the matters raised by IPEPCIL would be taken up at appropriate levels. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen safe, Legal and regulated Emigration process, while enhancing collaboration between stakeholders to uphold the dignity and protection of Indian emigrant workers

Workers in Saudi now have 60-day grace period before marked absent

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Qiwa platform now mandates a 60-day grace period before an employee is marked "absent from work." This allows disconnected workers to re-contract, transfer sponsorships or exit the country. Failure

to act within this window results in automatic removal from employer records and notification to relevant ministries, enhancing transparency and worker rights.

The Qiwa platform, run by Saudi Arabia's Minis-

try of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD), now enforces a 60-day grace period before marking an employee as "absent from work."

During this period, disconnected workers can re-contract with their current employer, transfer to a new one or exit Saudi Arabia.

Failure to act within 60 days leads to automatic removal from the employer's records and notification to MHRSD and the Ministry of Interior. As of July 31, 2025, Saudi Arabia's Qiwa labour platform introduced key updates to employment-contract reg-

Cont on page - 2



Happy IndiGo Day sale to celebrate 19 years of flying

MUMBAI: IndiGo announced a network-wide "Happy IndiGo Day Sale", as it marks the completion of 19 years of operations. Valid for travel from Aug 10, 2025 to March 31, 2026, bookings are open starting 0001 hours on Aug 3, 2025 until 2359 hours on Aug 6 2025. This special sale is IndiGo's way of celebrating the occasion with its customers, while expressing gratitude

for their continued support over the years.

In addition to discounted fares, customers can also enjoy savings on a wide range of ancillary offerings, enhancing their overall travel experience. Standard seat selection from Rs19 on select domestic and international flights. Extra legroom XL seats from Rs500 on domestic flights. Up to 50pc

Cont on page - 2

Oman extends labour status correction grace period

MUSCAT: The ministry of labour has officially announced an extension to the grace period for correcting legal employment status in Oman.

Originally set to conclude on July 31, 2025, the adjustment period will now continue until Dec

31, 2025, in response to overwhelming requests from individuals, employers and workers seeking more time to complete the required legal procedures.

The extension follows an earlier circular issued

Cont on page - 2

India expands consular services in US adding nine new centres

NEW DELHI: In a boost to consular access for the Indian diaspora, Vinay Kwatra, the Indian Ambassador to the US, announced the launch of nine new Indian consular services application centres, which will become operational on Aug 1.

The announcement was made via a video message posted by the embassy of

India in Washington on platform X. Kwatra said: "The new application centres will be located in Boston, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Addison, Orlando, Raleigh and San Jose. In addition, another centre is expected to open soon in Los Angeles."

Kwatra also announced another change, saying that all Indian consular



Indian Ambassador to US Vinay Kwatra

application centres across the US will remain open on Saturdays starting Aug 1. He stated that this would "significantly enhance not just the availability of various consular services but also their

accessibility". The centres will offer streamlined access to various consular services, while certain core services will continue to be available only at the embassy premises.

Kwatra added that with the opening of these new Indian consular application centres, the presence to provide extensive consular services and related delivery capabilities would increase and expand significantly. He reiterated that the newly announced full-fledged Indian consulates in Boston and Los Angeles would further

deepen ties in these regions. Kwatra urged the Indian community in the US to monitor the embassy's official website for regular updates on service availability and the operational timeline of each centre.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the Indian-origin population in the US stands at 5.4 million, including over two million NRIs. The Indian diaspora is the third-largest Asian ethnic group in the US and plays a key role in advancing bilateral relations.

India's new satellite to track climate threats from space

BENGALURU: India launched on Wednesday a \$1.5 billion, first-of-its-kind radar imaging satellite built in collaboration with NASA, deploying it to help enhance global monitoring of climate change and natural disasters. The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar or NISAR satellite, is the first such collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation and US space agency NASA.

It took off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at 1210 GMT atop a medium-lift rocket, marking a

milestone in space co-operation and bolstering In-

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Workers in Saudi now have 60-day grace...

Cont from page - 1 ulations as per a report by Saudi Gazette. Employers are no longer permitted to mark workers as "absent from work" immediately after contract termination: they must wait at least 60 days, provided the worker's residence permit (Iqama) remains valid. This change brings greater clarity, fairness and digital efficiency to workforce

management.

Employers may submit an absence report only if the worker's Iqama is valid for at least 60 days and there is no active employment contract in place. Once marked as "disconnected from work", the worker is granted a 60-day period to choose one of the following actions: *Re-sign with the same employer *Transfer

sponsorship to a new employer via Qiwa* Exit the Kingdom. If no action is completed by day 60, the worker is automatically classified as "absent from work" and removed from the company's contract database. After the grace period expires, Qiwa triggers automatic notifications to the MHRSD and Ministry of Interior, flagging the worker's "absent" status for enforcement or penalties. If the termination occurs naturally or via choice, once the notice period ends, the contract is marked as "terminated" in the system. Actual "absence" status only follows after the full grace window.

