



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Newly elected IPEPCIL Committee Members from right to left: Gulamali Gheewala, Farhan Aashiq Ali Khan, Shaikh Zaid Naseem, Ayaz Hassanally Nasser, Ghulam Dastgeer Syed, Ashfaque Ahmed Shaikh, Fahad Haroon Memon, VS Abdulkareem, Qureshi Athar Salim, Adham Ali Mohammad Hanif Khan, Albert Josep and Abdul Rahim Khan.

IPEPCIL plays crucial role in solving grievances of overseas recruiting agents, says Abdulkareem

MUMBAI: Though many of the grievances of the overseas recruitment fraternity have been resolved due to the efforts of the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL), the recruiting agents still continue to face some hassles due to various reasons. IPEPCIL is taking up the issues faced by the industry to top government levels to mitigate them and the aim is to find out better ways to help the licensed recruiting agents (RAs).

Addressing the 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IPEPCIL here, its president VS Abdulkareem recalled the meetings the IPEPCIL office-bearers had with Secretary, MEA (CPV-OIA) and PGE-OE as well as different government agencies to resolve the difficulties faced by the RAs. Rapidly changing reforms and transformations in host countries too affect the emigration of Indian labour.

IPEPCIL has sought diplomatic intervention to resolve the pre-medical tests issues of job-seekers to foreign countries. A large number of employ-

able young candidates are medically rejected on the ground that they



have benign scar(s) in their lungs. These scars, seen in X-rays, are largely residuals from childhood infections such as jaundice, cold, cough etc or more recently due to post-COVID conditions. It has been accepted by the medical authorities the world over that these scars are irreversible and necessarily do not indicate any major health hazard. IPEPCIL has taken up this issue with concerned embassies and diplomatic channels to amicably settle it. Since health check up comes last for an intending emigrant,

the rejection on health basis results in loss of money, time and efforts.

This is a difficult situation for the recruitment agencies also as they have a deadline to meet with their foreign clients. This outdated practice by some medical boards and panel doctors should go, Abdulkareem stressed.

He cited the issue of Israel recently rejecting and sending back some job aspirants after the selection through G2G agreements. These workers have been found to have no experience and there was a total mismatch of talents. On the other hand, private agencies could have done a professional job and saved the reputation of our country.

Abdulkareem pointed out that IPEPCIL has also taken up the issue with MEA-OE-PGE to initiate approvals for conducting interviews

for ECNR countries. There should be proper checks and balances and all these recruitments should be channelised through MEA-OE approved recruitment agencies. This way, unauthorised recruitments to ECNR countries by unlicensed and unscrupulous agents can be stopped, Abdulkareem pointed out.

Remittances by NRE sources are \$130 billion today and this shows the importance of this sector which needs export category status. This justifies the request for granting exporters' benefits to the MEA approved RAs.

The managing committee will consider suggestions put forward by members.



VS Abdulkareem felicitating Yusuf Abrahani, President of Islam Gymkhana, at the IPEPCIL function.



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Kerala Travel Mart function at Le Meridien, Kochi. Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas presided over.

Kerala to support all investments in tourism, says CM Vijayan

KOCHI: All investments made in the tourism sector will get support from the state government, said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the 12th edition of Kerala Travel Mart at Le Meridien Convention Centre in Kochi.

He said the positive changes in the world tourism sector should be assimilated into our tourism sector. "The government has formulated

special schemes to make Kerala the focus of the national and international tourism market.

As much as Rs 136 crore has been earmarked in the budget for infrastructure development of tourist destinations. Tourism no longer means just visiting a place. It has become a means of entertainment."

"As part of this, new trends are emerging in the market. We need to be

able to take advantage of such opportunities. The



government is working to create at least one tourist centre in each local body. It is time to give importance to tourism all over the world. Kerala has all the conditions to make it a wellness tourism hub.

The achievements we have made in the field of traditional medicine and the field of modern medicine are the basis for it," said the CM.

He urged the tourism stakeholders to make efforts to provide health and geriatric care by establishing wellness centres in peaceful and beautiful places in Kerala. "Those coming from other Indian states and foreigners should be cared

for in such centres.

It should be possible to bring the characteristics of Kerala to foreign countries through activities in the tourism sector and to take up the work of bringing things like a peaceful secular environment, abundance of water and physical connectivity to everyone," he added.

Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas presided over.

