



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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MEA-OE-approved RA delegation visits Russia to promote safe, legal HR hiring

MOSCOW: MEA-OE (Overseas Employment Division) approved RA delegation consisting of 36 RAs visited Russia in co-ordination with Indian Missions in Russia to promote HR placements in a safe, legal and secured manner.

This is in alignment with the Vision of the MEA-OE (Overseas Employment Division) and with the active support of Indian Mission in Russia' focused Potential Employers through Chamber of Commerce Platforms. This campaign is being undertaken to promote India's Human Resources (HR) capabilities. This initiative emphasizes safe, legal and transparent placements of Indian professionals and workers in Russian continents.

Indian Ambassador HE Mr Vinay Kumar addressed the participants of the B2B network-

ing session and spoke about the demographic dividend of the transformation of skilled manpower in India with the skill-ing and upskilling initiative of government of India and high-lighted the mutual benefits for both India and Russia through enhanced co-operation and stra-



India's Ambassador to Russia HE Mr. Vinay Kumar speaking at the B2B session.

tegic ties in this sector. Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Rus-



Ms Olga Androsova, deputy chairman of the committee for External Relations in St Petersburg and MsNeelam Rani, India's consul general, addressing the RA delegation and (Top) the delegation members with the consul general.

sia Mr. Sergey Cheremin, Ms. Olga Androsova, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for External Relations in St. Petersburg, Consul General of India (CGI) at St. Petersburg, Ms.

Neelam Rani, Russian government officials, Chamber of Commerce Officials and the Russian corporates and Luv Johne were

(Cont. on page-2)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PILGRIMS

Umrah visa system rules changed

RIYADH: In accordance with the new regulations issued by the Ministry of Haj and Umrah, significant changes have been made to the Umrah visa issuance system. The following is a comparative review of the old and new systems:

OLD METHOD: 1. No advance hotel reservations or travel arrangements were required to issue a Umrah visa. 2. Upon arrival in the Kingdom, visitor movements were determined based on vouchers issued in the company's CRM software.

NEW PROCEDURE: 1. Mandatory hotel reservations must be made at approved hotels through the ministry's electronic portal before the visa is issued. 2. Transportation must also be booked in the system before the visa is issued. 3. Details of the visitor's movement and accommodation will be fully recorded and booked in the system before the visa is issued. This information must be consistent with actual movement and field facts.

4. MINISTRY SUPERVISION: The Ministry of Haj and Umrah will conduct hotel inspections to ensure the presence of pilgrims.

Visitor movement between cities will also be monitored to ensure the accuracy of the details entered into the system.

Visa-free travel for Indians to Philippines

MANILA/NEW DELHI: The Philippines has said that Indian nationals will be allowed to enter the country without a visa for tourism purposes beginning June 8.

The visa-free arrangement is aimed at boosting tourism arrivals from India, which rose 12pc in 2024 to nearly 80,000, according to data from the Department of Tourism.

Despite the growth, Indian arrivals to the Philippines remain a small portion of the over five million who travelled to South-east Asia last year.

The new policy allows Indian nationals to enter the Philippines

(Cont. on page-2)



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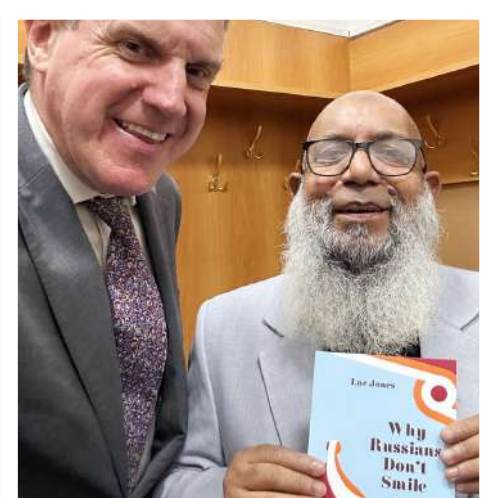
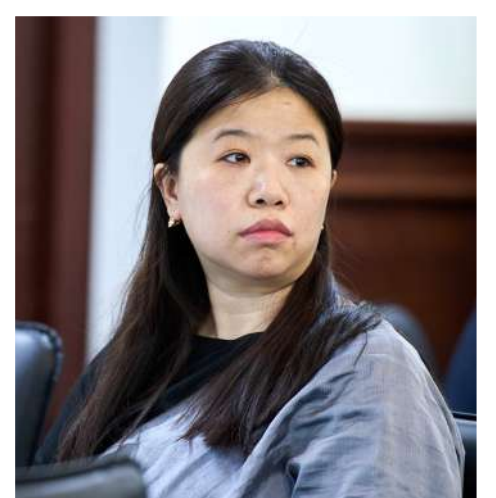
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INDIAN RA DELEGATION VISITS RUSSIA



