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Special ladies' Yoga event held at India House, Kuwait



KUWAIT CITY: As part of the countdown to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June, 21, 2025, the Embassy of India in Kuwait hosted a special Ladies' Yoga event at India House, the residence of the Indian Ambassador in Kuwait.

The event, held 50 days ahead of IDY 2025, wit-

(Cont. on page-2)

Air Kerala gets its IATA Code, launch by June-end

DUBAI: Air Kerala, the upcoming ultra-low-cost airline backed by UAE-based investors, has secured its International Air Transport Association (IATA) airline code.

The carrier announced that it has received the two-letter code "KD," marking another sig-

nificant step toward its launch, The code "KD" will be finalised once the airline obtains its Air Operator Certificate (AOC), expected by the end of June. "Getting a two-alphabet code is a privilege. We are very honoured by the allocation," says Harish Kutty, CEO,



Air Kerala.

For Afi Ahmed, Dubai-based founder and chairman of Air Kerala, the

(Cont. on page-2)

Navi Mumbai airport to be inaugurated on June 1

MUMBAI: The Rs 17,000-cr Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMA) of Adani Airport Holdings will be inaugurated on June 1 by prime minister Narendra Modi. However, sources at the airport said that even after the inauguration will be some time before flight operations kick off.

NMIA witnessed the inaugural landing of an Indian Air Force C-295 aircraft in Oct, 2024 and the first commercial flight validation test was conducted in Dec by an IndiGo's A320 aircraft, which landed on Runway 08/26 in the presence of senior officials from the Directorate General of

(Cont. on page-2)

Jazeera Airways -TCS tie-up

NEW DELHI: IT services major Tata Consultancy Services has partnered with Jazeera Airways, Kuwait's low-cost carrier, to implement a cutting-edge digital ecosystem that supports scale, personalised customer experience and revenue diversification.

Jazeera serves over 60+ destinations across the Mid-East, Central and South Asia, as well as Europe. Since its launch in April 2004, as the first privately owned airline in the MidEast, it has grown to serve over five million passengers.

As it completes 20 years of its operations, Jazeera Airways is embarking on the next phase of its growth by reimagining its digital ecosystem. K Krithivasan, CEO and Managing Director, TCS, said: "By combining our expertise in aviation with our capabilities in AI, engineering practices and AI-native solutions, TCS will enable the development of intelligent, intuitive and scalable digital channels for the

airlines."

The company further added in the filing that partnership also reaffirms TCS' position as a digital transformation partner of choice in the MEA region, where the IT major has had a strong presence for over three decades.

With operations in nine countries across MEA, TCS serves more than 150 customers regionally, across industries including manufacturing, healthcare, retail, media, BFSI and CPG. TCS has also been recognised as a Top Employer by the Top Employers Institute for eight consecutive years in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa. Leveraging its AI-native approach, TCS will deliver the programme end-to-end, bringing its capabilities in product management, user experience design, architecture, agile development, integration, testing, and ongoing enhancements to reimagine how passengers interact with the airline at every stage of their journey.

(Cont. on page-7)

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Iran Foreign Minister Araghchi to visit India on Wednesday

NEW DELHI: Days after he conveyed his intention to mediate between India and Paki-

cussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar “on all aspects of the Pahalgam attack, besides other issues of bilateral, regional and global importance”. The Iranian foreign minister is set to co-chair a meeting of the bilateral joint commission with Jaishankar while in India during May 7-8, sources said on condition of anonymity.



Abbas Araghchi

stan over the Pahalgam terror attack, Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is expected to arrive in New Delhi for discussions on trade and economic cooperation, newspapers reported.

Sources in the Iranian embassy in New Delhi said Araghchi is expected to hold detailed dis-

ussions with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar “on all aspects of the Pahalgam attack, besides other issues of bilateral, regional and global importance”. The Iranian foreign minister is set to co-chair a meeting of the bilateral joint commission with Jaishankar while in India during May 7-8, sources said on condition of anonymity.

ty. Araghchi’s visit was scheduled long before tensions flared between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22. It will also be Araghchi’s first visit to India since he was appointed the foreign minister last August.

This will be the first meeting of the Joint Com-

mission, which mainly focuses on trade and economic co-operation, since Dec 2019, when Jaishankar travelled to Tehran for consultations. While the Joint Commission is supposed to meet every year, there has been a gap in its meetings because of the Covid-19 pandemic and domestic pre-occupations of the two countries.

