



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024 • VOL. NO. 1 • Issue • No. 91. DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 7 PAGES

Air traffic hits record high level, IndiGo leads with 63.6pc share

MUMBAI: Indian airlines carried a record 1.42 crore passengers on domestic routes in Nov 2024, marking the highest-ever monthly traffic.



According to data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), domestic passenger traffic surged 12pc year-on-year in Nov to 1.42 crore, an increase from 1.36 crore in Oct 2024. India's largest airline, IndiGo, achieved its highest-ever monthly market share of 63.6pc in Nov 2024, transporting 90.70 lakh passengers. This is up from 63.3pc in Oct 2024 and higher than Sept's 63pc. Air India held a 24.4pc share of the domestic market, while Vistara accounted for 2.9pc. Notably, Vistara's data reflects operations only up to Nov 11, as the airline merged with Air India on Nov 12. Together, Tata Group airlines,

including Air India and Vistara, commanded a combined market share of 27.3pc. Akasa Air amassed a market share of 4.7pc and SpiceJet's share came in at 3.1pc. SpiceJet's market share has been growing over the past two months following the fund infusion. The Gurugram-based airline's market share had fallen to two per cent in Sept. While all these carriers saw their share rise, (Cont. on page-2)

India's tourism sector to create 61 lakh new jobs By 2034

NEW DELHI: India's tourism and hospitality sector is set for a major transformation, projected to generate 61 lakh new jobs by 2034, with spending anticipated to increase by 1.2 times. This growth highlights the sector's critical role in shaping India's economic future and underscores its rising importance as a key driver of employment and economic activity. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and EY released these findings in a whitepaper titled "Employment Landscape in Tourism and Hospitality in India" at the 18th Annual CII Tourism Summit. The report emphasises the sector's post-pandemic resilience and adaptability in navigating a fast-changing global environment. The anticipated employment surge includes 46 lakh roles for men and 15 lakh for women, demonstrating the potential for gender inclusion and workforce diversification. Currently accounting for eight per cent of India's total employment, the industry is set for significant expansion driven by domestic tourism and the demand for skilled professionals. To meet growing demands, the report highlights

the need for specialised skills in areas such as digital marketing, sustainable tourism, and customer service. To address these challenges, the whitepaper recommends:

- *Gamified Learning Systems for professional skill development.
- *Career Advancement Pathways created in collaboration with industry associations,
- *A Task Force under the ministry of tourism to standardise skills and training.

The report suggests establishing a central tourism and hospitality body to streamline government (Cont. on page-2)

More foreign tourists visited India in 2023

NEW DELHI: Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2023 were 9.52 million and domestic tourist visits (DTV) were 2,509 million, according to data released by the ministry of tourism. The ministry sanctioned a total of 76 projects for an amount of Rs 5,287.90 crore under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, out of which 75 projects are physically complete. Under this, 40 projects worth Rs 3,295.76 crore were approved under special assistance to states for capital investment (SASCI) for development of iconic tourist centres

to global scale across 23 states and 34 projects were sanctioned for Rs 793.20 crore under the "Swadesh Darshan 2.0" initiative. The Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist and destination-centric approach. The ministry of tourism has also sanctioned a total of 48 projects for an amount of Rs 1,646.99 crore under the Prashad scheme, out of which 23 projects have been completed. (Cont. on page-2)

NRI deposits see \$12b inflows in April-Oct FY25

MUMBAI: Overseas Indians deposited around \$12 billion in non-resident Indian (NRI) deposit schemes in April-Oct (FY25), almost double the amount they deposited during the same period last year, says RBI. In April-Oct (FY25), inflows into the NRI schemes stood at \$11.89 billion, compared with \$6.11 billion during the same period a year ago. With this, the total outstanding NRI deposits as of Oct 2024 stood at \$162.69 billion, compared with \$143.48 billion during the same period last year. In Oct alone, a little over \$1 billion was deposited by

overseas Indians in various NRI deposit schemes. The NRI deposit schemes include foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) deposits, non-resident external (NRE) deposits and non-resident ordinary (NRO) deposits. During the April-Oct period, the maximum flows came into FCNR

(B) deposits. According to RBI data, about \$6.1 billion flowed into these accounts during this period, compared with \$2.06 billion in the corresponding period a year ago, taking the total outstanding amount in such accounts to \$31.87 billion. An FCNR (B) account

lets customers maintain a fixed deposit in India in freely convertible foreign currencies for a tenure ranging from one to five years. Since the account is maintained in foreign currency, it secures funds against currency fluctuations during the tenure of the deposit.