(Cont. from page-1)
present. Head of the ITRUD Manpower Russian Federation and Mr. Nikhilesh Giri, Deputy Chief DCM, Indian Embassy, Moscow and Registered Recruitment Agencies of Russia attended the Event.

Recognised Recruitment Agencies under the MEA-OE framework have actively participated in the campaign, ensuring ethical recruitment practices and compliance with overseas employment regulations for Indian workers. The campaign aims

to foster trust with host countries, showcase India's skilled talent pool and reinforce the country's commitment to welfare-centric mobility. These efforts contribute significantly to national employment objectives and enhance the global reputa-

tion of Indian professionals and workers. "Such initiatives not only promote ethical practices but also underline India's dedication to safe and structured overseas mobility," said Shri VS Abdulkareem, President, IPEPCIL.

Saudi extends temporary ban on block work visas till June 30

RIYADH: The temporary ban has been effective since last month and will remain in effect at least until June 30.

Saudi Arabia has temporarily suspended block work visas for 14 countries, including India and Bangladesh, in a move tied to the ongoing Haj season.

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also temporarily banned other kinds of visas, such as e-visas, family visit visas, and tourist visas. The decision is seen as a curb on visa misuse and prevention of unauthorised participation in the Haj pilgrimage, a concern that came to the fore last year. The temporary ban has been effective since

last month and will remain in effect at least until June 30.

The countries affected by the ban are: India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Morocco, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tunisia.

The kingdom has also temporarily banned other kinds of visas, such as e-visas, family visit visas and tourist visas. All the curbs are connected to the ongoing Haj season.

What is the block work visa that Saudi Arabia suspended?

Saudi Arabia issues block work visas to employers, who then distribute them among em-

ployees to bring them into the country in bulk to meet labour demands. These visas are the first step towards employment in the country for foreign nationals, who then get other kinds of visas according to their employment.

Block work visas are mainly used in various industries, such as hospitality, construction and domestic services. All these sectors rely heavily on workers from South Asia and parts of Africa.

Why has the Saudi Arabian block work visa been suspended for 14 countries?

Saudi Arabia has suspended block work visas for 14 countries due to

concerns that they are being misused for unauthorised entry into the Haj pilgrimage. Officials quoted in the regional media say that there

have been instances of individuals entering the country on a work visa and then performing the Haj without an official permit.

Visa-free travel for Indians to Philippines

(Cont. from page-1)
without a visa for up to 14 days, provided they meet specific requirements, according to a travel advisory issued by the government. To qualify, Indian travellers must hold a passport valid for at least six months beyond the intended stay, confirmed hotel accommodation or booking, proof of financial capacity and a return or onward ticket to another country.

In addition, Indian na-

tionals who hold valid visas or residence permits from the US, Japan, Australia, Canada, Schengen states, Singapore or the UK (AJACSSUK countries) are eligible for a longer visa-free stay of up to 30 days. The move aims to boost tourism and deepen bilateral ties between India and the Philippines. Indians married to Filipinos are among the largest beneficiaries of the initiative in UAE.

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Interview at Mumbai on 24/06/2025
at Hotel Highway View, Shikara Restaurant, Plot No.3, Sector-24, Opp. Sanpada Railway Station, Navi Mumbai.