Mumbai to Goa in six hours

PANJIM: The upgraded Mumbai-Goa Highway is nearing completion and is set to transform travel between the two cities. Once fully operational, expected to be from June 2025, the 466-km, four-lane highway will reduce travel time from

the current 13 hours to just six hours. The route will connect Panvel to Sindhudurg, passing through Raigad and Ratnagiri and will also feature 14 interchanges for smoother traffic flow. A major change in the highway system is

the elimination of traditional toll booths across India, including on the Mumbai-Goa Highway. In place of the toll booths, a new advanced toll collection system will be implemented, and tolls will be auto-deducted, relying on satellite tracking and Automatic Number Plate Recognition. Speaking at an event, Minister Nitin Gadkari explained about the Mumbai-Goa highway, and assured that the work is progressing well.

Special ladies’ Yoga event...

(Cont. from page-1) nessed enthusiastic participation from female ambassadors, spouses of ambassadors of several countries and local yoga practitioners.

A highlight of the occasion was the presence of Shka. Shaikha Ali Jaber Al Sabah, a member of the royal family, who was recently awarded one of the highest civilian awards of India, the “Padma Shri” by President of India, for her contribution in promoting yoga in Kuwait and the region. Her recognition underscores the cross-cultural impact of yoga and highlights her dedication to advancing yoga and wellness.

The UN had unanimously adopted 21 June, the day of solstice, as

the International Day of Yoga in 2014 based on a resolution moved by India as part of vision of Prime Minister Modi. It was co-sponsored by an overwhelming 177 countries, including the friendly state of Kuwait. International Day of Yoga, celebrated annually on June 21, promotes global awareness of the benefits of yoga for physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Since its inception by the UN in 2014, the day has united millions across the world in a shared pursuit of health and harmony through yoga. The theme for IDY 2025 is “Yoga for One Earth One Health”. The embassy of India in Kuwait will be organising a yoga event to mark IDY 2025 on June 21.

Indian Embassy official in Kuwait Kollorath retires

KUWAIT CITY: Abdullah Kollorath, a respected figure in the Indian community in Kuwait, has retired after three decades of distinguished service at the Indian embassy. During his tenure, he held key positions including interpreter, social secretary to the ambassador and press secretary to the ambas-



Abdullah Kollorath
sador.

Before joining the embassy, Kollorath nurtured his passion
(Cont. on page-7)

New film city to create 2500 jobs

MUMBAI: Prime Focus has announced here that it plans to set up a Rs 3,000 crore investment to set up a “film city”, to house an entire ecosystem related to entertainment.

A MoU has been signed with the Maharashtra government by the BSE-listed company to create the complex, which would have the potential to cre-

ate up to 2,500 jobs. Making an official announcement about the project on the sidelines of the ongoing WAVES 2025 event in Mumbai, Prime Focus founder Namit Malhotra stated that the film city complex would come up over a 200-acre area within the financial capital which the Maharashtra state government.

Malhotra did not mention the exact location of where the complex would

come up, but stated that the Maharashtra state government has outlined two or three options. Malhorta stated that the film complex would have a Ramayana-themed amusement park, hotels and residential accommodation facilities, where families would be able to reside for months. He stated that the groundbreaking for the entertainment complex can be expected this year itself.

Air Kerala gets its IATA ...

(Cont. from page-1) designation holds special meaning. “For us, ‘KD’ stands for “Kerala Dream.” “While for non-Keralites, it could mean “Kerala to Dubai” or “Kerala to Doha.” This is another step towards making the Air Kerala dream come true,” Ahmed said.

The airline recently established its headquar-

ters in Kochi opening a spacious three-floor office complex near Aluva Metro station.

Kerala Minister of Industries P Rajeev inaugurated the facility with several MPs and MLAs in attendance. The modern headquarters features training facilities and can accommodate over 200 aviation professionals working simultaneously.

Navi Mumbai airport to be inaugurated...

(Cont. from page-1) Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI), Customs, Immigration, CISF, CIDCO etc.