Encourages fair treatment, granting workers time to legalise their status and employers time for

due-process. Helps stabilise labour market transitions and reduces the risk of sudden loss of legal residency. Aligns job management with Qiwa's vision for transparency and data accuracy across digital records.

Offers quick access to employment certificates, salary or service documents, via personal Qiwa accounts, supporting career mobility.

This update is part of broader labour reforms by MHRSD launched in 2024-25, including standardised dispute settlement rules, salary protection mechanisms, and flexible hiring provisions, supporting the Kingdom's Vision 2030 objective of creating a more transparent, dynamic and rights-based labour ecosystem.

Oman extends labour status correction...

Cont from page - 1 on July 8, 2025, which confirmed the end date for the grace period. However, the ministry has now decided to grant additional time to allow the largest possible number of beneficiaries to benefit from the exemptions and regularise their legal standing without facing fines or penalties. This measure is part of a broader labour market reform

initiative first introduced in Jan 2025. The initiative, which began on Feb 1, 2025, includes waivers and exemptions amounting to more than OMR 60 million. These include the cancellation of fines for expired labour cards that have been inactive for over seven years, waivers for repatriation ticket obligations dating back to 2017 and earlier, and the removal of financial lia-

bilities against liquidated companies where workers have been repatriated or transferred.

With this final extension in place, the ministry is urging all concerned parties to take advantage of the remaining time to renew expired labour cards, cancel work abandonment reports, transfer worker services, and settle outstanding obligations. The ministry stressed the importance of utilising this opportunity to comply with existing laws and regulations. The ministry has reiterated that no further applications will be accepted after the new deadline of Dec 31. Beneficiaries are advised to complete their procedures through the ministry's official website and approved service delivery channels.

Happy IndiGo Day sale to...

Cont from page - 1 off on pre-paid excess baggage across domestic flights and on 15kg, 20kg and 30kg slabs for international flights. Up to 50pc off on fast forward on select domestic and international flights. Up to 30pc off on 6E Prime and

6E Seat & Eat on select domestic and international flights. Zero cancellation plan for International at Rs 999. All-inclusive, one-way fares, under the sale, start from Rs1,219 for domestic, Rs4,319 for international and Rs9,919 for IndiGoStretch.

Saudi raises Saudization target again

RIYADH: Starting July 27, 2025, Saudi Arabia increased Saudization rates (jobs for the locals) in pharmacy, dentistry and technical engineering to align with Vision 2030.

New quotas require private-sector establishments to meet specific Saudization percentages and salary thresholds.

The Ministry of HR and Social Development supports the reform with incentives and guidance to boost national workforce participation.

Updated quotas apply to private-sector establishments with specified company sizes and minimum salary thresholds (SAR 7,000-9,000).

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FOREX RATES		
As on 4th August 2025 (In rupees)		
Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	86.67	87.82
British Pound	114.38	116
Euro	98.66	100.75
Japanese Yen	57.53	58.46
Swiss Franc (CHF)	106.04	108.35
Canadian Dollar	62.29	63.69
Australian Dollar	55.62	56.83
Norwegian Krone	8.29	8.54
Swedish Krona	8.75	9.01
New Zealand Dollar	50.73	51.84
Hong Kong Dollar	10.9	11.24
Kuwaiti Dinar	291.0333	279.8269
Singapore Dollar	66.52	68.01
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.81	23.53
United Arab Emirates	23.35	24.02

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Day 1 Arrival at Agatti

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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 per person).



Day 6 Departure

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

Contact : 8828800805 | 9152110130 | 022-22077955/56/57
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GULF FAQs

How to report unpaid salaries anonymously in UAE ?

If you're dealing with unpaid or delayed wages in the UAE but are afraid to come forward, there's a way to raise your labour complaint without revealing your identity to your employer. The Ministry of HR and Emiratization (MOHRE) offers a service called "My Salary Complaint" that lets workers report salary violations confidentially.

Whether your salary is regularly delayed, not paid at all, or you're owed benefits like overtime or end-of-service dues, this service ensures your identity stays protected throughout the process. What is the "My Salary Complaint" service?

It's an anonymous wage complaint option offered by MOHRE. When a complaint is submitted through this service, the employer is not told who filed it. This is especially useful if you're worried about losing your job or facing other con-

sequences for reporting the issue. The complaint is treated as confidential and triggers an official investigation into the company's payment practices.

To use the "My Salary



Complaint" service, you must - have a valid Emirates ID, know your labour card number and not have any pending labour complaints or court cases.