'Spectacular Saudi' event in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Saudi Arabia's national tourism brand, Saudi Welcome to Arabia, has launched its first immersive event, "Spectacular Saudi," at R2 Ground in BKC.

The eight-day event

Bakhour, while exploring curated exhibits like the "Mountains and Mirrors" display inspired by Maraya Hall in AlUla and a '360 Selfie Corner.'

Attendees also had the



began with a VIP showcase on Sept 24, offering a preview of Saudi hospitality, culture, and experiences.

The VIP event welcomed notable personalities from film, sports and business, including Vicky Kaushal, Shradha Kapoor, Sania Mirza, and Mary Kom. Guests experienced traditional Saudi coffee, dates, and

chance to apply for their Saudi visas by presenting a valid Mastercard or Visa credit card, facilitating their travel plans with exclusive offers.

"Spectacular Saudi" is open to the public till Oct 2 featuring giveaways, culinary explorations and travel discounts for those interested in visiting Saudi Arabia.

Over a million tourists stay in Sharjah hotels

DUBAI: Sharjah's tourism sector saw a significant growth in the first eight months of 2024, with hotel guest numbers rising by 3.07pc compared with last year. A total of 1.057 million guests in Sharjah stayed in hotels, up from 1.025 million during the same period in 2023, while hotel occupancy rates held steady at 66pc.

These figures were shared at the annual "Connected Meeting" hosted by the Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development

The meeting, attended by key industry players, highlighted Russia as the top source market for Sharjah from Jan to Aug 2024, contributing 21pc hotel guests, which amounted to around 1.6 lakh visitors. Other major markets included the UAE (1pc), India (10pc), and Oman (six per cent).

Cisco's plant on stream, to create 1200 jobs

CHENNAI: Cisco inaugurated its first manufacturing facility in India at Chennai, setting into motion a multi-year investment plan, as the network equipment maker pledged its commitment to building production capabilities in the country.

With this strategic investment, the company will generate more than US\$ 1.3 billion annually in combined exports and domestic production, it said adding that the facility is expected to create 1,200 jobs in Tamil Nadu.

Cisco has partnered with Flex to build and scale the manufacturing facility in Chennai, which will initially focus on Cisco's Network Convergence System (NCS) 540 Series of routers. Cisco said "this state-of-the-art site will produce a range of Cisco's best-in-class routing and switching products to meet the rapidly-growing technology needs of organisa-

tions in India and around the world." The Chennai-based manufacturing facility was inaugurated by Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with Chuck Robbins, Chair and CEO of Cisco.

This opening marks an important expansion milestone in Cisco's global manufacturing footprint. "Cisco has collaborated with Flex to successfully build the Chennai site and bring advanced telecom technology that can help connect citizens in India and globally. This is the next milestone in Cisco and Flex's longstanding 25-year partnership to ramp up manufacturing across the globe with speed, resilience, and sustainable practices," it said.

The facility, which will initially focus on Cisco's NCS 540 Series of routers, represents the first phase of the company's multi-year investment plan.

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Australian Dollar	58.95	57.80
Japanese Yen	0.61	0.58
Canadian Dollar	62.90	61.85
Singapore Dollar	66.33	65.28
Swedish krona	9.30	7.51
UAE Dirham	23.27	22.67
Swiss Franc (CHF)	100.68	99.18
British Pound	113.07	112.02
New Zealand Dollar	54.25	52.90
Thai Baht	2.70	2.57
Hong Kong Dollar	11.74	10.43
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.85	22.10
Bahraini Dinar	229.45	214.45
Chinese Yuan	12.85	10.45
Danish Krone	13.05	12.05
Kuwaiti Dinar	281.08	266.08
Malaysian Ringgit	21.43	20.23
Omani Rial	223.65	211.65
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South African Rand	5.35	4.41

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67TH MALAYSIA NATIONAL DAY

On this momentous occasion, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Consul General of Malaysia in Mumbai, Mr. Ahmad Zuwairi Yusoff, Mrs. Siti Timah Mamat, and all our Malaysian friends.

May the bonds of friendship between Malaysia and India continue to strengthen, and may this day be filled with pride and joy as you celebrate your nation's history, culture, and achievements.