After the success of commercial flight validation test, group CEO of Adani Airports Holding Arun Bansal had claimed that the airport would be inaugurated on April 17 and the operations would commence in May. However, Adani Group’s chairman Gautam Adani said later in March that the airport would be inaugurated in June 2025. While Adani

has 74pc stake the rest is held by CIDCO.

Speaking at the Routes Asia 2025 summit in March the airport’s chief operating officer Prabhat Mahapatra had also confirmed that the airport is expected to be inaugurated in June and commence commercial operations in late July or early August.

However, sources related to NMIA have said that the commencement of operations will take longer than expectations as it is still left with a lot of pending work in the first phase, includ-

ing the first passenger terminal.

NMIA has confirmed that the airside work related to runways, including runways, taxiways and aprons, has been completed while the process to secure the aerodrome license from DGCA and security clearance from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is in progress. Moreover, operational readiness and airport transfer (ORAT) trials, to test the functionality of systems and procedures under real-life scenarios, have also begun.

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Japanese Yen	58.06	58.97
Swiss Franc (CHF)	101.14	103.32
Canadian Dollar	60.36	61.73
Australian Dollar	54.03	55.2
Norwegian Krone	7.96	8.19
Swedish Krona	8.62	8.87
New Zealand Dollar	49.83	50.95
Hong Kong Dollar	10.65	10.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	278.65	280.87
Singapore Dollar	64.57	66
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.01	22.7
United Arab Emirates	22.53	23.17

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Rupee gains against US \$

MUMBAI: The rupee gained 39 paise to 84.18 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday, as continued foreign investor interest in Indian assets lent fundamental support to the local unit.

Forex traders said a sharp decline in crude oil prices and a positive trend in domestic equities enthused investors further.

Brent crude oil prices slumped nearly four per cent in the morning in Asian trade after OPEC+ signalled over the weekend that they will further increase production in the coming months. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 84.45 and fell to an early low of 84.47 and a high of 84.18 against the greenback,

On Friday, the rupee hadwitnessed high volatility as it hit a seven-month high and rose past the 84 per dollar level but pared all gains to settle threepaise low-

er at 84.57 against the greenback.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 3.59pc to US\$ 59.09 per barrel in futures trade. The OPEC+ announced a second straight monthly output hike for June, adding 411,000 barrels per day to global supply. Coupled with a one per cent decline in crude prices -- Brent settled at USD 61.245 -- this could ease India's oil import bill and support the rupee further.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 330.55 points or 0.41pc to 80,832.54, while the Nifty rose 115.75 points or 0.48p to 24,462.45.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,769.81 crore on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, India's forex reserves increased \$1.983 billion to USD 688.129 billion during the week ended April 25.

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Karnataka : Karnataka is famous for temples, majestic architecture, and princely vibe.



GULF FAQs

How AI will create more responsive legal system

Recently the UAE Cabinet approved the launch of the first integrated regulatory intelligence ecosystem within the government through Artificial Intelligence (AI). Can you explain the benefits?

The UAE will now use advanced artificial intelligence (AI) to create a comprehensive legislative framework integrating federal and local laws. The announcement follows the UAE Cabinet's recent approval of the first integrated regulatory intelligence ecosystem. The new system, which will link judicial rulings, executive procedures and public services, promises to monitor the real-time impact of legislation on citizens and the economy.

Ahmad Al-Khalil, a partner at Crimson Legal, remarked: "The UAE Cabinet's decision to launch the Regulatory Intelligence Office represents a pivotal moment in the development of the country's legal system. By embedding AI at the core of lawmaking, this initiative seeks to



The Artificial Intelligence (AI) system

establish a cohesive legislative framework that connects federal and local regulations with judicial decisions and public services."

The concept of predictive lawmaking is aimed at enabling legislators to proactively shape laws based on emerging trends rather than merely responding to issues as they arise. "The potential for quicker, smarter, and more responsive legislative reform is im-

mense," Al-Khalil added. "This will allow us to better serve the needs of society." Experts also highlight that such transformation must be approached with vigilance. "Law is fundamentally a human endeavour, deeply rooted in fairness, judgment, and context," Al-Khalil cautioned.

"While AI can manage vast amounts of data and reveal trends, human oversight remains crucial, particularly re-

garding rights, equity, and interpretation." Alia Al Mansouri, an Emirati lawyer, emphasised the significance of tracking the impact of legislation through the new system. "The ability to monitor the daily effects of laws on our citizens and the economy using large-scale data is a game changer," she stated.