You can file the complaint using the MOHRE app or website. Here's

how it works: Enter your details, submit your personal information, such as your passport number, name, nationality and date of birth through the app or online form. Con-

firm your identity, You will receive a one-time password (OTP) by SMS or email to confirm you're the person submitting the report (not required on the MOHRE smart app).

Investigation begins: MOHRE will review your complaint. If it's found to be valid, the case is passed to the Labour Inspection Department, which will visit your employer to verify the issue without mentioning your name.

Get notified: You will be updated via SMS

once your case is reviewed and resolved. The entire process usually takes around 14 days. You can track the complaint via: MOHRE app or MOHRE website. WhatsApp chat at

600590000.

Call centre at 80084. Don't forget to keep records. Even if you're reporting anonymously, try to gather evidence such as: Bank statements or screenshots showing missed payments. Employment contract or offer letter. WhatsApp or email conversations about your salary. If you work in a free zone For employees working in UAE free zones, the process is different. You must first report your issue to the free zone authority's mediation office.

If the issue isn't resolved, they will issue a NOC so you can take your case to court. Free zone offices don't have the power to enforce decisions, but they can try to mediate.

they can try to mediate.

How UAE expats can transfer money abroad without a bank account, on low fees?

Remittances from expats in the UAE and around the world are more than just money transfers to families back home; they are a vital cog of foreign currency inflows. These money flows help support financial stability, boost household incomes and even contribute to national GDPs.

With digital transfers just a tap away, sending money abroad has become faster, easier, and more affordable. Thanks to the rise of digital apps and mobile fintech platforms, expats can now avoid the high fees and lengthy processes of traditional banks.

Some apps offer free to minimal fees when sending money from the UAE to other countries. Some require no registration fees, no minimum balance, and no bank account. Customers only need an active UAE mobile number, a debit or credit card with online banking access.

Here is the list of apps you can send your money through and how it works:

Originally popular among expats as a VoIP calling platform, expat can transfer money transfer across 170+ countries with Botim. In 2023, Botim launched its first fintech service and the world's first in-chat international money transfers in the UAE, India and the Philippines.

Stay up to date with the latest news. Follow KT on WhatsApp Channels.

Through its partnership with Mastercard and regional fintech players, Botim now allows users to send money directly to bank accounts or mobile wallets in multiple countries. Botim integrates with its own wallet feature, allowing users to manage and track their transactions.

KEY FEATURES:

*Competitive exchange rates*Minimal to zero fees

for select corridors

*Transfers to countries like India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Egypt

Available 24/7 with real-time tracking Careem Pay

Expats can send money to more than 30 countries through Careem pay. From bill payments, to domestic



and international transfers, customers can manage most of their financial needs directly through Careem Pay. Careem Pay launched its peer-to-peer money transfer service in 2022, allowing customers to send, request and

receive money using a phone number, personal QR code, or personal payment link without needing an IBAN or account number.

And with competitive foreign exchange rates that are 50pc cheaper than banks, customers can transfer up to Dh45,000

in a single transaction and up to Dh135,000 monthly.



KEY FEATURES:

Low-cost international transfers Instant or same-day delivery in select corridors*Integration with UAE-issued debit cards*User-friendly inter-

face with multilingual support

Formerly known as Etisalat Wallet, e& money is part of the Emirates Telecom Group's foray into fintech. With its digital wallet, users can send money abroad directly from their smartphones with minimal fees and competitive exchange rates.

e& money has expanded its financial services by offering international and local transfers, bill payment, top up, gifting, card payments, lending and many more financial services.

KEY FEATURES:

*Licensed and regulated by the UAE Central Bank

*Direct transfers to bank accounts and mobile wallets

*International remittances to over 200 countries

*Supports utility payments, in-app purchases and local transfers too.

British Indian hotelier Surinder Arora in race to expand Heathrow Airport

LONDON: One of Britain's leading Indian-origin hoteliers, Surinder Arora, has revealed plans to join the race to expand Heathrow Airport with a cost-efficient solution that offers a fully operational third runway by 2035.

The Arora Group, behind some of the UK's prominent hotels and luxury resorts, said its "Heathrow West" proposal to the UK government has been developed alongside American civil engineers Bechtel, who have a track record of delivering airport projects globally.

The company said the full proposal for the expansion of the UK's only hub airport submitted to the Department of Transport delivers on the government's am-



bition to unlock economic growth and offer consumers greater choice, with significantly improved levels of efficiency, service and resilience for airlines and passengers.

