



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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## Sri Lanka Tourism invites Indians for destination weddings

**MUMBAI:** Sri Lanka Tourism has officially opened its doors for destination weddings, extending a warm invitation to Indian couples and families to celebrate their special day in one of the world's most breathtaking locations.

To mark this, Sri Lanka Tourism successfully concluded a series of multi-city luxury wedding shows across India, positioning the island as a premier choice for couples seeking unforgettable wedding experiences. The showcases brought together leading Sri Lankan hotels, resorts, heritage venues and wed-



**During the "Luxury Sri Lanka Wedding Show" B2B, Consul General of Sri Lanka Her Excellency Priyanga Wickramasinghe and HE Shirani Ariyaratne, Consul Minister (Commercial), along with CMD of Fly Creative Online Limited Mr VS Abdulkareem.**

ding service providers with top Indian wedding planners, travel agents and media representatives. Each event offered exclu-

sive networking sessions, immersive experiences and tailor-made wedding concepts-demonstrating Sri Lanka's unmatched



Glimpses of the event.

ability to host both traditional Indian ceremonies and contemporary luxury celebrations

The Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau commented: "Sri Lanka is now open for destination weddings and we invite India to come celebrate love with us. The overwhelming response

across India reaffirmed our belief that Sri Lanka holds a special place in the hearts of Indian couples. From pristine beaches and tea garden retreats to colonial mansions and heritage forts, the island offers everything needed to create weddings that are truly unforgettable.

(Cont. on page-2)

## Licensing must in Oman for work permits now

**MUSCAT:** The Ministry of Labour has announced the implementation of licensing requirements for over 40 professions.

Therefore, all employees working in establishments or those intended to be appointed in these professions must apply to the competent authority to complete the licensing procedures for practicing professions, as a basic condition for issuing or renewing work permits.

According to the ministry of labour, the new regulations are part of the National Strategy for Professional Standards, will reduce the presence of unskilled or unprofessional workforce in the market, and improve the quality of services provided to the people and clients. Obtain-

(Cont. on page-2)

## IPEPCIL protests GST Levy on emigrants, calls it unjust and express deep disappointment over GST @ 18%

**MUMBAI:** The overseas recruitment fraternity has expressed strong disappointment over the recent GST review which has failed to exempt emigrants proceeding abroad through Recognised Recruitment Agencies (RAs) from the ambit of GST.

Stakeholders argue that this decision is unfair, regressive and detrimental to the very citizens who contribute significantly to In-



dia's economy through overseas employment and remittances.

**A blow to aspirants seeking livelihood abroad:** Overseas recruitment

agencies who act as licensed inter mediaries under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA-OE) play a crucial role in facilitating safe and legal migration, by enabling skilled and semi-skilled workers to secure overseas employment, they directly ease the un-employment burden in India.

(Cont. on page-2)

## Air India launches 'One India' sale, affordable flat fares to Europe

**MUMBAI:** In a bid to make international travel more accessible, Air India has launched its much-anticipated "One India" promotional sale, offering flat fares on flights from India to any European destination.

The "One India" sale is a limited-time offer, available exclusively on Air India's website and mobile app on Sept 7, 2025.

However, after this date, the special fares will still be available, but through all booking channels, including travel agents, Air India's airport ticketing offices and customer contact centres. But seats are limited, and the fares are limited and the fares will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. To take advantage of this exciting opportunity, travellers are

encouraged to book their tickets as soon as possible to secure their seats at the best prices.

Air India's 'One India' sale is available for travel until March 31, 2026, allowing passengers to plan their European trips well in advance. With the flexibility to travel anytime before March 2026, this offer provides ample time (Cont. on page-7)

We are very pleased to announce that, **one** is coming out with a special Saudi National Day e-supplement on **23rd September, 2025.**

This special e-supplement will carry highly researched and informative features, articles and photographs — all exclusively on the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This edition will be e-presented to the heads of several missions in India and to our embassies abroad, apart from corporate houses and top political leaders.

Saudi Arabia is a major trade partner of India and to further strengthen the friendship and trade relations between Saudi Arabia and India, our special edition will be communicating goodwill messages to His Highness King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the people of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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# IPEPCIL protests GST Levy on emigrants, calls it unjust and express deep disappointment over GST @ 18%

(Cont. from page-1)

Imposing GST on emigrants for availing these intermediary services is being seen as a burden on job-seekers, many of whom come from modest backgrounds. The fraternity points out that these emigrants already bear significant upfront costs for documentation, training and trade test, pre-medicals, skill test and verifications and travel and settlement abroad.