"This real-time analysis will provide lawmakers with valuable insights, enabling them to

understand how legislation functions in practice and where adjustments may be necessary." She further elaborated on the system's proactive approach. "By regularly suggesting updates to our legislation based on this data, we can ensure that our laws remain relevant and effective. This dynamic process will not only enhance the legislative framework but also help to address emerging challenges more swiftly, ultimately benefiting society as a whole." Dr. Omar Al-Farsi, an AI specialist, expressed enthusiasm about the initiative. "This integrated approach positions the UAE as a frontrunner in legislative innovation," he noted.

He further emphasised the potential of AI to enhance the legislative framework. "Using AI in lawmaking enables us to anticipate societal needs and adjust laws proactively," Dr. Al-Farsi explained. "The UAE has long been a leader in adopting AI technologies, and this initiative exemplifies our commitment to leveraging innovation for better governance. It sets a blueprint for how digital tools can create more responsive and effective legal systems."

Can a landlord charge extra fees for basement parking after setting rent?

I currently live in a two-bedroom apartment in Dubai and my lease is up for renewal. While the rent increase aligns with the official rental index, my agent has informed me that the landlord now plans to charge an additional fee for the basement parking space, which was previously included free of charge. Is it legal for the landlord to introduce a new charge for an amenity that was earlier provided at no cost? What legal options do I have?

In Dubai, building amenities such as park-

ing spaces are generally considered part of the rental agreement and tenants are not required to pay additional fees for their use unless otherwise agreed in the contract. This is clearly outlined under Article 11 of Law No. 26 of 2007 Regulating the Relationship Between Landlords and Tenants, which states: "Unless otherwise agreed, the rent shall cover the use of the real property facilities, such as swimming pools, playgrounds, gymnasiums, health clubs, car parks and other facilities."

At the time of renewing a rent contract, both a landlord and a tenant may discuss and amend the terms of a proposed renewed rent contract, including the rent. If both a landlord and a tenant disagree on the renewal terms, the Dubai Rental Dispute Centre (RDC) shall be the deciding authority for the resolution of a dispute. This is under the Articles 13 and 14 of the Law No. 33 of 2008 Amending Law No. 26 of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in the Emirate of Dubai.

When it comes to lease renewals, both landlords and tenants have the right to negotiate and propose changes to the rental terms, including rent amounts. However, if no agreement is reached on the proposed changes, the matter can be referred to the Dubai Rental Dispute Centre (RDC) for resolution.

Additionally, if either party wishes to make changes to the terms of a rental contract, they must provide at least 90 days' notice before the lease expires, unless both parties agree

otherwise. This is under the Articles 13 and 14 of the Law No. 33 of 2008 Amending Law No. 26 of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in Dubai, which states: For the purposes of renewing a Rent Contract, the Landlord and Tenant may, prior to the expiry of the Rent Contract, amend any of its terms or reconsider increasing or reducing the rent. If the Landlord and Tenant fail to reach an agreement in this regard, the Tribunal may determine the fair rent.

Unique beach tourism project inaugurated in Kerala

MUZHAPPILANGAD: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday inaugurated the first phase of the Muzhappilangad-Dharmadam Comprehensive Beach Tourism Project, terming it a milestone in Kerala's tourism development and a transformative initiative for the Malabar region.

Addressing a gathering at Muzhappilangad beach, the chief minister said the project would strengthen Kerala's position as a premier tourist destination, both nationally and internationally.

"The Muzhappilangad



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan arriving at Muzhappilangad Beach in Kannur to inaugurate the Muzhappilangad-Dharmadam Comprehensive Beach Tourism Project.

Beach Tourism Project is a milestone not only for Kannur but for the entire state. It is the longest drive-in beach in

the country and one of the most noted in Asia.

The Rs 233-crore comprehensive beach tourism development plan,

conceptualised in four character zones- Muzhappilangad South, Muzhappilangad North, Dharmadam beach and Dharmadam Island- aims to offer a blend of adventure, eco-tourism and cultural experiences. Of this, the first phase has been completed with Rs62 crore worth of development works.

