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FLYDUBAI PILOT RECOVERING

Leaders praise Capt Machchhar for averting major air crash

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Trump and Israeli PM Netanyahu have all hailed the courage shown by Indian pilot Capt Machchhar in saving the lives of passenger of the flydubai flight.

Modi hailed Capt Machchhar, who was injured after helping avert a major in-flight crisis, calling him a "hero" who showed "immense courage" and "unwavering resolve" to save the lives of those on board.

The pilot was attacked during a flight but continued to act to safeguard passengers and crew, which led to the aircraft being diverted to Tabuk in



Saudi Arabia. Taking to X, Modi said: "Capt Machchhar is a hero. In the face of the gravest danger and despite being seriously injured, he showed immense courage and an unwavering resolve to protect the lives of others. His valour helped save hundreds of lives and avert a great

tragedy." "India is proud of Capt Machchhar," he added.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also praised Capt Machchhar for his "extraordinary bravery" in preventing what he described as a potential mid-air catastrophe after the pilot was attacked during a flight but continued to act to safeguard passengers and crew.

Netanyahu said Capt Machchhar displayed exceptional courage despite being seriously injured. "My salute to the Indian pilot for his extraordinary bravery," Netanyahu said.

US President Trump has provided his own extraordinary account of the scare aboard the flydubai flight from the UAE to Israel, saying he spoke to Israeli Premier Netanyahu about the "terrorist or perhaps a whack-job". He also hailed the pilot as a "hero" for fighting off a knife attack from the co-pilot, opening

(Cont. on page - 2)

Air India-flydubai tie up, access to 52 destinations



DUBAI: Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Dubai-based airline flydubai, opening up more travel options for passengers across Europe, MidEast, Africa and other regions.

Under the two-way interline agreement and Special Prorate Agreement (SPA), Air India passengers will be able to book connections to 52 additional destinations on flydubai's network through Dubai. The 52 destinations include six

in Africa, two in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), 23 in Europe and 21 in the MidEast.

Dubai will serve as the key connecting point for Air India passengers travelling to these destinations on flydubai. The agreement will also allow flydubai passengers to connect to 69 destinations across Air India's network through Delhi and Mumbai. These connections will cover destinations in India, Europe, (Cont. on page - 2)

Festival of Kerala from Nov 1 to promote culture, tourism

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Kerala government is set to organise the "Festival of Kerala" from Nov 1 as part of the Keralapiravi celebrations, Minister for Cultural Affairs PC Vishnunadh said.

"In the initial phase, the event will be held in Kerala. The state government is also planning to organise the event in major In-

dian cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Kolkata, to showcase our art forms, culture and traditions. Similar events will be organised in major foreign cities with a large Malayali population. We aim to promote our culture and tourism sector through a series of events," he said. (Cont. on page - 2)

Basheer Ahamed India's new DCM in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: Basheer Ahamed has been appointed as the new Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) of the embassy of India in Saudi Arabia, according to the latest appointment announcement. In his new role, Ahamed will work closely with the Indian Ambassador and the embassy team in strengthening bilateral relations between India and Saudi



Arabia. His responsibilities are expected to include political, economic and consular engagement, as well as issues concerning the large Indian community in the Kingdom. The appointment comes at a time when India-Saudi Arabia ties are expanding across trade, investment, energy, tourism and workforce mobility.

India pursues Chinese air route to mitigate Pak airspace ban

NEW DELHI: India is exploring an alternative air route over China's Xinjiang to reduce the impact of the continued closure of Pakistani airspace, civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said.

The longer route has proven particularly costly for flag carrier Air India, which relies heavily on western long-haul routes out of its Delhi and Mumbai

hubs. Following the closure of Pakistani airspace after the Pahalgam terror attack in April 2025, Indian airlines operating flights to Europe and North America from northern and western India have been forced to detour over the Arabian Sea towards Muscat.

The detour has added between 45 minutes and two hours of extra flight time, driving up operational costs and fuel burn across several sectors.

Naidu said the proposed corridor over Hotan in southwestern Xinjiang would offer a significantly shorter route. "We are looking at other alternatives. Discussion on the Hotan route is going on between the two countries. Our external affairs ministry (MEA) is engaging with their country. let us see how it goes, but we are

(Cont. on page - 2)





Global Indian worker

Russia, Germany, Japan, Israel etc are opening up their doors for Indians to fill up the job opportunities in their countries. And once the war in West Asia stops, there will be huge reconstruction in Iran and some of its neighbouring countries needing Indian engineers, technicians and workers. Indian government is working with countries including Germany, Japan and Israel to align vocational training standards. The effort is being driven through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) International, which works with overseas partners to bring global skill standards into international mobility of Indian workers.