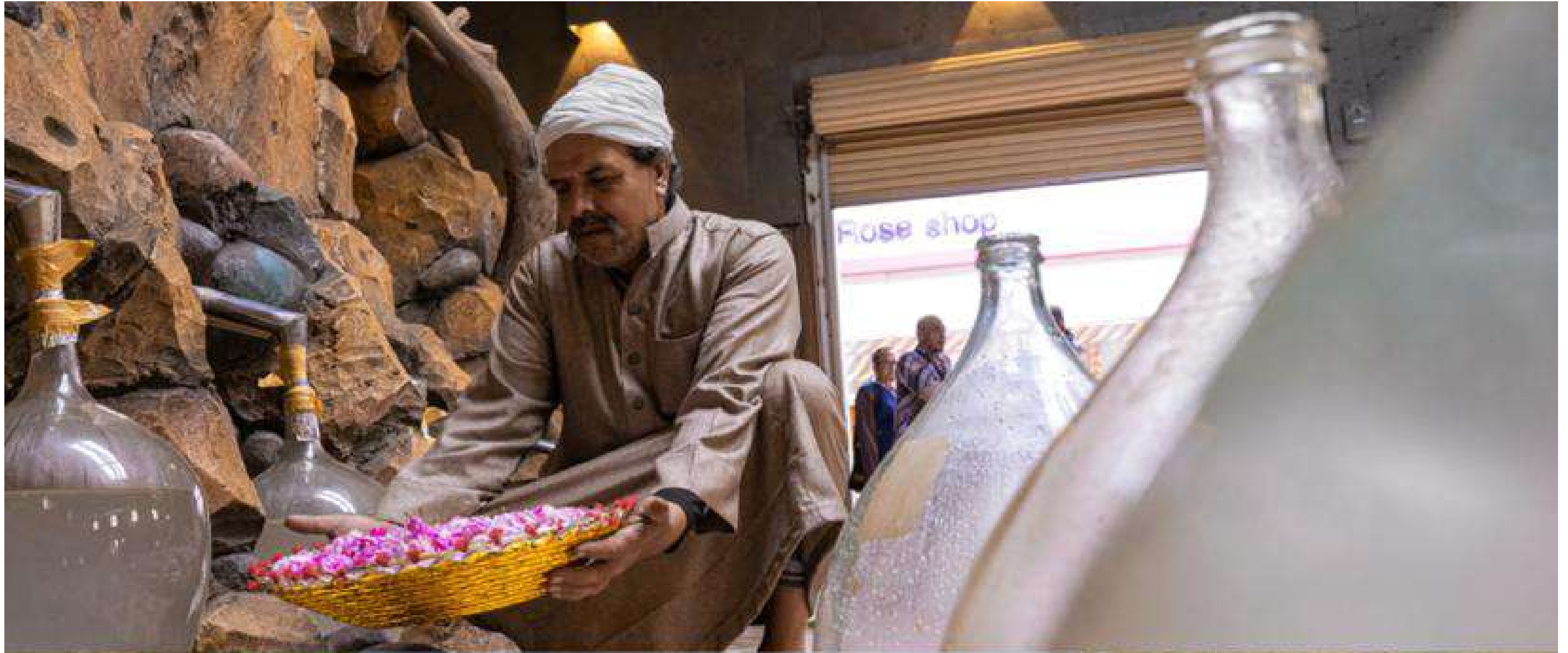
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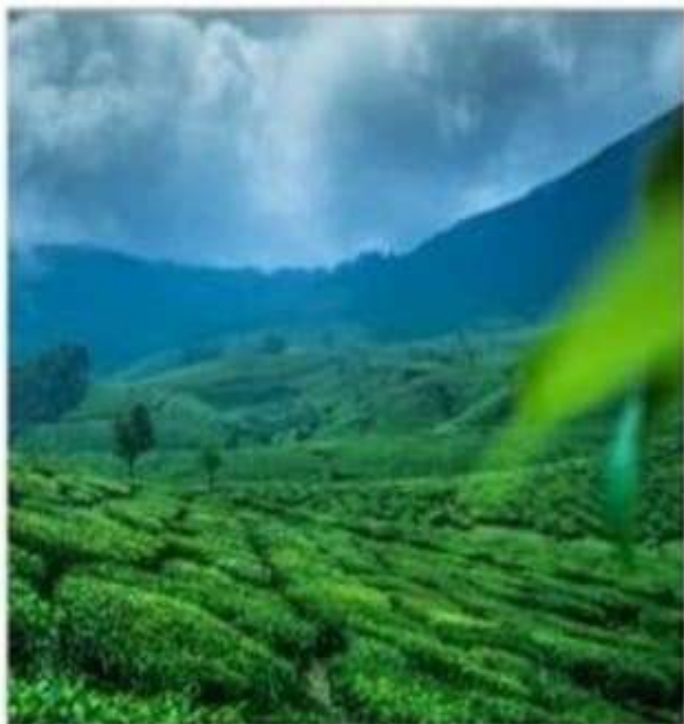