Growing India, Kuwait ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's successful visit to Kuwait marks the first by an Indian prime minister to Kuwait in 43 years, highlighting the deep-rooted historical relations between the two countries, which have witnessed significant growth in recent years at all levels.

Modi had cordial and fruitful meetings with HH Amir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Prime Minister HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. What's more, the Kuwait's highest honour "The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer" was bestowed upon Modi by the Amir.

With an eye on mutual benefits, India and Kuwait agreed to elevate their collaboration to a "strategic partnership," reflecting their desire to expand co-operation in diverse fields, ranging from trade and energy to defence and technology.

The decision to elevate India-Kuwait ties to a strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in their diplomatic and economic interactions. Modi expressed confidence that under Amir's leadership, the India-GCC collaboration would advance in new directions. During talks, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening ties for the mutual benefit of their peoples and enhancing regional co-operation.

On the economic front, the total volume of trade exchange between India and Kuwait reached \$10.479 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24 and Indian exports to Kuwait amounted to \$2.1 billion, registering a growth of 34.78pc annually, while Kuwait's total exports to India, especially crude oil, gas and petrochemicals, reached \$15 billion in 2022.

Nevertheless, the relationship between India and Kuwait is not limited to economic issues alone. With a vibrant Indian community of more than one million people residing in Kuwait, the highest number among non-Arab expatriates, they add significant economic value to the labour market through skilled workers and specialists in various fields such as finance and engineering.

It is worth mentioning that the relationship between India and Kuwait dates back to several centuries, as India was a major destination for trade and education for Kuwaiti families and commercial elites.

Kuwaiti historian and researcher Hessa Awad Al-Harbi says that in the 20th century, Mumbai was an important commercial centre for Kuwaitis and many of them owned houses and offices there, where commercial relations included the trade of spices, horses, pearls, wood and more.

Prime Minister Modi's visit comes at a very strategic time, as Kuwait currently chairs the GCC, which enhances its effective role in achieving regional security and peace. This visit is expected to pave the way for a new era of co-operation between India, Kuwait and the Gulf and promote growth and mutual prosperity. There is also a golden opportunity to build advanced partnerships, especially under India's current leadership.

Known for his extensive experience and popularity, under Modi's leadership, India is able to establish friendships with various countries and groups of countries despite their contradictions. He is also the driving force behind India's improved relations with the Gulf states.

Kuwaiti economic diplomacy has always demonstrated its positive influence and mutual benefit in consolidating international peace and security. This is achieved through high-level visits, especially with countries experiencing rapid economic growth, such as India under its current leadership. In the years to come, Indo-Kuwaiti friendship will grow to new heights.

LIPSYNCH

"A person of two minds is a liar and a person of three minds is a hypocrite." – An Arab proverb.

Hiring of freshers surges

BENGALURU: The country's fresher job market has rebounded in 2024 as the year saw significant fresher hiring across sectors.

Apna.co's India at Work 2024 report reveals that there has been a 27pc y-o-y growth in job applications and it crossed two crore in 2024. It said high-growth sectors such as IT, mobility, retail, BFSI and services are driving the demand.

While Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad

contributed 60 lakh applications, regions like Punjab, UP, Rajasthan and Bihar added 82 lakh. Notably, 45pc of the 37 lakh new fresher users on Apna came from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

As per the report, women contributed 2.8 crore job applications—20pc higher than 2023—out of a total seven crore. Tier-1 cities such as Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Mumbai led this surge with 1.52 crore applications, while Tier-2 and Tier-3

cities like Jaipur, Lucknow, and Bhopal contributed 1.28 crore. About 5,000 new women joined Apna every day in 2024.

Nirmit Parikh, CEO, Apna, said: "The availability of tools like AI-driven hiring solutions adopted by 45pc of SMBs and resume optimisation features used by 77pc of job seekers reflects a transformative shift in recruitment."

Job postings on the platform surged by 20pc YoY with over 12 lakh openings in 2024. Enterprise job market saw unprecedented growth in 2024, with job postings on Apna.co rising by 32pc, surpassing 3.5 lakh across 100+ categories in over 500 cities. Experts also pointed out that the hiring landscape in the country is undergoing a transformative shift. Ankit Aggarwal, Founder and CEO of Unstop said companies are increasingly embracing skill-based hiring, recognising that 77pc of Gen Zs prioritise roles or brands over stipends.