The GST levy only

adds to their financial strain, bad in-law, unjustified in spirits: Industry representatives have strongly argued that the levy is "Bad in Law" and not justifiable because, Overseas Recruitment Services for emigrants are not luxury services but livelihood facilitation.

Emigrants contribute billions in inward remittances, strengthening India's foreign exchange reserves. The services provided by RAs are directly linked to

national employment generation and economic benefits. This decision effectively taxes unemployment. Instead of incentivising safe and legal migration, the GST levy penalises those who are trying to uplift their families and contribute to the nation, said Mr VS Abdulkareem, President, IPEPCIL.

**Impact on national interest:** The overseas recruitment industry highlights that emigrants abroad are one of India's

largest sources of foreign inward remittances. By discouraging migration through recognised channels, thus imposing additional levies, the government risks reducing India's Global HR Export potential, which has long been a backbone of India's service economy.

**Call for urgent review and exemption:** The fraternity has urged GST Council and the concerned ministries to urgently review the decision and roll back and grant clear exception to emigrants availing recruitment services through the recognised recruitment agencies.

Taxing emigrants, who go abroad for employ-

ment is unjust, unreasonable and against the spirit of fair taxation. Overseas Recruitment is a lifeline for Millions of families and a major contributor to India's economy. The levy must be rolled back in national interest, Industry spokesperson observed.

The overseas recruitment fraternity has made it clear that this decision will be met with continued protest until a just exemption is granted. As India aspires to position itself as the "Skill Capital of the World" policies must support, not burden, the very workforce that carries India's reputation and economic strength abroad, Mr VS Abdulkareem emphasised.

## Indians can no longer apply from abroad for short-term US visa

**WASHINGTON:** The US has barred Indians from applying for student, visitor or work visas from third countries to bypass long wait times at home.

A new State Department directive mandates applications only from the applicant's country of residence or citizenship. The rule, effective immediately, affects

Indians who earlier applied in places like Thailand, Germany or Brazil.

Indians who have applied for US student or visitor visas overseas in countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and even European countries like Germany, to bypass long interview waitlists at home, now have another hurdle in front of

them. As per the latest Department of State (DoS) directive issued on Sept 6, US has mandated that non-immigrant visas such as visitor (B1/ B2), employment (H-1B and O-1) and student (F1) can be applied only from the respective country where the applicants reside or are citizens of, with immediate effect.

## Sri Lanka Tourism invites...

(Cont. from page-1)  
**STRONG INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION :** The wedding showcases saw enthusiastic participation from Sri Lankan luxury hotels, iconic venues and destination management companies, alongside India's leading wedding planners and travel agents. The collaborative spirit underscored the potential for a flourishing cross-border wedding tourism market. **Expanding the Destination Wedding Market:** The

events highlighted the growing trend of boutique and intimate weddings among Indian couples. Sri Lanka Tourism showcased its readiness to cater to this evolving segment with curated packages and bespoke experiences, blending cultural richness, natural beauty and luxury at an affordable scale.

**ABOUT SRI LANKA TOURISM :** Sri Lanka Tourism, the official body promoting the island as a global travel destination, works closely with indus-

try stakeholders to highlight the country's diverse offerings from cultural exploration and adventure tourism to luxury weddings. With personalised facilitation services and world-class hospitality, Sri Lanka is ready to become India's most cherished wedding destination-truly a celebration in paradise.

## Licensing must in Oman for...

(Cont. from page-1)  
ing a professional licence issued by the Sector Skills Unit for the Energy and Minerals Sector is a mandatory requirement for issuing or renewing work permits, effective Sept 1, 2025. The ministry of labour will not grant such permits until the approved licence is submitted.

The ministry will maintain strict oversight of training institutes and assessment centres authorised to evaluate and licence

professions requiring vocational classification. Any licences or certifications not officially approved by the ministry will be considered invalid. Those found guilty of submitting forged documents will face legal action in accordance with existing regulations.

Some HR executives in private sector establishments said that these rules would help regulate the sector. They are working to understand the finer details of this decision to

provide assurances to their employees. The decision applies to those employed in the logistics sector, including drivers of refrigerated trucks, water tankers, trailers, waste transport trucks and food delivery representatives and supervisors, both Omanis and expatriates. It will be mandatory to obtain a professional practice licence from the Sectoral Skills Unit for the Logistics Sector for the issuance or renewal of work permits.

## New Zealand issues new rules for Indian visa applicants

**WELLINGTON:** Indian nationals applying for a visa to visit New Zealand will have to meet the new requirements for police clearance certificates. New Zealand has issued new police clearance certificate rules for Indian national visa applicants who reside in India.