One of the reasons for doing that is to promote global mobility. So an Indian trained to say German standards can then opt to work, go to Germany and work. Of course, trained to Japanese standards can go there. The push comes as India looks to improve the quality of vocational training at scale and connect its skilling system more closely with international employment opportunities.



As is known, India has aligned skilled job roles with around 20 countries as part of efforts to create more overseas employment opportunities for its workforce. The government is mapping the demand for skilled workers across different countries. India has a demographic advantage, while several economies globally are experiencing ageing populations. The government is therefore working to align the skills of Indian workers with requirements in international labour markets. The initiative will provide trained Indian workers with the option of taking up employment abroad by ensuring that their skills correspond with the requirements of overseas markets.

Nearly 3.6 lakh candidates were registered for the WorldSkills selection process across India in the current cycle. India fielded its largest-ever contingent at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, with 70 competitors participating across 63 skill categories.

Only two days back the news came that Germany has plenty of opportunities for skilled professionals, with 6.5 lakh jobs available in the country, making it a strong option for those thinking of careers abroad and eventually settling.

In the European Union (EU) at the moment, there are about three million jobs that need to be filled. Of those, around 6.5 lakh jobs are available in Germany – that’s about 25pc of the EU’s requirement, which shows the scale of demand for skilled professionals in Germany. One of the routes available to skilled professionals is Germany’s Opportunity Card or Chancenkarte. The job-search residence permit allows non-EU nationals to enter Germany for up to 12 months to look for qualified employment without having to secure an employment contract before travelling. The Opportunity Card gives the candidates the opportunity to move to Germany and look for work. Applicants can qualify for the Opportunity Card through a points-based system or as skilled workers whose foreign qualifications have been fully recognised in Germany. Under the points route, applicants need a recognised academic or vocational qualification, sufficient funds to support themselves and the required number of points, based on factors including qualifications, professional experience, age and language skills. For professionals who secure qualifying employment, the EU Blue Card provides another route to remain in Germany.

The whole drive is to improve the quality of standards in the country so that the Indian can be a global worker.

LIPSYNCH

“The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.”
— Walt Disney

Flights to Dubai getting delayed due to Russia-Ukraine conflict

DUBAI: Flight to dubai from different centres are getting delayed due to Russia-Ukraine conflict situation.

flydubai planes from Tashkent and Almaty -- both in Kazakhstan-- were delayed by more than one hour on Tuesday morning. More than 170 flights delayed in Dubai and Abu Dhabi on Sunday

On Monday, flydubai

US exempts select Indian drugs from 100pc tariff

WASHINGTON: Select speciality pharmaceutical products from India will qualify for zero-tariff treatment under the US pharmaceutical tariff framework introduced by President Trump. India has secured zero-tariff treatment in the US for a range of speciality pharmaceutical products even as Washington’s sweeping 100pc tariff on certain patented drug imports expanded from Sept 29.

The exemption comes against the backdrop of a much tougher US tariff regime for patented pharmaceutical imports.

Air India-flydubai tie up...

(Cont. from page - 1) the MidEast and Southeast Asia. Delhi and Mumbai will act as gateways for flydubai passengers looking to continue their journeys on Air India’s network.

The partnership is expected to expand the travel networks available to passengers of both airlines by making it easier to combine flights operated by Air India and flydubai. The interline arrangement will give passengers more options to travel between different regions using connections through Dubai, Delhi and Mumbai. Air India passengers will use Dubai to connect to flydubai destinations, while flydubai customers can use Delhi and Mumbai to access Air India’s network. flydubai began operations in 2009 and currently serves more

planes from Almaty and Tashkent were delayed by 52 minutes and 64 minutes respectively. Another flydubai flight from Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikstan, was delayed from 7.50am to 9.07am. Other flydubai flights travelling to Dubai from destinations such as Moscow and Yekaterinburg in Russia and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, also touched down late on the tarmac

The exemption covers several high-value and specialised categories, including orphan drugs, fertility treatments, cell and gene therapies and antibody-drug conjugates. In- (Cont. from page - 6)

India pursues Chinese air...

(Cont. from page - 1) trying alternatives..” Naidu told reporters.

