



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 • VOL. NO. 1 • Issue • No. 94 DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 7 PAGES

Office jobs in high demand in UAE

DUBAI: All those new companies launching in the UAE are creating a mini-boom when it comes to hiring staff to man those swanky new offices. Not only that, but this is also feeding the high demand for HR personnel to oversee these operations. Salary growth for these positions may not be growing at the same pace as demand -- but that doesn't seem to be much of an issue for now. "There is a flood of new residents in Dubai and Abu Dhabi and more

of them are in their late 20s or early 30s," said a senior manager at a hiring firm. "It's from their ranks that many of the vacancies for front-office and other office-based positions are getting filled. "Each new office that opens in Dubai creates its own set of requirements." What hiring managers are saying is that while AI and technology roles are getting all of the limelight, a lot of activity is happening in parallel related to a variety of office roles.

"You don't see a slow down happening in new business creation in the UAE in 2025 - and that means more demand to staff offices," said a hiring manager, who added that the company recently received more than 20 applicants for a mid-level admin role. "The best part is that the position wasn't even advertised," he added. According to data from Innovations Group, general office management, customer service, and admin positions typically pay between Dh4,000 (Cont. on page-2)

Maharashtra receives Rs 1.13-lakh-cr FDI

MUMBAI: Maharashtra has attracted Rs 1.13-lakh-crore in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first six months of FY 2024-25, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced. This figure is nearly equivalent to the total FDI the state has received annually over the last four years. In a post on X, Fadnavis said that Maharashtra received Rs 1,13,236 crore in FDI during the first two quarters of the financial year, which ends in Sept 2024.

Comparing this to previous years, the state received Rs 1,19,734 crore in 2020-21, Rs 1,14,964 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,18,422 crore in 2022-23, and Rs 1,25,101 crore in 2023-24. "This means the state received 94.71pc of the FDI in just six months compared with the annual average of the last four years," Fadnavis wrote in his post. The announcement comes after a highly charged state election (Cont. on page-2)

Dubai airport expects 4.3m travellers in 15 days

DUBAI: A busy start is expected at Dubai International (DXB) as the airport is set to welcome 4.3 million travellers in the first 15 days of 2025, setting the stage for its busiest Jan yet – higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2018-2019. DXB said daily traffic is projected to peak today, with more than 3.11 lakh expected. "With an average of 2.87 lakh guests passing through daily during this period—eight per cent higher than the

same period in 2024 and six per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2018-19—DXB is operating at volumes akin to its busiest months ever, demonstrating its ability to meet global travel demand with efficiency and ease," the airport added. Passengers are advised to plan ahead and stick to travel rules for a smooth journey. Here are some of the airport rules: *Goodbyes should be (Cont. on page-2)

UAE to remain fastest growing economy in GCC

ABU DHABI: In 2025, the UAE is set to remain the fastest growing economy in the GCC region due to its ability to increase oil production earlier than other Opec+ nations a recent report said. According to the CEO Outlook report by KPMG, the UAE's economy is forecast to achieve 6.7pc growth in 2025, a significant increase from 3.8pc this year. This is likely to be primarily driven by its diversification efforts and

strong trade relationships with neighbouring countries. "The nation's positive economic outlook is supported by its thriving tourism sector and continued economic expansion," KPMG noted. Dubai particularly saw a surge in international visitors, with 1.77 million in Jan and 1.9 million in February 2024. Additionally, hotel guest spending is projected to rise from \$723.4 billion in 2023 to \$758.61 billion in 2024, according

to the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET). "Our latest CEO Outlook report highlights the UAE's remarkable economic resilience and growth potential with strategic investments in diversification and industrial capabilities positioning the nation as a leading hub for sustainable development and business innovation," said Walter Palk, Partner, Head of Clients and Markets, KPMG Lower Gulf.