The recently introduced New Zealand visa rules bring in changes to the way the police clearance certificates are to be obtained by Indian applicants. From Dec 1 2025, Immigration

New Zealand will only accept police clearance certificates issued by a Regional Passport Office of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, when required from Indian national visa applicants who reside in India.

To ensure that the police clearance certificates Immigration New Zealand receives are more consistent, only police clearance certificates issued by the Regional Passport Office of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs will be accepted. (Cont. on page-7)



Sri Lankan diplomats and other travel and tourism industry personnel at the function



EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF DIGITALISED ADVERTISEMENTS WITH ONE E-NEWSPAPER

Saudi comm firms, e-stores allowed to give National Day discounts

**RIYADH:** The Ministry of Commerce announced that it will allow commercial establishments and e-stores in Saudi Arabia to give two-week special discount for 2024. Commercial firms and e-stores can apply electronically for the seasonal discount licenses via: sales.mc.gov.sa. The electronic application aims to enable commercial establishments and e-stores to obtain discount licenses easily, print them and show them to the consumer. These discount days will not be counted in the previously allotted total annual number of days for discount sales. The ministry noted that consumers can verify the legality and validity of the discounts by scanning the barcode appearing in the discount license with a mobile camera to show him all data related to the discounts, including the type and percentage of discounts, their duration, in addition to the establishment's data.

Marriott appoints Kiran Andicot as senior VP for South Asia region

**MUMBAI:** American hospitality major Marriott International announced the appointment of Kiran Andicot as the new senior vice president for the South Asian region. This follows the departure of Ranju Alex from Marriott International as the regional vice president, South Asia, to lead Accor Hotels as its CEO for the South Asian region. Andicot joined Marriott International's development and feasibility team in 2006, rising through the ranks during his 19-year tenure. He has almost 30 years of experience leading teams across various hospitality disciplines in India and South Asia, including hotel operations, consultancy, planning, feasibility, and development. Before joining Marriott, he spent four years in real estate and hospitality consultancy with firms like EY and HVS and seven years in hotel operations with Indian Hotels Company (Taj) and the Oberoi Group at various locations across India. The company further stated that Andicot, in his development role for Marriott in South Asia, had been instrumental in delivering growth momentum in India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh, signing more than 220 hotels for the region. In India, Andicot, along with his team, had secured a record signing of 42 hotels and 7,000 rooms in 2024 and signed a new deal with Concept Hospitality this year to affiliate The Fern's portfolio of 115 properties with the company's new brand, Series by Marriott.



FOREX RATES		
As on 8th September 2025 (In rupees)		
Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	87.58	88.74
British Pound	117.8	119.53
Euro	101.88	104.05
Japanese Yen	59.14	60.08
Swiss Franc (CHF)	108.39	110.81
Canadian Dollar	63.16	64.59
Australian Dollar	56.99	58.27
Norwegian Krone	8.6	8.86
Swedish Krona	9.17	9.44
New Zealand Dollar	51.09	52.22
Hong Kong Dollar	11.08	11.43
Kuwaiti Dinar	249.502	283.2137
Singapore Dollar	67.76	69.28
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.04	23.77
United Arab Emirates	23.59	24.28

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**Day 1** Arrival at Agatti

Arrival at Agatti Airport, transfer to the hotel. Enjoy a welcome drink, check-in, lunch, and relax on the beach or explore the island.



**Day 2** Agatti – Water Sports & Sightseeing

Enjoy water activities followed by island sightseeing – visit the jetty, desalination plant, Lagoon Beach, and Archaeological Museum.



**Day 3** Kalpitti Island Excursion

Morning boat trip to Kalpitti Island and return. Overnight at Agatti.



**Day 4** Agatti to Bangaram

After breakfast, transfer to Bangaram by speedboat (1 hour). Welcome drink and check-in at resort.



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

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



**Day 6** Departure

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



# GULF FAQs

## Can passengers claim compensation even as airline rebooks after flight delay?

**Earlier this month, I was scheduled to fly from India back to Dubai, but my flight was cancelled. I faced significant difficulty securing an alternative booking due to peak season. Although the airline eventually rebooked me, I feel I am entitled to compensation for the time I lost. What are my rights in this situation?**

When travelling in the UAE, passengers are generally governed by the terms and conditions of their airline ticket, which cover travel, baggage and related matters. By booking a ticket, travellers agree to abide by these rules. That said, airlines can be held liable for de-

lays in scheduled flights. This is in accordance with Article 357 of the Federal Decree Law No. 50 of 2022 Issuing the Com-



mercial Transactions Law, which states: "The air carrier shall be responsible for the damage resulting from the late arrival of the passenger, checked luggage, or cargo."