If the discussions pan out, Indian airlines flying from Delhi and Mumbai would head towards Leh, enter Chinese airspace near Hotan, turn toward Kyrgyzstan and then connect to existing routes heading to

than 120 destinations. Through its interline and codes-share partnerships, the airline provides connections to more than 300 destinations worldwide.

Festival of Kerala from Nov 1...

(Cont. from page - 1) As part of the initiative, a cabinet sub-committee has also been constituted, with chief minister VD Satheesan as the chairman.

The event will be organised with the co-ordination of all cultural institutions in the state. Addressing the media, he said that projects will be implemented to improve film literacy in the state. “We are planning to launch an initiative to improve film literacy among the people.

Films will be screened in schools and colleges across the state as part of

on Monday.

An Emirates flight from London Heathrow to Dubai, due to reach its destination at 6.40 am, was rescheduled for 8.30am. Adjustments continue to be made to flight schedules, but not all delays are due to the continuing conflict affecting the Middle East.

Hundreds of flights from Russia have been affected by the prolonged war with Ukraine in recent weeks. Ukrainian drone attacks on Moscow on Sept 19 delayed more than 400 flights and led to a number of diversions. David Bentley, the chief airports analyst for Capa – Centre for Aviation -- said an increase in Ukrainian attacks on Moscow may have contributed (Cont. from page - 6)

Europe, the UK, and North America.

“All Indian carriers from the north and north west are following the L639 route to avoid the Pakistan airspace.... which increases their flying time by two hours,” a person familiar with the matter said. “The route may lead to significant savings for destinations like Georgia, Baku, Central Asia, and northern Europe,” he said.

It is estimated that Air India lost Rs 4,000 crore due to the Pakistan airspace closure.

the project. Also, the department is planning to organise short film and documentary competitions for youngsters,” he added.

Leaders praise...

(Cont. from page - 1) the cockpit door and calling for help to foil a bid to crash the aircraft.

“I did speak to Netanyahu at length about this event, and it seems as though the co-pilot was perhaps a terrorist or perhaps a whack-job, and he stabbed the pilot,” Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

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British Pound	126.01	127.88
Euro	107.62	109.98
Japanese Yen	60.74	61.75
Swiss Franc (CHF)	113.66	116.32
Canadian Dollar	66.78	68.36
Australian Dollar	66.19	67.68
Norwegian Krone	9.81	10.1
Swedish Krona	9.42	9.71
New Zealand Dollar	53.5	54.72
Hong Kong Dollar	11.98	12.36
Kuwaiti Dinar	317.874	304.7831
Singapore Dollar	74.23	75.98
Saudi Arabian Riyal	25.04	25.85
U A E Dirham	25.66	26.42

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GCC tourism revenue rises 9.7pc

MUSCAT: Tourism revenue across the Gulf Co-operation Council rose 9.7pc to about \$131.9 billion in 2025, outpacing growth in visitor numbers and indicating higher average spending.

The number of tourists visiting GCC countries increased 4.9pc to about 75.7 million with average revenue per international visitor reaching approximately \$1,743. More than 20 million tourists travelled between GCC countries during the year, an increase of 3.6pc from 2024, the Statistical Centre for the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf said.

The figures were published in a bulletin titled: "GCC Tourism in the Era of Smart Transformation", released to mark World Tourism Day. Tourism is projected to contribute around \$365.7 billion to the GCC's gross domestic product by 2035 and support 5.8 million jobs across the region, the bulletin said. The stronger rise in revenue relative to visitor numbers indicated an improvement in the economic value generated by tourism and an increase

in average visitor spending. The number of hotel establishments across the GCC rose 4.8pc to around 12,400 in 2025, reflecting continued investment in accommodation and tourism services.

GCC-Stat said digital technology and artificial intelligence were moving regional tourism into a new phase based on data and innovation. These technologies could im-

prove visitor experiences, support decision-making, develop workforce skills and increase the efficiency and sustainability of destination management. All GCC countries scored at least 60 points on the mobile application development index, reflecting digital capabilities that could support the development of tourism applications and improve visitors' access to information and services

before, during and after their trips. The bulletin said the future of Gulf tourism would depend not only on increasing visitor numbers and expanding hotel capacity but also on using data, artificial intelligence and digital applications to understand traveller preferences, forecast demand and personalise services.



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GULF FAQs

Can employees claim compensation for arbitrary termination?

I was recently dismissed as part of what my employer described as a cost-cutting exercise and I am considering filing a claim for arbitrary termination. I worked for the company for six years and consistently received exceptional performance appraisals. Could these records help strengthen my case?