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British Pound	115.85	117.46
Euro	97.34	99.39
Japanese Yen	59.38	60.32
Swiss Franc (CHF)	103.65	105.88
Canadian Dollar	62.2	63.59
Australian Dollar	55.3	56.5
Norwegian Krone	8.37	8.62
Swedish Krona	8.81	9.07
New Zealand Dollar	51.3	52.45
Hong Kong Dollar	10.74	11.07
Kuwaiti Dinar	287.1646	267.7385
Singapore Dollar	66.13	67.59
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.46	23.17
United Arab Emirates	22.99	23.65

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Updated Umrah Visa System Rules for 1447 H / 2025-2026

Important Information for Pilgrims

In accordance with the new regulations issued by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, significant changes have been made to the Umrah visa issuance system. The following is a comparative review of the old and new systems :

New Procedure :

- Mandatory hotel reservations must be made at approved hotels through the Ministry's electronic portal before the visa is issued.
- Transportation must also be booked in the system before the visa is issued.
- Details of the visitor's movement and accommodation will be fully recorded and booked in the system before the visa is issued. This information must be consistent with actual movement and field facts.

Ministry Supervision :

- The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah will conduct hotel inspections to ensure the presence of pilgrims.
- Visitor movement between cities will also be monitored to ensure the accuracy of the details entered into the system.



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Bharat Gaurav train starts its journey

MUMBAI: In a tribute to Shivaji Maharaj on his 351st coronation anniversary, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Circuit Bharat Gaurav train tour, launched by IRCTC, commenced its service from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus here on Monday. The Bharat Gaurav Train tour has received an overwhelming response with 100pc bookings.A total of 710 passengers will undertake this journey comprising 480 passengers in Economy (sleeper), 190 in Comfort (3AC), and 40 in Superior (2AC) class. The train will arrive at Raigad on Monday for darshan at the site associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The Chhatrapati Circuit is a specially curated tour.



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GULF FAQs

Can new businessman get Golden Visa immediately after investing Dh 2million?

I am a businessman who is planning to move to Dubai. Can I invest in property to get a Golden Visa? What are the rules? And do I become eligible for the long-term visa as soon as I make the investment? Can you help detail the process?

In the UAE, a Golden Visa can be granted to an investor who owns one or more real estate properties having a value of not less than Dh2 million, provided that such real estate property may be owned by the investor, singly or jointly. This is in accordance with Article-8 of the Annex Attached to the Cabinet Resolution No. (65) of 2022 Issuing the Executive Regulations of Federal Law by Decree No. (29) of 2021 Concerning the Foreigners Entry and Residence Regulating Golden Residence Permits:

1. The investor shall own one or more real estate property with a total value of not less than

(Dh2, 000,000) two million dirhams and the real estate property is wholly owned by the investor. It



may be a loan, on condition that the loan is from one of the local banks determined by the competent local authority;

2. The real estate property investor shall when buying one or more real estate property units off the map with a total value of not less than Dh2 000,000 (two million) dirhams on condition that the purchase is made from local companies approved by the competent

local authority; and

3. The investor shall have a comprehensive health insurance for

himself and his family members throughout the validity term of the residence permit or in accordance with the terms set by the competent local authority.

“Upon approval from the competent authorities, a 10-year long-term residence permit is issued. This Golden Residence Permit allows eligible foreigners and their families to reside independently in the

UAE without a guarantor for work, investment or business, subject to specified terms and conditions. This is under the Article (1) of the annexure attached to the “Cabinet Resolution No. 65 of 2022”.

“The ICA may – after the approval of the competent authorities, as the case may be – issue a long-term residence permit for a period shall be subject to renewal, for certain categories of foreigners and their families, allowing them to self-reside without the need for the Guarantor/ the Host Party inside the state for work, investment, business start-up or stay in the state in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this resolution.”

The procedural steps for obtaining the Golden Visa based on real estate property investment include: Acquisition of qualifying property,

registration of ownership and issuance of a title deed by Dubai Land Department.

Submission of the Golden Visa application through the DLD, the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs or designated smart platforms (e.g., Dubai REST).

Completion of supporting formalities, including medical fitness test and Emirates ID registration. Issuance of a 10-year residency visa, subject to continued compliance with eligibility requirements.