Job creation gathers further momentum

NEW DLEHI: While a massive 4.67 crore additional jobs were created in the Indian economy in the financial year ended March 2024, the fast pace of employment generation has continued into 2024-25 in both the formal and informal sectors, official data shows. The total estimated employment in India's Unincorporated Sector recorded a double-digit growth of 10.01pc during Oct 2023–Sept 2024, compared with the same period of the previous year, according

to the annual survey of the Ministry of Statistics. The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) shows that among the broad sectors covered, the number of establishments in the "Other Services" employed more than 12 crore additional workers between Oct 2023 and Sept 2024, marking an increase of more than one crore workers from 2022-23 and reflecting robust labour market growth. Among the broad ac-

tivities, the "Other Services" sector showed the highest annual growth of 17.86pc followed by 10.03pc in the manufacturing sector. The unincorporated non-agricultural sector plays an important role in the Indian economy contributing significantly to employment, GDP and the overall socio-economic landscape. This sector not only sustains livelihoods for millions but also acts as a backbone for the incorporated sector by supplying goods and

services, reinforcing its role in the domestic value chain. Similarly, India's employment in the formal sector, which offers better quality jobs, has kept up its growth momentum during the first half of the current financial year with an increase in new additions across the three social security schemes compared to the same period last year, according to official figures released in Nov. New enrolments to the Employees' Provident

Fund scheme, which applies to larger organisations and better-paid employees, increased by 2.3pc to 6.1 million in the first-half of 2024-25 (April–Sept) compared. Similarly, subscriptions to the National Pension System were also 6.8pc higher reflecting the rising number of employees coming into better job streams. This improvement in the quality of jobs has also been observed in the latest monthly review of the economy by the finance ministry.

More flights to visa-free destinations

NEW DELHI: In the autumn of 2023, Thailand and Malaysia extended visa-free entry to Indian nationals in the hope of attracting tourists from the country at a time when they were travelling overseas like never before. Slow post-pandemic economic recovery in China had evidently hit tourist inflows to Southeast Asian hotspots, while India's recovery in terms of international passenger traffic was booming. Meanwhile, emerging destinations in other regions, particularly Central Asia and the Caucasus, also picked up in terms of interest among Indian tourists.

A year on, both Southeast Asian nations appear pleased, so much so that they decided to extend the visa-free entry facility for Indian passport holders further. Aviation and travel industry insiders say the visa waivers have stimulated demand for travel to Thailand and Malay-

sia, which airlines have recognised.

Data shows that the number of Indians travelling to the two coun-



tries has grown substantially in the wake of these measures and airlines have jumped at the opportunity by significantly increasing capacity between India and the two countries by adding flights and destinations.

In the Dec quarter of 2024, the total number of flights in both directions between India and the two countries rose 29.2pc year-on-year (YoY) to 14,409, with

the deployed seat capacity rising 26.6pc to 28.02 lakh, according to an analysis of data from aviation analytics firm

Cirium.

In the upcoming Jan-March quarter, the number of flights is set to rise further to 16,131 (up 43.7pc YoY), with a cumulative seat capacity of 31.44 lakh seats (up 41.1pc YoY).

While capacity deployment is not the same as the actual passenger load, it is representative of growth in passenger

traffic and airline demand estimates. India's official data for international air passengers is available only until the June quarter of the current fiscal, and even that shows a significant increase in traffic over the corresponding period last year.

In the past year or so, Indian airlines as well as those from Southeast Asia have launched a number of new flights, densifying the network between the two regions. These include IndiGo's Chennai-Penang and Bengaluru-Langka-wi flights; Air India Express' flights to Bangkok from Pune, Lucknow,

Surat and Amritsar and its Hyderabad-Phuket service; Air India's Delhi-Kuala Lumpur and Delhi-Phuket flights; Thai AirAsia X flights between Delhi and Bangkok; Thai AirAsia's Hyderabad-Bangkok and Chennai-Phuket flights; AirAsia's Kuala Lumpur-Port Blair service; and Malaysia Airlines's flights from Kuala Lumpur to Amritsar, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, and Kolkata.