"After a decade working with our world leading design and delivery team, I am very proud that the Arora Group can finally unveil to the UK government our Heathrow West proposal, which directly meets

and supports the UK's primary objective of unlocking economic growth at the UK's only hub airport, with a strong commitment of doing so on-budget and on-time," said Arora. "We are delighted that the government has taken a common-sense approach to invite proposals from all interested parties for the very first time rather than granting exclusivity to the current airport operator, no matter

its track record. I want the UK to succeed... Our project will generate employment and skills training opportunities across every region of the UK." The billionaire tycoon claimed that his plans incorporate simpler and less disruptive construction, enabling earlier delivery of new terminal capacity and avoiding the major disruption of building over the M25 highway.

"Heathrow West will have

a board that comprises members with proven track records in governance, finance, construction, aviation and sustainability. Furthermore, Heathrow West will be committed to working with airlines to adapt its design to ensure it provides value for money and operational resilience while promoting technological innovation," said Carlton Brown, CEO of Heathrow West.

Indian national arrested for possessing fake green card

NEW YORK: A 34-year-old Indian citizen Swapnil Ramesh Tejale has been arrested and charged with possession of a forged alien resident card, the US Attorney's Office for the West-

ern District of New York announced. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

According to US Attorney Michael DiGiacomo, the arrest stems from a July 10 traffic stop by the Niagara Falls Police Department. The department requested assistance from the Niagara Falls Border Patrol Station to identify three individuals. Assistant US Attorney Michael J Smith, who is prosecuting the case, stated that Tejale presented a Lawful Permanent Resident Card during questioning but voluntari-

ly admitted that the card was fake. Authorities determined that Tejale was unlawfully present in the US and lacked proper immigration documents. Upon his arrest, agents discovered a Social Security card in Tejale's name, which record checks later confirmed was also fraudulent. "This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative to repel illegal immigration, dismantle cartels and transnational criminal organisations, and protect our communities from violent crime," the US Attorney's Office said in a statement.

India's new satellite to track climate...

Cont from page - 2 dia's profile in low-cost, high-impact satellite missions.

NISAR is the world's first radar imaging satellite to use two radar frequencies - the L-band provided by NASA and the S-band developed by ISRO - to track minute changes in the Earth's surface, including movements as small as a centimetre, the space agencies have said. The satellite, roughly the size and weight of a fully loaded pickup truck - was placed into a near-polar Sun-synchronous orbit approximately 747 km (464 miles) above Earth.

It will map the planet every 12 days using a 240-km-wide radar swath, offering data to scientists and disaster response agencies to monitor everything from glacier retreat in the Himalayas to potential landslide zones in South America. "The potential applications from the satellite are huge, and the global scientific community is eagerly awaiting

the satellite data for their respective research and usage," ISRO Chairman V Narayanan said after the launch. "It is not going to be used by one or two countries. The entire globe is going to benefit from this great accomplishment," he said, adding that the mission had brought the two space agencies much closer than ever before. Casey Swails, NASA's deputy associate administrator, called the mission a "pathfinder". "This Earth science mission is one of a kind and really shows the world what our two nations can do," she said. ISAR is expected to operate for at least five years. The data it collects will be made freely available to users worldwide — a move aimed at enhancing transparency and accessibility in environmental research and hazard response. The launch comes amid India's broader push to establish itself as a leading space power, following the success of its Chandrayaan-3 moon

landing and its upcoming Gaganyaan human space-flight programme.

India has said it aims to build its own space station by 2035 and send astronauts to the moon in partnership with other countries as part of a broader vision to expand commercial and scientific activities in space.

UPI's new rules to reduce frauds

NEW DELHI: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has imposed new UPI rules starting Friday, Aug 1, to improve app performance and reduce fraud. The changes apply to all major UPI platforms like Google Pay, PhonePe and Paytm.

Users will now be limited to 50 bank balance checks per day, and balance may be shown with every transaction. Auto payments will only be processed during non-peak hours to reduce system load. Bank details can be accessed up to 25 times daily and the recipient's registered name

will be shown before each transfer to prevent mistakes.

Users can check their bank balance up to 50 times per day. UPI apps may limit or pause balance checks during peak traffic hours. Users will now see their available balance with every transaction.

Auto payment Processing (Autopay) transactions will be processed only during non-peak hours: Before 10:00 AM, Between 1:00 PM– 5:00 PM and After 9:30 PM. If scheduled during peak hours, payments may occur before or after the set time. Failed

autopay transactions will get retry attempts; if unsuccessful, the payment will be canceled.

Users can view the list of banks linked to their mobile number. Unconfirmed transactions will now update quickly instead of showing as "pending." Users can check a payment's status only three times, with a 90-second gap between each attempt. The registered name of the recipient will be shown before each transaction. This will help users avoid fraud or wrong transfers. The name will appear alongside the transaction ID.

GLIMPSES OF TAFI-WI FAM TRIP TO KHAO LAK-PHUKET