Air traffic hits...

(Cont. from page-1)

the share of Alliance Air remained unchanged at 0.7pc.

Domestic ratings agency ICRA said that airlines' capacity deployment in Nov 2024 was higher than in Nov 2023 by 8.6pc, but lower by 1.5pc compared with Oct 2024. It is estimated that the domestic aviation industry operated at a passenger load factor (PLF) of 90.4pc in Nov 2024, compared with 86.3pc in Nov 2023 and 89.5pc in Nov 2019 (pre-Covid).

ICRA also said that the pace of recovery in industry earnings is likely to be gradual, owing to the high fixed-cost nature of the business. ICRA expects the Indian aviation industry to report a net loss of Rs 2,000-3,000 crore in FY2025 and FY2026, compared with a net profit of Rs 1,600 crore in FY2024, due to anticipated pressure on yields as airlines strive to maintain adequate PLF amid continued elevated ATF prices.

More foreign tourists visit...

(Cont. from page-1)

A total of 65 projects for an amount of Rs 937.56 crore have been sanctioned under the Assistance to Central Agencies Scheme, out of which 38 projects have been physically completed, informed the ministry.

The government has formulated guidelines for "Challenge Based Destination Development" as sub scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme to enhance tourist experience across all points of the tourist value chain.

The ministry said it has selected 42 destinations under various tourism themes for development under the scheme.

The "Chalo India" campaign was launched to invite Indian diaspora to showcase India to their non-Indian friends

worldwide; One lakh free e-visas for foreign tourists visiting India were issued under the campaign.

The ministry also un-

veiled the "Incredible India Content Hub" to provide global travel and tourism industry a unified source of content on Incredible India.

India's tourism sector to...

(Cont. from page-1)

ernance, enhance infrastructure and boost operational efficiency. Other key policy measures include — Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) schemes, targeted subsidies to attract investment, granting industry status to the sector for enhanced policy support.

Looking ahead to 2036-37, the sector is expected to require an additional 61.31 lakh workers to meet the rising demand for tourism activities. The introduction of a Tourism Employment In-

dex (TEI) is proposed to track employment trends and address seasonal workforce needs, leveraging the gig economy.

By integrating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and exploring avenues like medical tourism and community-driven programmes, the sector can solidify its position as a global leader. With the right policy and industry support, India's tourism and hospitality sector is poised to thrive, creating transformative opportunities for millions.

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF DIGITALISED ADVERTISEMENTS WITH ONE E-NEWSPAPER

CLICK ON THE LINK / WEBSITE BELOW THE REQUIREMENT ADVT TO CONNECT WITH THE RECRUITMENT AGENCY

one OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT
PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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



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

FOREX RATES		
As on 26th December, 2024 (In rupees)		
Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	85.64	84.80
British Pound	107.56	106.35
Euro	89.52	87.90
Japanese Yen	0.54	0.53
Swiss Franc (CHF)	95.66	93.81
Canadian Dollar	59.97	58.79
Australian Dollar	53.84	52.83
Norwegian Krone	7.58	7.44
Swedish Krona	7.77	7.61
New Zealand Dollar	48.63	47.80
Hong Kong Dollar	11.07	10.87
Singapore Dollar	63.40	62.14
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.93	22.48
United Arab Emirates	23.42	22.97

flyCreative
Online LIMITED



MYSORE PALACE



NAGARAHOLE TIGER RESERVE



LALBAGH BOTANICAL GARDEN



GROUP OF MONUMENTS AT HAMPI

KARNATAKA

Karnataka is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the exquisite temples of Hampi and the intricate architecture of Pattadakal. Natural beauty: The state boasts stunning landscapes, from the Western Ghats' lush greenery to the serene beaches along its coastline.

www.flycreative.in | www.flycreativeglobal.com
www.flycreative.in

Saudi, Kuwait to start joint business council

RIYADH: The Federation for Saudi Chambers announced the start of procedures to establish the first Saudi-Kuwaiti Joint Business Council, marking an important step in advancing economic co-operation between the two countries. According to the Saudi Press Agency, this announcement came during a meeting between the Chairman of the Saudi Chambers Federation Hassan Al-Huwaizi and the Ambassador of Kuwait to Saudi Arabia Sheikh Sabah Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. The agency added that the two sides discussed the investment environment and opportunities between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as well as the organisation of an investment forum in Riyadh, along with enabling Kuwaiti investors to participate in the 2025 Hafr Al-Batin Investment Forum.