"With the inclusion of these flights to Penang (from Chennai), IndiGo will now operate 28 weekly flights to Malaysia from two cities in India. The country's recent visa waiver for Indian citizens is bound to create an even greater demand and easy access for business as well as leisure travellers," IndiGo's head of global sales Vinay Malhotra said recently when the airline launched its Chennai-Penang service.

UAE to remain...

(Cont. from page-1)

The UAE ranked 10th in the world in the 2023 Soft Power Index. This is its highest-ever global ranking, marking its fourth consecutive year as the leading nation in the MidEast. The index evaluates a country's ability to influence others through cultural appeal, diplomatic relations, education, business and trade, governance and digital engagement.

Beyond its robust economic influence, the UAE fosters cultural exchange, tourism and global connectivity. "Investments in aviation infrastructure by flagship airlines like Emirates and Etihad have extended the nation's geopolitical reach to over 150 destinations worldwide," the report said.

The UAE is implementing various structural reforms and making strategic invest-

ments to diversify its economy and boost its industrial capabilities, KPMG noted. "Significant initiatives include Abu Dhabi's \$10 billion investment in tourism infrastructure, Adnoc Gas's \$13 billion plan to expand gas operations globally and locally over the next five years and Dubai's approval of a public-private partnership portfolio valued at \$10.9 billion," the report said.

Maharashtra...

(Cont. from page-1)

campaign in late 2024, during which opposition parties accused the ruling BJP of diverting investments meant for Maharashtra to other states, particularly Gujarat. Fadnavis assured that he, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, as well as his cabinet colleagues, would ensure the state's progress continues.

Dubai airport expects 4.3m travellers in...

(Cont. from page-1)

exchanged at home, as only passengers will be permitted inside the terminals during peak periods.

*Families with children over 12 can expedite passport control by using the smart gates.

*Double-check your

baggage.

*Place metal items and electronics in hand luggage and follow the regulations on liquid, aerosols and gels.

*Permitted portable electronic devices, power banks and spare batteries are prohibited in checked-in luggage and

must be carried in/as hand luggage.

*Create a check list of travel documents and organise all these requirements.

*Check baggage allowances, and familiarise yourself with your airline's regulations to avoid surprises.

Office jobs in high demand in...

(Cont. from page-1)

and Dh8,000 a month. Of course, pay can vary based on factors such as company size, job responsibilities and experience.

"Based on market data and anecdotal evidence, we estimate a growth of approximately 15-20pc in office staff roles, particularly in Dubai, as new companies set up operations and established businesses scale their teams," said Ravi Jethwani, CEO of Innovations. "The demand for skilled office support roles - such as admin assistants, HR pro-

fessionals and finance staff - remains strong as companies focus on operational efficiency and talent retention."

Hiring experts agree with this sentiment and rate 2025 as offering more of the same sort of growth patterns for office staff. With office positions, the trend continues to be to outsource where possible. It makes sense for newly set up companies to opt for this to keep their HR costs down -- and not use up visas on what are essentially non-core roles.

"There is significant demand for temporary

staff, especially for roles that are more project-based or seasonal," said Jethwani. "Many startups and SMEs - who may not want to commit to long-term employment contracts initially - are opting for temporary staff or outsourcing certain roles."

"These companies may prefer working with recruitment agencies to manage temporary or contract staff on their behalf, thus allowing them more flexibility and cost-efficiency during the initial stages of their operations," said an HR expert.

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

URGENT HIRING FOR A BIG ELECTRICAL COMPANY IN BAGHDAD (IRAQ)

QC ENGINEERS 5 nos
(with expertise in the switchgear and substation field)

SCADA & Automation Engineers 5 nos
(with expertise in the switchgear and substation field)

1. Monthly 4000 USD (Depends on experience)
2. Accommodation, and three plane tickets a year.
3. 2 meals a day on working days
4. Working days are 6 days a week on site
5. Working hours are from 8 AM - 6 PM

Note : Free recruitment no service fees.