As part of the initial phase, facilities such as walkways, refreshment centres and vehicle parking have been set up on the northern side of Muzhappilangad beach, while the southern stretch has been

equipped with seating areas, toilets and kiosk parking. At Dharmadam beach, upcoming works include jogging and cycling tracks, an underwater sculpture garden and an elevated nature walk. A detailed plan is also being prepared to improve access to the island. Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas, who presided over the function, said the Muzhappilangad-Dharmadam project is an asset to the State and its phased implementation would catalyse a broader economic and cultural renaissance.

SEVIS students stranded in India amid US immigration uncertainty

HYDERABAD: When 25-year-old Vijay (name changed), a Master's student from Telangana, saw his SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) record terminated in early April, he panicked. Convinced he could be detained or deported due to a minor dispute with a housemate that never became a formal case, he booked a flight and left Texas for Hyderabad. And 10 days

later, his SEVIS status quietly flipped back to "active."

"I refreshed the page three times before I believed it," he said. "But now I'm stuck in India. My visa is still revoked. I don't know how to return."

SEVIS is a federal database that governs the legal status of international students in the US. A termination often renders a student "out of status," triggering

fears of deportation. But in late April, SEVIS records for dozens of students — most of them Indian — began to be restored, even in cases involving minor infractions or charges that had been dropped.

While this reversal has offered some relief,

the path back remains blocked for students who voluntarily left the US. Their F-1 visas, once revoked, are still invalid — and must be reissued through fresh applications and interviews.

According to the American Immigration

Lawyers Association (AILA), Indian nationals account for nearly 50pc of the 327 F-1 visa revocations recorded in recent months. The SEVIS reinstatements, experts say, were driven not by policy shifts but by legal pressure from mounting lawsuits.

Indian Embassy official in...

(Cont. from page-2)

for journalism through part-time work at Kuwait Times, where he contributed to the Arabic Press View and the Malayalam section. A well-known writer in both English and Malayalam, he authored a book on the late His Highness the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah — a travelogue through time that chronicles key events in the life of the esteemed leader, reflecting Kollorath's deep interest in the region's history and leadership.

Kollorath holds Master's degrees in both Arabic Literature and Mass Communication and Journalism, along with a Diploma in Translation from Kuwait Universi-

ty — qualifications that enriched his diplomatic career and cross-cultural engagements.

He left Kuwait for India on May 4. He is supported by his wife, Asma, a former teacher at Delhi Public School in Kuwait.

The couple has three children: Dr. Hiba; Hanan, a fashion designer trained at NIFT and Haaseeb, a data scientist.

Kollorath's retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable career at the Indian embassy. Community members and colleagues have praised his contributions and efforts in fostering India-Kuwait relations, and have extended their best wishes for his future endeavors.

Fines up to SR1 lakh for illegal Haj entry

RIYADH: As the annual Haj season approaches and to safeguard the security and sanctity of the annual Haj pilgrimage, Saudi Arabia's ministry of interior has begun enforcing a series of strict measures targeting individuals attempting to enter Mecca and other holy sites without official permits.

The ministry warned that individuals found performing or attempting to perform Haj without a permit, including those on visit visas, will face fines of up to SR20,000 (approximately \$5,300).

The clampdown comes as part of national efforts to manage the pilgrimage safely and efficiently, particularly in light of past overcrowding and logistical challenges.

The new campaign also extends liability to those facilitating ille-

gal Haj attempts. Any person, including sponsors, landlords, hotel operators or drivers, who knowingly assists someone in bypassing Haj regulations could be fined up to SR1 lakh.

Offenders may also face deportation, a 10-year reentry ban and the confiscation of vehicles used in the violation, pending judicial approval.

Jazeera Airways ties up...

(Cont. from page-1)

Barathan Pasupathi, CEO, Jazeera Airways, said: "Together, we are building a future-ready platform that aligns with our growth aspirations, customer centric strategy, and commitment to operational excellence." Through this transformation, TCS will power the airline's efforts to implement a cutting-edge digital foundation that supports scale, personalisation and revenue diversification, the filing added.

TCS' solutions will feature a set of integrated digital applications designed to deliver faster, more contextual and connected interactions.

This includes a retail-driven ancillary platform, an intelligent offer engine to drive upsell and cross-sell opportunities, a "Customer 360° Insights Hub" to enable personalisation at scale and a generative AI-powered digital assistant to support customers across platforms.