Dispute over fire compensation from insurance company

I am the owner of a warehouse. A fire broke out in a warehouse next to mine and extended to my warehouse. I requested my insurance company to pay the compensation for the damages I suffered but the company refused on the basis that the fire did not break originally in my own warehouse but came from outside. Does the insurance company have the right to reject my claim of compensation?

The insurance company does not have the right to reject your compensation claim on such reason because the insurance company as per the insurance contract undertakes, upon occurrence of the event or the risk specified in the contract, to pay to the insured or the beneficiary the compensation agreed upon. According to Article 1034 of the Civil Transaction Law No. 30

of 2020 (The insurer is bound to pay the insured amount or the sum due to the insured or the beneficiary, as agreed, upon occurrence of the risk or maturity of the period fixed in the contract.)

Moreover, Article (1037) of the same law in insurance against fire, specified the insurer's liability for the following:

Damages resulting from fire even caused by earthquakes, thunderbolts, hurricanes, winds, cyclones, domestic explosions, damages caused by airplane and other air vessels crashes or whatever is customarily included in this class of insurance.

B) Damages, which are the inevitable result of fire.

C) Damages to things covered by the insurance by reason of salvage measures or of measures to prevent the extension of the fire.

Can I claim half of my husband's property before divorce?

I am a non-Muslim woman who got married to a non-Muslim man for five years. Now, I want divorce. Do I have to prove the harm before the court in order to get the divorce? Do I have the right to claim half of my husband's money in addition to part of the company shares he owns?

You do not have to prove the harm according to Article-7 of Federal Decree-Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil Personal Status for Non-Muslims which confirms that the spouses can request for divorce and be granted if either spouse expresses in court his/her desire to

separate and terminate the marriage, without any need to justify their reason, to demonstrate harm or to put the blame on the other party.

The Law No. 41 of 2022 did not specify the right for the divorced woman to claim half of her husband's money in addition to part of the company shares he owns but the Federal Decree Law No. 41 of 2022 provides non-Muslim residents the option to follow the laws of their home country or select alternative personal status laws in effect in the UAE over the provisions of this Decree Law.

So, if your law grants you such right of half of

his money and shares, then you may request to apply your law and the acceptance of the request is subject to the discretionary power of the judge taking into consideration that you have to prove the existence of your own law, its rules and to submit this law to the court after having it ratified by the relevant departments and embassies.

The law of the UAE shall apply in case the existence of the governing foreign law cannot be established or its context cannot be delimited (according to Article 28 of the Civil Transactions Law).

Akasa to operate 100 weekly flights from Navi Mumbai airport

MUMBAI: Akasa Air has announced its strategic partnership with Adani Airport Holdings (AAHL) to commence commercial flight operations from the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA). The airline has announced that it will have the largest percentage of the fleet operating from NMIA with more than 100 weekly flights.



Vomayu Dube

After IndiGo became the first airline to announce commercial flight

operations from the upcoming NMIA, one of the first second city airports in India, Akasa Air also followed to announce partnership with AAHL,

a major stakeholder in NMIA's operator Navi Mumbai International Airport. As one of the early airline partners to confirm operations from NMIA, Akasa Air claims to strengthen India's dual-airport strategy for

the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Akasa Air has claimed that it will operate more than 100 weekly domestic departures initially, scaling up to over 300 domestic and over 50 international departures weekly in the winter schedule. As part of its broader network strategy, the airline is also set to ramp up to 10 parking bases by the end of FY2027, with a focused international expansion into key Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian markets.

Akasa Air CEO Voma-

yu Dube said: "Our foray into NMIA is a strategic step aligned with Akasa Air's long-term vision to build a future-ready airline that is responsive to the evolving needs of Indian travellers. Enhanced connectivity from Navi Mumbai will not only strengthen our network in the western region but also help fuel India's economic engine by improving connectivity, stimulating regional development and ensuring that the benefits of aviation-led growth reach every corner of the country."

Over 3.3 lakh Indian students poured \$10b into US economy last year

NEW YORK: Suspend-ed visa interviews, intense social media scrutiny and the looming threat of deportation for minor missteps under the Trump administration have turned the F-1 student visa from a gateway to a precarious gamble.