Alfa HRD Service
Registration No. B-1783/UP/PER/1000+/5/9374/2018
WhatsApp: +91-9319708905, Toll Free: 18005701786 * alfahrd11@gmail.com
www.alfahrd.com. A-101-103, Sahani Tower, Sec-5, Rajender Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP-201005

<https://Alfahrd.com>

URGENT FREE RECRUITMENT SHUTDOWN WORKS IN QATAR

PROJECT MANAGER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 15 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works

EXECUTION MANAGER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 12 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works

HSE MANAGER / LEAD: BE (Mech./Chem.) / Diploma with NEBOSH. Exp. 15 yrs. With Knowledge of PIPING/STATIC EQUIPMENT

MAINTENANCE WORKS

SHUTDOWN COORDINATOR: (Onshore / Offshore) BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 10 yrs. With Knowledge of PIPING/STATIC EQUIPMENT

MAINTENANCE WORKS

PROJECT ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 5 - 8 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works

RIGGING ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 8 - 10 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Lifting Plan preparations

RIGGING SUPERVISOR: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 8 - 10 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Lifting works

MECHANICAL SUPERVISOR: BE (Mech.) / Diploma. Exp. 8 - 10 yrs. With Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works

QA/QC ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) CSWIP 3.2, NDT Level-II & Lead Auditor Certification. Exp. 15 yrs.in Oil & Gas Plants with Exp.5yrs in Piping/Static Equipment's Inspections in Plant Shutdowns&Turnarounds

QA/QC INSPECTOR: BE / Diploma (Mech.) CSWIP 3.1, NDT Level-II & API 510 / 653. Exp. 15 yrs.in Oil & Gas Plants Shutdowns with Piping/Static Equipment Inspections.

PLANNING ENGINEER: BE (Mech.) Exp. 12 - 15 yrs. (Primavera & SAP knowledge Required)

PLANNER: BE (Mech.) Exp. 5 - 8 yrs. (Primavera & SAP knowledge Required)

SAFETY OFFICER: Diploma (Mech./Chem.) with NEBOSH Exp.8-6 yrs.

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER: Diploma (Mech. /Chem.) with NEBOSH. Knowledge of Hygiene / Hazardous Waste Management Systems. Exp. 8 - 6 yrs. in Oil & Gas Plant Shutdowns

HSE TRAINER: BE (Mech./Chem.) / Diploma with NEBOSH. Exp. 15 yrs. + Knowledge of Piping/Static Equipment Maintenance works

RESCUE PLANNING & FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER: Fire & Safety Course Completed & Fluent in English. Knowledge in Rescue Operations. Should have min Exp. 4 - 6 yrs. in Oil & Gas Plant Shutdowns in Middle East

FIRE / SAFETY WATCHER: Fire & Safety Course Completed & Fluent in English. Should have min Exp. 8 - 6 yrs. in Oil & Gas Plant Shutdowns in Middle East

QUANTITY SURVEYOR: BE (Mech.) / Diploma Exp. 5- 8 yrs. With SAP and Oil & Gas project Experience

Contact : 8369977093 / 9029096669
Email : careers@occggroup.in / occshutdown@gmail.com

OCC CONSTRUCTIONS LLP
9/24, Jogani Industrial Complex, Sion Chunabhatti Road, Mumbai - 400022.
Tel : 022-35003600 Regn No : B-1097 /MUM/ PART /1000+/5/9389/2018

<https://occggroup.in/>

FOREX RATES

As on 6th January, 2025 (In rupees)

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 86.1 | 85.25 |
| British Pound | 108 | 106.84 |
| Euro | 89.72 | 88.08 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.55 | 0.54 |
| Swiss Franc (CHF) | 95.56 | 93.78 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.17 | 59 |
| Australian Dollar | 53.82 | 52.79 |
| Norwegian Krone | 7.62 | 7.47 |
| Swedish Krona | 7.83 | 7.68 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 48.55 | 47.68 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 11.13 | 10.92 |
| Singapore Dollar | 63.6 | 62.37 |
| Saudi Arabian Riyal | 23.03 | 22.59 |
| United Arab Emirates | 23.55 | 23.1 |

Forex reserves drop by \$4b to \$640b

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves dropped by US\$4.112 billion to \$640.279 billion during the week ended Dec 27, says RBI.