The Chairman of the Saudi Chambers Federation stated that the outcomes of the meeting with the Kuwaiti Ambassador represent a new phase of economic co-operation between the two countries, highlighting the promising partnership opportunities between the business sectors of both nations. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Saudi expressed his hope for achieving comprehensive economic integration between the two countries, pointing to the investment environment in the Kingdom and the remarkable development it has witnessed, which has made it an attractive destination for investors from around the world. Trade exchange between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait reached approximately \$2.67 billion in 2023, with about \$2.24 billion in Saudi exports and nearly \$430 million in Kuwaiti imports.

UAE imposes Dh3.8m fines on telemarketers

ABU DHABI: A total of Dh3,800,000 fines have been imposed on violating telemarketers in the UAE, the Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) announced. These penalties have been enforced since the introduction of Cabinet Resolutions No. 56 and 57 of 2024. In a statement on X, the authority said that it imposed administra-

tive fines on “violating individuals” who breached Cabinet Resolutions No. 56 and 57 of 2024, aimed at reducing intrusive and deceptive telemarketing practices. The law states that any individual making unsolicited marketing calls using a phone number registered under their name will face a fine of Dh5,000. The also notes that all phone numbers associated with the vio-

lator will be suspended until the fine is paid, for a first-time violation. This crackdown is part of a broader effort to protect UAE residents from aggressive and misleading marketing tactics. The new regulations, which were introduced in Aug 2024, represent a significant step in addressing concerns about the growing number of telemarketing calls.



Creative Group

flyCreative
Global Holidays

Incredible India
Accredited Agent

B2B Portal : www.flycreative.in
Email : support@flycreative.in



www.flycreative.in



Boulevard Riyadh City

✈️ Official travel partner
flyCreative
Global Holidays

Saudi
Welcome
to Arabia

For booking & enquiries please visit www.flycreativeglobal.com



+91 22 22077955 +91 9892076453

tours@flycreative.in / henna@flycreative.in



Fly Creative, a premier Destination Management Company (DMCc), operates throughout India, specializing in South India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Lakshadweep). With over 40 years of travel expertise, we offer bespoke experiences

KARNATAKA (4 N/5 D)
BANGALORE - MYSORE - OOTY

PREMIUM

- Golden Metro Or Similar
- Sandesh the prince Or Similar
- Gem Park Ooty Or Similar

14600/-
per person

HYDERABAD (3 N/4 D)
RFC - SRISAILAM

PREMIUM

- Abod Hotel Or Similar
- Haritha Hotel Or Similar

9900/-
per person

KERALA (5 N/6 D)
COCHIN - MUNNAR - THEKKADY - ALLEPPEY

PREMIUM

- Broad Bean Hotel Or Similar
- Vibe Resort Munnar Or Similar
- Hotel Pepper Vine Or Similar
- Haveli Backwater Resort Alleppey Or Similar

18750/-
per person

COASTAL KARNATAKA (6 N/7 D)
HAMPI - GOKARNA

PREMIUM

- Royal Orchid Or Similar
- Red Earth Or Similar

27300/-
per person



GULF FAQs

How to obtain a Dubai freelance visa?

I am thinking of moving to Dubai to pursue freelancing. I am writing to inquire about obtaining a freelance visa and permit in Dubai. I am a graphic designer and photographer with two years of work experience. I am currently in India and would like to explore the possibility of freelancing in the UAE. What are the requirements?

According to Liam Doherty, enterprise director at Connect Resources, a UAE-based Human Resources (HR) management agency, almost everyone can apply for a freelance licence in the UAE, provided they have the necessary skills and qualifications for their specific profession.

“A degree certificate is not mandatory for obtaining a freelance visa. You can apply for either a skilled or unskilled visa. However, to secure the correct designation and choose from the wide range of available options, you will need an attested degree certificate,” he explained. He further clarified that, depending on the nature of your activity, you may need to provide appropriate credentials or certifications. In some cases, a portfolio, along with credentials and certificates, may be required to support your application.