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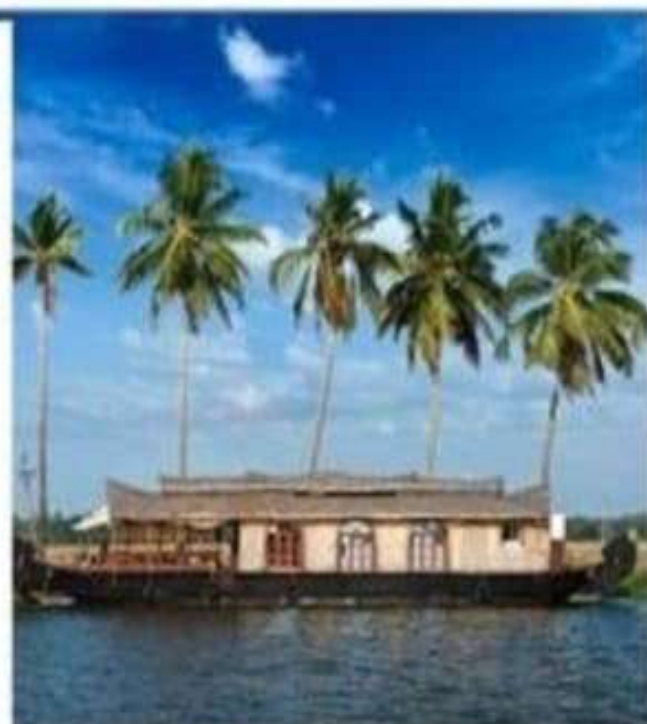
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GULF FAQs

Take advantage of UAE amnesty scheme

My passport is about to expire. I am Indian and please give some details about the on-going visa amnesty in the UAE?

The passport validity required to avail of the UAE visa amnesty programme has been reduced from six months to one month, the Federal Au-

thority for Identity and Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security (ICP) has announced. Maj-Gen Suhail Saeed Al Khaili, ICP director-general, said the amendment “will enable violators to amend their status without the need to renew their passports if their validity period is less than six months as was the case before the issuance of the new decision. This will allow violators to overcome the challenge related to the long period of time required to renew passports through the embassies present in the country.”



Al Khaili added the decision will encourage visa violators “to amend their status and take advantage of the two-month amnesty programme which runs until October 31”. Launched on Sept 1, the amnesty is aimed at “amending the status of the violator – either by leaving the country without the entry ban stamp or obtaining a job opportunity and remaining in the country with the appropriate visa. Al Khaili called on violators “to contact the ICP call centre and raise their questions and inquiries and identify the challenges they face. Overstayers

who were granted visa amnesty now have until Oct 31 to leave the country. Previously, the exit pass given to amnesty-seekers was valid only for 14 days; now, this grace period has been extended until the end of the scheme. Lt-Gen Salem Bin Ali, director of the client happiness department, said

that the UAE Government decided to provide overstayers with more flexibility in their departure timeline. “Previously, those who availed of the amnesty were required to leave within 14 days of receiving it. We have extended this grace period until the end of the amnesty period,” the official said. The extended period will be clearly stated on the outpass issued to amnesty-seekers, allowing them to leave the country at any point within this timeframe, he added. Lt-Gen Bin Ali, however, urged overstayers to leave as soon as possible, warning that delaying their departure could mean paying more for their flight tickets as airfares rise during the busy winter season. “We request amnesty-seekers not to wait until the last moment to leave, as airfares tend to rise during the winter months,” he said. The amnesty programme provides an opportunity for overstayers to regularise their status and leave the UAE without facing penalties, offering a new chance to start a fresh authority’s concerned team to study and find solutions for them”.