In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had

and the drop has been attributed to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce volatility in the rupee. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of \$ 704.885 billion in



dropped by \$8.478 billion to \$644.391 billion. The reserves have been declining for the last few weeks

end-Sept.

For the week ended Dec 27, foreign currency assets, a major component of the

BANGARAM ISLAND

KAVARATTI ISLAND

AGATTI ISLAND

DMC FOR LAKSHADWEEP

Lakshadweep Settled off the Kerala coast on Laccadive sea, Lakshadweep translates to 'a hundred thousand islands'. A club of 36 atolls and coral reefs, the nature tourism destination is known for preserved ecology and water sports.

www.flycreative.in | www.flycreativeglobal.com

www.flycreative.in

reserves, decreased by \$4.641 billion to \$551.921 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units

like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. Gold reserves increased by \$541 million to \$66.268 billion during the week. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were

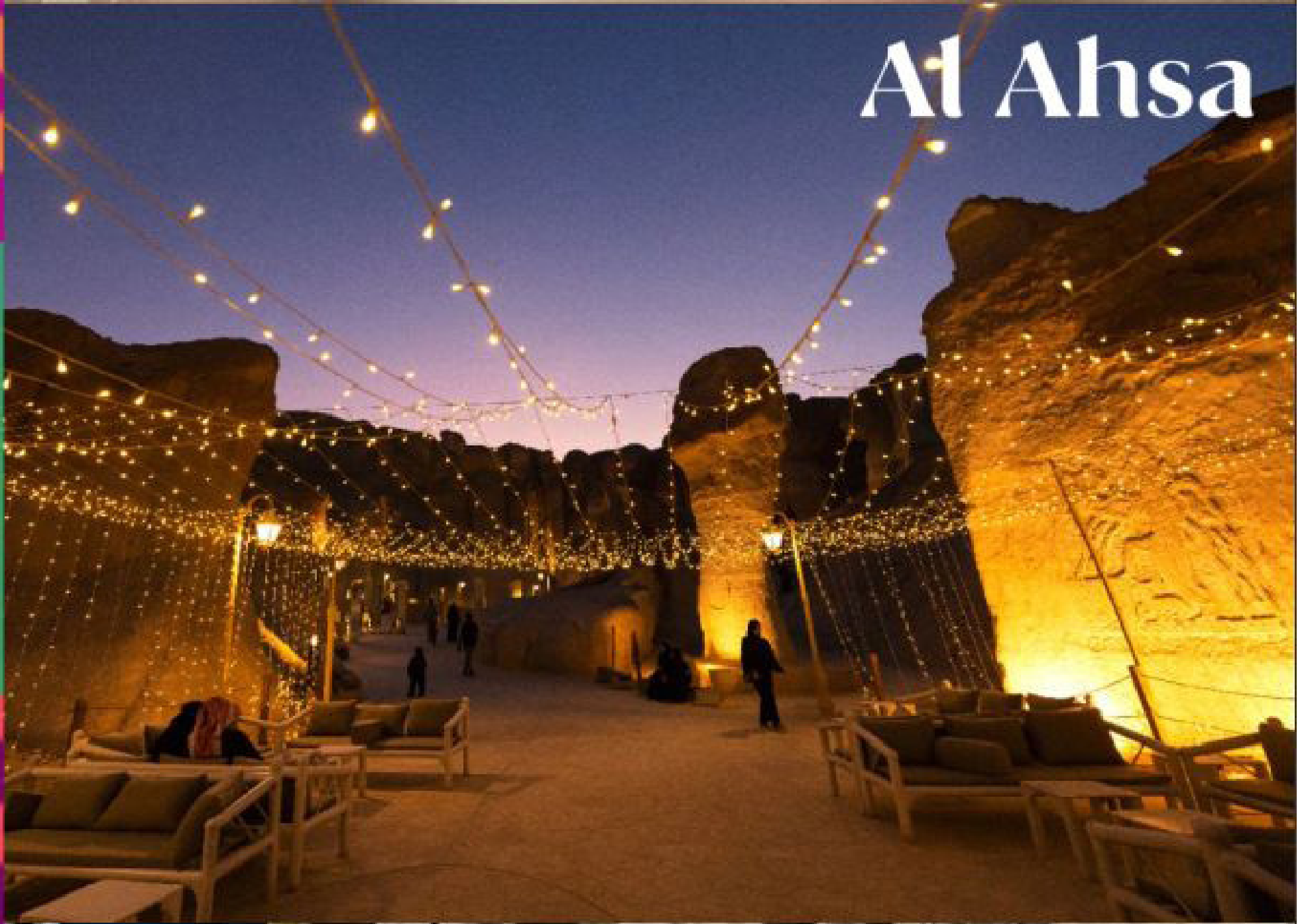
down by \$12 million to \$17.873 billion, the apex bank said. India's reserve position with IMF was unchanged at \$4.217 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.