Pursuant to your queries, it is assumed that you are employed by an employer located in the mainland of Dubai. Further, it is assumed that your employer has terminated you by serving stipulated notice period as mentioned in your contract and you are currently serving your notice period. Therefore, the provisions of Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations (the "Employment Law") and Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the Implementation of Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Employment Relations (the "Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022") are applicable.

In the UAE, an employer may terminate employment of an employee by serving stipulated notice period as mentioned in the employment contract of an employee. This is in accordance with Article 43 (1) of the Employment Law, which states: "Either party to an employment contract may terminate the contract for good cause by giving the

employer may not terminate an employee without a valid reason. In the event, an employer terminates employment of an employee without a valid reason, such termination may be considered as arbitrary termination. This is in accordance with Article 47 of the Employment Law, which states: "1. A dismissal of an employee by the employer

it is found that the dismissal is arbitrary pursuant to paragraph (1) above.

The amount of compensation shall be determined based on the type of work, the extent of harm sustained by the employee and the length of his service. In any case, the amount of compensation shall not exceed three month's salary of the employee calculated

the aforementioned provisions of law, the termination of your employment by your employer on the grounds of cost cutting may be considered as arbitrary termination. However, if an employer is facing severe financial crisis it may have to wind up its operations by obtaining an order by local authority/ court which has jurisdiction in the UAE and may terminate an employment contract of an employee.

This is in accordance with Article 25 (1) (b) of the Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 states that: "Subject to the provisions stipulated in Federal Decree-Law No. (9) of 2016 concerning Bankruptcy and Federal Decree-Law No. (19) of 2019 concerning Insolvency and the provisions of clause (8) of Article (42) of the Decree-Law:

*The employment contract shall be terminated in any of the following events: Issuance of a decision by the concerned authorities to the effect that the employer is unable to continue his activity for exceptional economic reasons beyond his control." Therefore, if you feel that your employer has terminated your employment without a valid reason, you may consider filing a complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratization (Mohre) seeking compensation for arbitrary termination along with other end-of-service entitlements from your employer.

Based on your complaint with Mohre, the authority may attempt to amicably settle the dispute between you and your employer. In the event there is no amicable settlement with your employer before the Mohre, then you may file an employment case against your employer in the court which has jurisdiction in the emirate of Dubai.



other a notice in writing. The employee shall perform his duties during the notice period agreed upon in the contract, provided that the notice period is not less than 30 days and not in excess of 90 days."

Nevertheless, an em-

ployee submits a serious complaint to the ministry or files an action proven to be valid against the employer.

2. The employer shall pay the employee a fair compensation estimated by the competent court, if

based on the last salary received by him.

3. The provisions of paragraph (2) above shall not prejudice the right of employee to the pay in lieu of notice and severance pay due to him under the provisions hereof." Based on

How to send money without a UAE bank account?

Please explain how to transfer money abroad without a traditional bank account in UAE?

Many UAE residents – including domestic workers, freelancers, new arrivals and blue-collar employees – may not

qualify for a traditional bank account. But that doesn't mean they're cut off from essential financial services.

Although currency exchange businesses are crucial, digital wallets, prepaid cards and remittance applications now

simplify money management and transferring funds home without the need for a bank account.

Digital wallets you can use without a bank account. Several UAE fintech platforms allow users to receive salary, pay bills and make international transfers directly from an app. Users can receive salary, pay bills, make QR payments and send money abroad. The app also offers digital versions of its TravelCard and FlexiblePay prepaid cards.

Other popular options include: myZoi: Its standout "One-to-Many" feature lets users send

money to up to five recipients in one transaction, ideal for families relying on multiple remittances. e& money: International transfers, bill payments and mobile top-ups. Botim Pay: Remittances to India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Egypt and more. Careem Pay: International transfers powered by Mastercard Send. Payit (FAB): A bank-operated wallet that doesn't require a FAB account and offers a prepaid Visa card. AlfaPay by Al Fardan Exchange: Another popular app used to transfer money abroad with competitive exchange rates.





Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with her Saudi counterpart Mohammed Al-Jadaan in Doha on the sidelines of the AIIB annual meeting.

India, Italy deepen tourism co-operation ahead of proposed 2027 cultural year

NEW DELHI: India and Italy have stepped up efforts to strengthen bilateral tourism co-operation, with a focus on promoting new destinations, cultural exchanges and greater engagement between tourism industries in both countries.