It is important to note

that the UAE is a signatory to the Montreal Convention of 1999 and therefore the provisions of the said convention are applica-

ble. This is in accordance with Article 354 of the Commercial Transactions Law, which states: "Without prejudice to the international conventions to which the state is a party, the provisions of this section shall apply to the air transport, subject to the provisions set out in the following articles."

The aforementioned Montreal Convention of

1999 mentions that the airline may be liable for delays of the flights except for reasons that are beyond the control of the airline. This is in accordance with Article 19 of the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air of 1999, signed at Montreal, which states: "The carrier is liable for damage occasioned by delay in the carriage by air of passengers, baggage or cargo. Nevertheless, the carrier shall not be liable for the damage occasioned by delay if it proves that it and its servants and agents took all measures that could reasonably be required to avoid the damage or that it was impossible for it or them to take such measures."

Furthermore, for any delays, the airline may have to compensate the passengers. This is in accor-

dance with Article 22(1) of the Montreal Convention of 1999, which states: "In the case of damage caused by delay as specified in Article 19 in the carriage of persons, the liability of the carrier for each passenger is limited to Special Drawing Rights."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law and convention, you may contact the airline, referring to its terms and conditions regarding delayed flights. You may have a valid claim for compensation provided the airline cannot justify the cancellation as an extraordinary circumstance or show that it took all reasonable measures to avoid the disruption. You may also contact the International Air Transport Association (IATA) in the UAE and the Dubai Aviation Authority for further clarification on this matter.

### Dubai bankruptcy ruling: Court cancels fraudulent land transfer worth Dh24m

**Can you please explain the recent court case in fraudulent land transfer?**

The Dubai Commercial Court has ruled invalid a land transfer made by a real estate development company more than a decade ago, finding that the donation was intended to defraud creditors. The decision allows the court-appointed trustee to auction the property to repay debts of more than Dh24 million.

The case dates back to Jan 2025, when the court declared the company bankrupt after years of inactivity and failure to renew its commercial licence.

With debts owed to multiple real estate firms and individual developers, the court appointed a trustee to inventory the company's assets. The inquiry revealed that the

company held no assets other than a single plot of land in Dubai. That land had been transferred in 2014 as a gift to an individual and later sold in 2018 to a third party. The trustee challenged the transfers, arguing they stripped the company of its only remaining asset and left creditors without recourse.

Attorneys for the original recipient argued the claim was time-barred, since the transaction was more than 10 years old and recorded with the Dubai Land Department. They also claimed the transferee had personally settled the company's debts.

The court rejected these arguments, ruling that the statute of limitations begins only when creditors become aware of the disputed transaction.

## Legal course for job termination

**I have been working in a semi-governmental company for two years, and currently my services have been terminated without a cause. My question: What is the appropriate action to take against this company? Do I have the legal right to file a grievance to demand the cancellation of the decision to terminate the service or file a lawsuit to demand compensation or to return me to work, knowing that my contract with the company expires in Dec 2025?**

You have to take into consideration that the semi-governmental company is treated like any normal company, not like a governmental company,

which means that the Labour Law will be applied to it not the Human Resources



Law and the Department of Dubai Legal Affairs does not have jurisdiction to receive complaints against semi-government companies or establishment, as these are not subject to the Government Claims Law No. 3 of 1996 and its amendments. If you want to file a claim, you should

start with a complaint to the Labour ministry, which will transfer the matter to the Labour Court in case the matter was not solved amicably.

You cannot force the company to return you back to your work, but you have the right to claim whatever rights you feel you are entitled to and leave the matter to the court to decide on the matter.

As for arbitrary dismissal, the termination of the worker's service by the employer, as per Article 47 of the Labour Law, is considered unlawful if the termination of the worker's service is due to filing a serious complaint to the ministry or filing a lawsuit against the employer, whose validity is proven.



# Dubai Airport launches 'Red Carpet', first passport-free departure corridor

**DUBAI:** Travellers at Dubai International Airport can now complete departure procedures in seconds — without showing a passport, boarding pass or even stopping — thanks to a groundbreaking new innovation known as the "Red Carpet" smart corridor.

Developed by the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) Dubai in collaboration with Dubai Airports, the service is be-

ing hailed as the first of its kind worldwide. Officials say it represents a major leap forward in passenger experience, combining cutting-edge technology with Dubai's vision to remain a global aviation leader.

"This service, which is the first of its kind globally, allows you to complete your travel procedures in seconds without presenting any travel documents," said Brig Walid Ahmed Saeed, Assistant Deputy Director for Airport Affairs

at GDRFA Dubai. "Just by walking through this corridor, you have completed your exit."