“Graphic Design is a skilled level-1 designation so a freelancer would need to have a degree copy to have this designation on the visa. However, photography is a skilled level-3 so a high school certificate or diploma level would be sufficient to have it on the visa. In both cases, you can have an unskilled visa with a lower level designation and still operate on it as a freelancer,” he added. A degree certificate is not mandatory for obtaining a freelance visa. You can apply for either a skilled or unskilled visa. However, to secure the correct designation and choose from the wide range of available options, you will need an attested degree certificate.

Can I work as both a graphic designer and a photographer under the same freelance permit? “With a freelance visa, you have the flexibility to work in multiple areas, such as photography and graphic design, provided you are trained and qualified to do so,” Doherty stated. He explained that the freelance visa is different to the freelance permit. “The freelance permit has given a Sole Establishment Licence from the free zone and is a government licence to carry out freelance work and allows you to have more than one or two activities on it,” he said.

A freelance visa, on the other hand, is what business set up companies issue to freelancers. “It’s similar but there is no licence involved, you are simply sponsored as a freelancer by a company to do freelance activities,” he added. What is the cost of obtaining a freelance visa? According to experts, the cost of a freelance visa varies depending on the free zone or business setup consultancy you choose. A one-year freelance visa typically costs around Dh7,000 and must be renewed annually. A two-year freelance visa ranges from Dh14,000 to Dh20,000 and is also

renewable. Can I complete the process remotely while in India, or do I need a visit visa? “The visa application process can be initiated while the applicant is outside the period to avoid fines.

Does the freelance visa provide access to a workspace or co-working facilities? “Freelance visas in the UAE are issued by various free zones, and the access and benefits depend on the specific free zone selected,” Salvi noted. Dubai offers numerous free zones for freelance licences and visas, including Dubai Internet City, Dubai Media City, Dubai Studio City, Dubai Design District and Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), among others. Many of these free zones provide “flexi desk” options, shared office facilities, co-working spaces, and even virtual office setups. Can I open a bank account in the UAE with a freelance visa? “Yes, a freelance visa can help you open a personal bank account in the UAE, as residency is a key requirement for banking access,” Salvi explained. She explained that for those looking to open a corporate bank account, additional requirements, such as a trade licence, proof of income, and a company address, may be necessary.

UAE. However, the final steps, including the medical test and biometric requirements, must be completed within the UAE,” explained Sayli Salvi, content and social media manager at Decisive Zone, UAE-based business setup and company formation consultancy. She added that applicants need to enter the UAE on a visit visa to finalise their residence visa formalities, including a “status change.” This change must be completed before the expiry of the visit visa or grace



UAE offers five-year residency visa for retired residents

ABU DHABI: The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP) has announced new regulations for issuing residency and identification cards to retired residents in the UAE.

This includes the introduction of a five-year residency visa for expatriates aged 55 and above. According to the ICP, expatriate retirees who are 55 years or older can now apply for a five-year residency visa to live in the

UAE.

To qualify for this visa,

applicants must meet the following criteria:



The applicant must have worked for at least 15 years, either inside or outside the UAE. The individual must own property worth at least Dh1 million or have savings of at least Dh1 million or receive a monthly income of at least Dh20,000 (or Dh15,000 in Dubai).

A bank statement from the last six months is also required. This residency visa is valid for five years and can be renewed if the applicant continues to meet the same require-

ments. Application Process: The ICP has outlined the steps to apply for a residency permit and UAE ID card for retired residents through its official website and the UAEICP smart application.

The application process includes the following steps: Log in using the UAE Pass. Select the UAE ID and residency services. Review and update the retrieved data, and pay the required fees. Receive the ID card through approved delivery companies.

Kuwait nationality law amended

KUWAIT: Key amendments to the Nationality Law of 1959 were published in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm in an Amiri decree, which means they are effective. The amendments almost entirely abolish the right of foreign women to get Kuwaiti citizenship after getting married to Kuwaiti men. Under the previous law, such women had the right to apply for citizenship after five years of marriage, provided they have children. In the past several months, the government has revoked the citizenship of more than 10,000 naturalised wives of Kuwaitis.

The amendments also allow revoking the citizenship of Kuwaitis who obtained it through forgery or cheating. All relatives who had obtained citizenship through that person will also lose it. The amendments allow revoking the citizenship of any naturalised Ku-

waiti convicted in a final verdict of crimes related to honour or state security crimes or for abusing the Almighty, prophets and HH the Amir.