The ongoing two-month visa amnesty programme

covers only those who are in the UAE and does not include absconders or violators who have left the country prior to the start of the amnesty on Sept 1, the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security (ICP) has reiterated in an advisory. ICP added indi-

viduals subject to criminal deportation orders are not covered by the amnesty initiative. “Such cases must be resolved through judicial processes before any benefits or exemptions can be applied,” ICP added. The amnesty programme will run until Oct 31 this year. Maj-Gen Suhail Saeed Al Khaili urged violators to take advantage of this opportunity to regularise their status, underscoring: “The visa amnesty provides a unique chance to resolve legal issues, secure employment, or depart the UAE without facing additional penalties.”

For infants, Al Khaili noted that a birth certificate and a valid passport or return document are required to settle their status during the amnesty period. For those choosing to leave the UAE, Al Khaili emphasised the need for a valid passport or travel document to obtain a departure permit. He advised that travel tickets should be booked only after securing the departure permit to ensure a seamless exit. There will be no re-entry ban for those who will avail of the amnesty.

Tourism drives UAE’s economic growth

DUBAI: With inbound travel from around the world to the UAE thriving, tourism will continue to play a crucial role in powering UAE’s economic growth.

International visitor numbers to the UAE have surged by 7pc from Q2 2022 to Q2 2024, according to data from VisaNet, while tourism spending nearly doubled during the same period.

This growth significantly outpaces the overall trend in the GCC. The UAE comprised 54pc of the GCC’s international travelers in both Q2 2022 and Q2 2023, decreasing slightly to 53pc in Q2 2024. Together, the UAE and Saudi Arabia account for 75pc of traveller share and 85pc of spending share in the GCC. The region saw a 45pc year-on-year increase in international travellers from 2022 to 2023, followed by an additional 19pc growth in 2024.

The World Travel & Tourism Council estimates that travel and tourism will contribute \$64.4 billion to the UAE’s GDP in 2024. “In the UAE, the tourism landscape is nothing short of extraordinary. We’ve seen an unprece-

ented surge in tourism. With growth and expansion that outpaces many other regions, tourism remains a top priority in the UAE,” said Dr Saeeda Jaffar, senior vice president and group country manager for Visa GCC.

According to a ForwardKeys report last year, international visitor numbers to the UAE in 2023 surged nearly 40pc compared with 2019. Additionally, Dubai’s DXB airport has reclaimed its title as the world’s busiest international airport, surpassing pre-pandemic traffic levels.

Tourism from around the globe is flourishing in the UAE, with a significant share of growth attributed to visitors from other GCC nations. The UAE is the most visited country in the GCC, attracting travellers for shopping, leisure, education, healthcare, business, and investment opportunities. Moreover, the UAE hosts over one lakh cross-border residents — those who spend six months in the UAE and the rest abroad — who contribute over 20pc to the country’s inbound transaction volumes, primarily from Saudi Arabia, the US and India.

India to have 350 airports

NEW DELHI: Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has said as India strives towards becoming a “Viksit Bharat” by 2047, the ministry is seeking to increase the number of airports in the country to 350 and boost tourism.

In his address at an event held to mark the World Tourism Day at Vigyan Bhawan here, he also said his ministry is working on connecting more hinterlands locations which are close to unexplored sites.

Naidu emphasised the government’s vision of boosting domestic connectivity and providing better facilities and warm hospitality at airports to welcome foreign tourists, as airports are “gateways to a country”.

“Today, we have 157 airports but in the next 20-25 years, when we are going to see the real Viksit Bharat in 2047, we want to increase the number of airports which is 157 today to the tune of 350,” he said at the event hosted by the tourism ministry.

He also congratulated the tourism ministry after Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced that under the “Chalo India” campaign, one lakh foreign tourists will be exempted from paying visa fee in coming times.

Distinguishes Soft Skills from Hard Skills

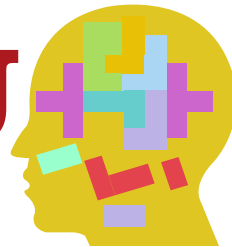
What are Soft Skills?