At the core of the "Red Carpet" experience is its fully automated, document-free process. Travelers simply walk through a sleek corridor as the system uses artificial intelligence, biometric cameras, and integrated flight data to confirm their identity, verify bookings, and process their exit — all within seconds. Seamless De-



**Passengers using Red Carpet smart corridor, a biometric immigration system, at Dubai International Airport Terminal-3 that allows passengers to complete passport control in seconds.**

parture — Flight details are confirmed automatically, without the need for passports or boarding passes.

## Air India launches 'One India'...

(Cont. from page-1)

to schedule vacations, business trips, and leisure travel, making it a perfect opportunity for a spontaneous getaway or a long-awaited holiday in Europe.

The sale features all-inclusive round-trip fares to any European destination, including London, at the following prices: Rs 47,000 in economy class,

Rs 70,000 in premium economy and Rs 1,40,000 in business class. For London (Heathrow), the fares are Rs 49,999 in economy class, Rs 89,999 in premium economy and Rs 1,69,999 in business class. These prices provide an excellent opportunity for travellers looking to explore Europe at competitive prices, without compromising on comfort.

## Forex reserves touch \$694bn

**MUMBAI:** In the week ending Aug 29 that saw the rupee touching a record low of 88.36, the forex reserves rose by an unlikely \$3.51 billion to \$694.2 billion, according to the weekly data from RBI. In the previous reporting week ending Aug 22, the reserves had fallen by \$4.38 billion to \$690.72 billion. This latest rise was driven by an increase in for-

ign currency assets, gold reserves (as the bullion was on a record run) and special drawing rights. It may be noted that despite the steep GST cuts, both the currency and the stock markets are still not reflecting the optimism of the rest of the economy. While Dalal Street is not getting sustained momentum, with wild fluctuations through the trade session, the rupee has not

regained strength from the macro developments.

Accordingly, even on Friday, the rupee lost 11 paise against the greenback to close trade at 88.32, its second worst. The currency market was abuzz with regular RBI intervention during the reporting week as the rupee plumbed new lows. RBI, which does not have an official level for the rupee, however intervenes regularly in the forex market to manage rupee volatility, focusing on maintaining orderly market conditions. RBI said for the week ending Aug 29, foreign currency assets, which are the largest component of the reserves, rose by \$1.68 billion to \$583.94 billion. Foreign currency assets also reflect the impact of movements in non-US currencies such as the euro, pound and yen held in the reserves.

## Maharashtra allows 12-hr shifts with higher overtime pay

**MUMBAI:** Maharashtra aligns with other states in raising daily and weekly work-hour limits, promising flexibility for employers and overtime safeguards for workers.

The Maharashtra cabinet has approved amendments to extend working hours for private sector employees, a labour reform move that brings the state into line with several others that have already raised limits. The decision will raise the daily cap on working hours in factories from nine to 12, with mandatory rest breaks after six hours instead of five. For shops and establishments, the maximum will rise from nine to 10 hours a day.

the changes were aimed at boosting ease of doing business, attracting investment and creating jobs, while ensuring workers receive enhanced protections including overtime pay at double the standard wage. The cabinet decision involves amendments to two key pieces of legislation: the Factories Act, 1948 and the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017.

Under the amended Factories Act provisions, legal overtime limits will increase from 115 to 144 hours per quarter. Written consent from employees will be mandatory before overtime is assigned. Weekly hours

will rise from 10.5 to 12. In the case of shops and establishments employing 20 or more workers, the maximum overtime cap will also be raised to 144 hours per quarter, while emergency duty hours will extend to 12. Businesses with fewer than 20 workers will no longer need to obtain registration certificates, but will be required to notify authorities via a simplified intimation process. Maharashtra's move follows similar reforms in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, UP and Tripura. Analysts told a Tv channel that state governments have been revising labour laws to offer greater operational flexibility to companies, particularly in manufac-

turing and services, while also attempting to address long-standing worker concerns on wages and safety. By extending daily and weekly working hour limits, state officials argue that industries will be able to manage seasonal demand peaks and labour shortages without disruptions.

## New Zealand issues...

(Cont. from page-2)

cepted as meeting the immigration requirements. Indian visa applicants were previously allowed by Immigration New Zealand to provide police clearance certificates from an Office of the Deputy Commissioner or Superintendent of Police or from their local police station. These are

in an inconsistent format and more difficult to authenticate, so Immigration New Zealand will no longer accept them from Dec 1, 2025.

Requirements for Indian nationals outside India, and for non-indian nationals who currently or have previously resided in India, have not changed.