The second India - Italy Joint Working Group

US exempts select Indian...

(Cont. from page - 2)
Ingredients associated with eligible products are also covered by the tariff adjustment.

The US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security has included India among the jurisdictions eligible for the zero per cent tariff treatment under Trump's April 2 pharmac import proclamation.

Which Indian medicines escape the US pharma tariff? The exempt categories cover drugs whose approved uses are designated as orphan, as well

as nuclear medicines and plasma-derived therapies.

Fertility drugs, cell therapies, gene therapies and antibody-drug conjugates are also included. The framework further covers medical countermeasures related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, along with eligible animal-health pharma products.

Associated pharma ingredients used for these products can also qualify for the zero-duty treatment. India among jurisdictions eligible for zero-duty treatment.

Flights to Dubai getting delayed...

(Cont. from page - 2)
to recent disruption in the region.

"These drones and missiles fly across routes from and to many places in the Russian Federation and the delays may be exacerbated by fears over further large scale attacks on Moscow and the Russia generally," he said. "The Russia-Ukraine conflict has caused all sorts of problems in the region for a long time." Ukrainian airspace has been closed to all civilian aircraft since Russia's full-scale invasion

in February 2022, while American, British, Canadian and EU airlines are banned from flying over Russia.

There is also short-term disruption to airlines that continue to fly into and out of Russia with knock-on effects on their services elsewhere, even if they do not take off from or land in Russia. Elmar Giemulla, an honorary professor of aviation law at the Berlin University of Technology, said planes may have to stay on the ground because there are dangers within Rus-

(JWG) on Tourism, held on Sept 29, was co-chaired by Bhuvnesh Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, and Emanuela Tripi, Secretary-General, Ministry of Tourism, Italy.

The discussions covered several areas of mutual interest, including tourism data exchange, promotion of lesser-known destinations, cine-tourism, destination twinning, skilling and capacity building and stronger business-to-business (B2B) engagement.

As an important follow-up, both sides agreed to establish focused technical groups and designate points of contact to take forward the areas identified during the meeting and maintain sustained engagement between tourism stakeholders.

sian airspace caused by Ukrainian drones.

Travellers flying into the UAE also faced significant disruption with some flights cancelled and more than 40 being delayed, many for more than two hours on Sunday. UAE airlines are now close to full capacity after scaling back services at the height of the Iran war.

Passengers travelling to and from the UAE are advised to check with their airline on their flight status prior to travelling to the airport.

Air India's chief targets higher revenue

NEW DELHI: Air India's incoming CEO and MD Tejowolde Gebremariam has outlined a sharper focus on financial performance, cost discipline and operational reliability as the airline enters its next phase of transformation.

Addressing employees at his first town hall, Gebremariam said Air India needs to improve its top line, middle line and bottom line, with particular emphasis on increasing revenue per available seat kg (RASK), a key measure of airline revenue efficiency. He said opportunities would be explored across the airline's international network, commercial activities and cargo operations.

Cost control was another major theme of the meet-

ing. Gebremariam stressed that financial discipline should not be viewed as the responsibility of only the finance department or senior management.

Instead, employees at every level would be expected to identify and manage costs within their areas of responsibility. The airline is also looking at greater synergies across the enlarged Air India Group.

At the same time, the new leadership has placed safety, reliability and customer confidence at the centre of its agenda.

Improving punctuality, baggage handling and the airline's response to operational disruptions were identified as important areas for improvement.



Etihad Rail starts services

ABU DHABI: Al Dhaid joined the UAE's national passenger railway on Wednesday, giving Sharjah its first Etihad Rail station and connecting the emirate to Fujairah and Abu Dhabi. The new station in Muragabat serves as a rail gateway for central Sharjah and nearby communities, including Shawka.

"Etihad Rail has become the first choice for citizens from the northern emirates to reach the capital, Abu Dhabi especially patients travelling for hospital treatment and follow-up appointments," said a passenger. The journey from Al Dhaid to Abu Dhabi takes just over an hour, while Fujairah is only 25

minutes away by train. Al Dhaid Station has a prayer room, passenger waiting area, toilets, first-aid room, ticket vending machines, an information and support desk and pick-up and drop-off bays. Parking is currently free, with 26 spaces including seven for electric vehicles.

For residents of Al Dhaid and nearby villages, the new service could make a meaningful difference to everyday travel, from patients travelling to Abu Dhabi for hospital appointments and students without cars to families who no longer have to arrange a driver for a journey that once took up much of the day.