Over 3.3 lakh Indians studied in the US in 2023-24, pouring nearly \$10 billion into the American economy. Families frequently took loans, mortgaged homes or depleted savings built up over generations, firmly convinced that this was the surest path to a significant opportunity for their children. Today, while that "American dream" is not quite dead, it is now definitely under siege.

The rise in interest in the US EB-5 programme is one such direction.

There have been numerous reports in the Indian media about an uptick in the EB-5 route. A steep path, it demands a minimum \$800,000 investment in a US business, promising permanent residency if the investor can create or preserve 10 full-time jobs. But this is no golden ticket. As US-based professor Gaurav Sabnis points out: "EB-5 cannot be a 'hedge' for F-1 visa holders".

A senior Indian executive, speaking about his son's academic preferences, shared a telling shift. "He is seriously considering Tokyo or Singapore over lower-tier US colleges. Their reputation, affordability and career outcomes are simply more compelling." These preferences are further shaped by India's domestic education bottlenecks.

Over 100 flights to be cancelled daily at Delhi airport for three-month runway upgrade

NEW DELHI: Runway 10/28, one of the four runways at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), is to be upgraded to the CAT 3B-compliant status, along with upgradation of its instrument landing system (ILS).

Additionally, another 43 flights a day will be moved from peak hours to non-peak hours to keep congestion in check during the busy hours at the airport. Also, another 43 flights a day will be moved from peak hours to non-peak hours to keep congestion in check during the busy hours at the airport.

GMR group-led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) expects the upcoming closure of one of Delhi airport's runways—Runway 10/28—for upgradation works

to lead to minimal flight disruption over the three-month closure period between June 15 and Sept 15. The airport operator, airlines and the aviation authorities have worked closely over the past few weeks on slot adjustment to minimise disruptions due to the runway closure, in a bid to avoid a repeat of the events in April when unexpected weather events due to sudden changes in wind patterns coupled with the runway closure led to scores of flights getting delayed or cancelled.

According to DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuria, the airlines are going to cumulatively cut 114 flights a day—arrivals plus departures—to and from Delhi, which comes out to a cancellation rate of around eight per cent, as the

total daily flights to and from the airport are at around 1,450. Jaipuria added that on average, the flight cancellation rate on regular days is in the range of 3-3.5pc and therefore, an eight per cent cancellation rate is not too high. Additionally, another 43 flights a day will be moved from peak hours to non-peak hours to keep congestion in check during the busy hours at the airport.

US trade delegation in India

NEW DELHI: A US trade delegation that arrived in India will have talks on various aspects of the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) and will conclude talks on June 10.

This comes after the White House said that the US had asked countries to make their best offers on trade negotiations by Wednesday, as the July 8 deadline for reciprocal tariffs is just five weeks away.

New Delhi could step up purchase of American goods ranging from agricultural items to defence equipment — in exchange for concessions on reciprocal tariffs and improved access to the US market.

Millions lifted out of poverty in India, says World Bank

NEW YORK: India's extreme poverty rate has fallen sharply over the past decade after World Bank updated its international poverty line definition and included updated data in its June upgrade of the methodology.

Based on the update, the latest World Bank data showed that the extreme poverty rate had declined from 27.1pc in 2011-12

to 5.3pc in 2022-23. The number of people living in extreme poverty also fell sharply during this period from 344.47 million in 2011-12 to 75.24 million in 2022-23. This would mean that nearly 270 million were lifted out of extreme poverty during the same period.

In a blog, World Bank said that the international poverty line for low-in-

come countries has been raised to \$3 per person per day from the existing \$2.15 per person per day, and for lower middle-income countries it's changed from \$3.65 to \$4.20 per day and for upper middle-income countries it went up from \$6.85 to \$8.40.

Given India's inflation rate between 2017 and 2021, a revised extreme

poverty line of \$3 would constitute a 15pc higher threshold than \$2.15 expressed in 2021 prices and result in a 5.3pc poverty rate in 2022-23. A new LMIC line of \$4.20 would imply a five per cent lower threshold for poverty than \$3.65 adjusted in 2021 prices and yield a poverty rate of 23.9pc, according to World Bank.