Non-technical abilities related to your line of work are called soft skills. Effective time management, conflict resolution and compromise skills and a general work ethic are a few examples. Soft skills are crucial where your success depends on your ability to solve problems, manage your workload and engage with coworkers. Although a lot of these abilities can be developed gradually as you get work experience, some organisations provide training courses to assist staff members in developing the soft skills. Complementing hard skills, soft skills help employees perform well and accomplish their goals. Soft skills are the people skill, social skill, communication skill, character or personality traits, attitudes, career attributes, and social and emotional



SKILLS GURU

By Sajan MS



As “SKILLS GURU” travels in this manner with little guides, we feel it is improper to leave out certain reminders! You should be excited by the work you do. Having passion for your work implies that you are enthusiastic about what you do. You need to find meaning and purpose in your work. Passion for work is the energy to work. Never make excuses about this passion for work. Those who are passionate about their work get out of bed every morning feeling energized and alive. You are fully engaged and lost in your work. You should always be thinking about how you can do more, be more and contribute more – and work hard to achieve those goals. You must be committed to your projects and your company. You must constantly learn and grow. Only then can you truly say, “I am passionate about my work.”

hard skills are frequently specific to a particular career. A lot of soft skills are usually innate and can be developed and refined over time. Hard skills, on the other hand, are generally much easier to demonstrate. A successful career in any field requires both. Soft skills, which are the op-

abilities; they are directly related to your emotional intelligence, in contrast to hard skills, which define your technical abilities.

Why soft skills are crucial in the workplace and professional life?

Effective soft skills are essential at every stage of life. No stage of life is exempt from it. The significance of soft skills is undeniable, regardless of the context—a job, an interview, client communication, entrepreneurship, or even social interactions. Your social, human, and personal skills are known as soft skills, and they are closely related to your emotional intelligence. It is both your savoir-faire and savoir-vivre, as these are your interpersonal communication styles and are far more important in the workplace

soft skills are very adaptable and flexible employees that make the workplace stress-less and contented. Interpersonal skills, critical skills and non-cognitive skills are other names for soft skills. Candidates with soft skills are typically chosen for appointments because they are successful in the workplace. Even if an employee has exceptional technical job-specific skills, he might not succeed in the workplace if he lacks adequate soft skills. Although any unique quality that an individual possesses to draw others to him and to succeed in professional life and the workplace can be referred to as a soft skill, the following are the main categories of soft skills: It is also evident that new soft skills are entering the realm of daily tasks.

Why Is It Important to Have Soft Skills?

Soft skills are fundamental abilities that are valued in all field of works or more precisely, every walk of life. Your soft skills will be just as important to your success as your technical knowledge, regardless of your position—whether you are a big-shot CEO or a server at a restaurant or a construction worker or a marketing executive or an office boy. There are many more soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, time management, critical thinking, and decision-making. You will surely succeed in life if you can develop as many soft skills as possible. Soft skills can reveal a

lot about a candidate, including their potential for advancement in the profession and how they will interact with others in the workplace and under pressure. As a result, many employers give hiring candidates with the appropriate soft skills a higher priority than those with hard skills.

Let's get to know some of the major soft skills necessary for both professional and personal success: However, you may be wondering what soft skills are applicable to your career. And which ones should you focus on developing? Every industry has its own set of soft skills necessary for a successful career in the field, even though many soft skills are valued in all professions. Thus, be sure to include soft skills that are applicable to you when applying for a job. Let us explore some of the key soft skills required for success in both the personal and professional spheres.

- * Communication Skills
- * Critical Thinking
- * Creativity
- * Character
- * Collaboration
- * Conflict Management
- * Teamwork
- * Problem-solving
- * Time management
- * Decision-making
- * Stress management
- * Adaptability
- * Dependability
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- * Presentation
- * Public speaking
- * Reading body language
- * Social skills
- * Storytelling
- * Verbal communication
- * Visual communication
- * Writing skills
- * Willingness to learn

(To be continued...)



intelligence quotients that help people navigate their environment and work well with others.

What Distinguishes Soft Skills from Hard Skills?

While Soft Skills are character attributes and attributes that influence how you work, Hard Skills are job-related competencies and abilities that are required to finish work. While soft skills can be used in any kind of job,

posited of “hard skills,” are abilities that are typically innate in people, like Teamwork, Communication, Motivation, adaptability, creative thinking and many more, as opposed to hard skills, which are abilities that are typically taught, like Engineering, Carpentry, Project Management, fluency in a foreign language, and many more. In short, Soft skills are your social, human, and personal

than you might think.

The success of the majority of employers also depends on the soft skills of their employees. After all, almost all jobs require workers to interact with others to some extent. Employers and hiring managers also search for candidates with soft skills because they are employable abilities that are relevant to a variety of job roles. The candidates with