B2B Portal : www.flycreative.in

Email : support@flycreative.in

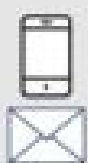
Your Trusted Travel Company Since 1978

**Al Ahsa**

✈ 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



Explore The Unexplored
SOUTH INDIA

GULF FAQs

Is it legal to work in UAE while on a visit visa?

I am in the UAE on a visit visa. I was recently offered a job by a mainland company. My boss has asked if I would be willing to start working as the company gets the work permit/visa application done. Am I allowed to work after accepting a job offer but before my permit/visa is processed?

In the UAE, an employer may not recruit an individual without a valid work permit under Article 6(1) of the Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations, which states: “No work may be performed in the UAE, and no employee may be recruited or employed by any employer without obtaining the work permit from the



ministry, in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations.”

Furthermore, an expatriate may not be engaged in any employment in the UAE without a valid work permit and a valid UAE

residency visa. This is in line with Article 5(4) of the Federal Decree Law No. 29 of 2021 regarding entry and residence of foreigners, which states “An alien (anyone who does not have the nationality of the State) is ob-

ligated not to engage in any activity or work except in accordance with the legislation in force in the State.”

Based on the type of work, an employer and an employee may mutually agree to obtain a work permit as stipulated by the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE). The types of work permits may include but are not limited to full-time work permits, part-time work permits, temporary work permits and freelance work permits as mentioned in Article-6 of the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the Implementation of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 regarding the regulation of employment relations.

If an employer recruits an individual without a valid work permit and

UAE residency visa, the penalty may be Dh1 lakh. This is under Article-1 of Federal Decree Law No. 9 of 2024 revising some provisions of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 concerning employment relations, which is related to amendment of Article 60(1)(a) of the Employment Law.

The said law reads as: “Individuals who commit the following violations shall be fined a minimum of Dh1 lakh and a maximum of Dh10 lakh.

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, you should not work while you are on a visit visa in the UAE. Instead, you may request that your new employer obtain a work permit and UAE residency visa sponsored by it.

Is it possible to revoke my ‘will’ after divorce?

I am a non-Muslim man. Two years ago, I made a will for my wife with all my money and I authenticated the will before the competent authorities. Recently, I have divorced my wife and want to cancel the will. My question: Do I have the legal right to cancel the will and make a new will for my children and also attest it before the competent authorities, and what are the legal procedures necessary for that? Does my ex-wife have the legal right to object the cancellation of the will, knowing that she has an original copy of the will?

You have the right to revoke your will and to attest it even if your ex-wife doesn’t accept this. The cancellation is better to be done in front of the authority you had made it, whether in front of the Notary Public of Dubai Courts or the DIFC through an application of cancellation. After revoking a will, the testator can make another will in its place or not write a will at all.

Article (29) of the Cabinet Resolution No. (122) of 2023 Concerning the Executive Regulation of Federal Decree-Law No. (41) Of 2022 on the Civil Personal Status, regarding the Lapse of the will, states the cases by which the will shall lapse and in:

*Where the will is revoked by the testator, provided that this revocation shall be registered on the Register.