The amendments allow revoking the citizenship of naturalised Kuwaitis if they were dismissed from government jobs over honesty or honour reasons within 10 years of obtaining the citizenship. The amendments also allow authorities to revoke citizenship for national interests and the state's external security, and also for carrying out anti-state activities. The state can use modern technology in granting citizenship or revoking it, the amendments state.

The amendments treat children of Kuwaiti women married to foreigners as Kuwaitis if they maintain their stay in the country and their fathers are held by the enemy, die or divorce

their mothers. As per the decree, a foreign male obtaining Kuwaiti citizenship does not entitle his foreign wife to the citizenship. Howev-



er, their underage children would be treated as Kuwaitis and they can choose their preferred nationality one year after reaching the legal age.

The amendments also abolished allowing authorities to naturalise foreigners including stateless people or bedoons who or their ancestors lived in the country since 1965 and before,

and maintained their stay in Kuwait. says it has become very difficult to trace this category of people.

First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Al-Yousef Al-Sabah will hold a meeting with editors-in-chief of daily newspapers and heads of public welfare societies at 10:30 am. The interior ministry said in a statement that the meeting aims to clarify the most prominent features of the new Kuwaiti nationality law amendments and discuss the files of dual nationals and those who acquired nationality based on fraud, false statements or incorrect certificates according to article 21, and the files of article 8 (wives of Kuwaitis).

Meanwhile, the new residency law which contains tough penalties and high fines of up to five years in jail and KD 10,000 in fines is likely to be implemented

in March, a top interior ministry official was quoted as saying. The new residency law was issued by an Amiri decree earlier this month, but it does not become effective until the interior ministry completes the bylaws necessary to apply the law.

The new law considers trading in visas or selling residency for money as a felony instead of a misdemeanor in the previous law, director of the residency affairs detectives department Brig Mishaal Al-Shanafa told a local newspaper. He said that during the first eight months of this year, the department has sent 26,000 expats to the deportation department. Shanafa said the new law stipulates that expat visitors can stay for three months and violators are liable for a one-year jail term and a fine between KD 1,000 and KD 2,000.

Flying taxis soon in India at Uber fares

DUBAI: India is working on the launch of flying taxis and the fare could be in line with the ride-hailing app Uber rates, said an industry executive. Kanika Tekriwal, founder of JetSet-Go, said affordability will be key when it comes to introducing flying taxis as well as own flying cars.

"We are creating infrastructure to operate flying taxis in India... Around 40 to 50 years ago, only the rich or one per cent of the world could afford cars. Now, around 40pc of the world can afford a car. That is the future of flying cars as well. Personal air mobility is going to take over."

The eVTOL we are working on right now is going to cost as much as Uber costs you from home to the office. And

owning them will probably cost \$2 lakh to \$3 lakh", Tekriwal said during a panel discussion at the 42nd annual international conference organ-



ised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) – Dubai Chapter.

She added that the entire industry is also currently focusing on affordability for the consumers. "Gone are the days of creating products that focus on one

per cent of the world's population. Now it has changed to scalability and market size. Now, the discussions focus on how to make the prod-

uct. Looking at the way things are progressing, the majority of the world is going to afford it in four to five years. Otherwise, it is not going to succeed," she added.

The founder of JetSet-Go sees Dubai's Sheikh Zayed Road airspace oc-

cupied with flying cars and taxis as the emirate is taking the lead in this space. "If you are living on Sheikh Zayed Road and working on the Palm

which is a good 45-minute drive, if I tell you that you could commute in five minutes, that will really change your life. That is what I am looking forward to. It excites me and scares me too. You are going to see a different sky, a different world and a different life."

She added that aviation is the future of the world because it is the only industry that has

not been disrupted yet. "It is a very capital-intensive business and governments need billions of dollars to build infrastructure and airports. In India, there are over 8,000 districts and over 1,000 cities. Only 160 are connected by airlines. For instance, for people travelling from Bhopal to Dubai, it is like a mission.

They have to come from Bhopal to Delhi and then catch a flight to Dubai. But the sector is being disrupted now as smaller planes can fly with 500-metre runways. This means it can take off from big parking lots. This is the technology that is going to change the way we live and it is not a capex-controlled industry anymore, where you have to spend billions of dollars on airports," she added.