*Where a new will that contradicts the original will is registered.

*Where the testate property is disposed of in a manner that involves transfer of ownership.

*In the event of death of the beneficiary of the will during the lifetime of the testator.

*In the event of destruction of the testate property.

*Where the testator becomes bankrupt during his lifetime.

In the event of renunciation of the will by its beneficiary or his guardian.

*Where the testator is killed by the beneficiary of the will.

Can I opt for “visa hold” when switching jobs between emirates?

I have been working in Dubai for the past five years. My family members are under my sponsorship. If I accept a job in Abu Dhabi and move there, do I have to change my family’s visa immediately? Or can I use the “visa hold” option till I settle down in Abu Dhabi?

Upon termination of employment by your employer or resignation from employment, the employer should cancel your work permit after you sign the work permit cancellation document. This is in accordance with Article 7(3) of the Cabinet Resolution no. (1) of 2022 On the Implementation of Federal Decree-Law no. (33) Of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Employment relations, which reads as:

a) Submission of an application for cancellation of work permit via the channels specified by the ministry.

b) Completion of the required information and attachments.

c) Payment of fines for delay in issuance or non-renewal of work permits, if any.

d) Declaration by the establishment that the employee has received his entitlements.

e) Any other conditions specified by decision of the minister or his delegate.”

Thereafter, your employer should cancel your residency visa in the UAE. As the sponsor of your family members’ residency visas in the UAE, you have the option to place their visas on hold while you transition to a new employment visa. This visa hold service allows you to keep the visas of your family members active for up to 60 days. If you prefer not to cancel the visas, you can inform the authorities of your intention to hold them until you obtain a new employment visa.

To initiate the aforesaid process, you may visit an Amer Centre.

You may also approach the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs – Dubai or the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security as your current visa is issued from Dubai and your new employer visa will be from Abu Dhabi.

Will Indian nurse Nimisha Priya be hanged in Yemen?

Will Nimisha Priya, a nurse from Kollengode in Palakkad district of Kerala, hanged in Yemen? This is the fear in every Indian's mind.

The case of Nimisha Priya, sentenced to death in Yemen, has raised serious questions about the protection of citizens abroad, the role of the Indian government in handling such cases and the broader implications of foreign legal systems on our nationals. As this tragic saga unfolds, it serves as a stark reminder of the challenges that Indians working in foreign countries, especially in conflict zones, face when caught in legal predicaments.

Priya's case is layered with complexity. Initially migrating to Yemen in search of work, she became embroiled in a series of unfortunate events that ultimately led to her conviction for the death of a Yemeni national, Talal Abdo Mahdi, who had subjected her to extreme torment. Her story reflects the harsh realities of foreign employment particularly for women where individuals are often at the mercy of local laws and powerful individuals. In Priya's case, allegations of exploita-

tion, torture and coercion have emerged, but despite these, the Yemeni judicial system has held her accountable for a crime that led to the death sentence.

The Indian government's response has been to offer diplomatic support, including exploring the possibilities of blood money compensation or a presidential pardon. However, such options highlight a painful truth: New Delhi's reach is limited when citizens face the full brunt of foreign legal systems. The Ministry of External Affairs has stated that it will extend "all possible help" to Priya, but this statement raises the question of what "help" truly entails. While the government can push for diplomatic negotiations and legal interventions, such as facilitating the payment of blood money, these efforts are often insufficient against the backdrop of a foreign justice system that may not be entirely transparent or impartial.

The role of blood money in obtaining pardons also underscores the disparity between what is just and what is politically or culturally acceptable in different legal contexts. Should an Indian national's fate depend on her or

his ability to financially compensate the victim's family, rather than the merits of the case? Moreover, the emotional and legal burden on Priya's family is immense. Her mother's journey to Yemen to negotiate a resolution, despite the risks involved, underscores the desperation and helplessness many families experience when their loved ones face serious legal trouble abroad. The Indian government's approval of her travel, given the volatile political situation in Yemen, further exemplifies how complex and perilous the diplomatic process can be when citizens are caught in such situations.

Priya's case is not isolated. It highlights the broader issue of Indian nationals working in foreign countries with limited protection. This case, fraught with legal, cultural and diplomatic challenges, should prompt a reevaluation of how India addresses its citizens' safety and rights in foreign lands, especially in nations where legal systems may not be aligned with India's values of justice and fairness. Priya is a victim in more senses than one and India must exert its influence to ensure that her life is saved.

Ex-police officer arrested in fake passport case

KOLKATA : The city police's detective department conducted search operations across North 24-Parganas and held a former police officer in the fake passport scam.

During the search operation, a former police sub-inspector was arrested from Ashoknagar in Habra. The arrested officer had previously worked in the passport section of the police department. With this, the total number of arrests in the case has risen to nine. The arrested officer, Abdul Hai, had voluntarily retired a year ago. However, prior to his retirement, he was allegedly involved in multiple illegal activities related to passport verification.

According to police sources, during the verification process, he facilitated passports for many individuals through unlawful means. It is alleged that he charged Rs 25,000 per passport.

Earlier, Kolkata Police arrested the mastermind of this racket, Manoj Gupta. Investigations began after suspicions arose that a gang was creating fake passports

using forged documents worth lakhs of rupees. Police launched raids across the city and its suburbs, leading to the arrest of this former police officer. Investigators at Lalbazar (police headquarters) have discovered that the former sub-inspector collaborated with this network. Allegedly, illegal immigrants or infiltrators from Bangladesh, who entered India were able to obtain passports easily with the help of this racket.

Following a court remand, Lalbazar has taken a stricter stance against fake passports. Police commissioner Manoj Verma has issued several instructions to station heads regarding passport verification. This arrest has raised concerns about corruption within the system. With rising unrest in Bangladesh, infiltrators, including militants, have been increasingly entering India. Using forged Aadhaar cards, they were able to create fake passports. The recent exposure of such fraudulent activities has shaken the state administration.

Modi to open 18th PBD in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention here on Jan 9, though the conclave will start on Jan 8 with Youth PBD. It will feature a virtual address by Chief Guest Christine Carla Kangaloo, President of Trinidad & Tobago.

The PBD convention is the flagship event of the government of India that provides an important platform to connect and engage with the Indian diaspora and enable them to interact with each other.

The theme of the event, being organised in partnership with the state

government, is "Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat". A large number of Indian diaspora members from over



50 different countries have registered to participate in the PBD convention.

The PM will remotely flag-off the inaugural journey of the Pravasi Bharatiya Express, a special tourist train for the Indian diaspora,

which will depart from the Nizamuddin railway station in Delhi and would travel to multiple destinations of tourist and religious importance in India for a period of three weeks. The

Pravasi Bharatiya Express will be conducted under the Pravasi Teertha Darshan Yojana of the ministry of external affairs.

Modi will also inaugurate four exhibitions at the PBD convention as follows:

(i) Vishwaroop Ram -- The Universal Legacy of Ramayana: This exhibition would present the timeless epic of Ramayana through a curated juxtaposition of traditional and contemporary art forms.

(ii) Diaspora's Contribution to Technology and Viksit Bharat: This exhibition would acknowledge the contributions of the Indian diaspora to the development of technology in the world.

(iii) Spread and Evolution of Indian diaspora in the world with special focus on Mandvi to Muscat: This exhibition will showcase rare documents of people who had migrated from Mandvi

in Gujarat to Muscat in Oman.

(iv) Heritage and Culture of Odisha: The exhibition will showcase the rich heritage and cultural traditions of Odisha through its different art and craft forms and highlight its illustrious legacy.

President Droupadi Murmu will preside over the valedictory session of the PBD convention on Jan 10. She will confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2025 upon select members of the Indian diaspora to recognise their achievements and to honour their contributions in various fields in India and abroad.