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LANDMARK VISIT BY DUBAI CROWN PRINCE

India, Dubai to further boost ties

NEW DELHI: In a significant move to strengthen the diplomatic and economic relations between the UAE and India, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, visited India which was marked by high-level meetings, cultural exchanges and business discussions and is seen as a pivotal step in furthering the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

Sheikh Hamdan expressed confidence that the next phase of co-operation would bring even more significant gains across various strategic areas, including investment, trade, tourism, industry, infrastructure, logistics, energy, food security, advanced technology, artificial intelligence, digital transformation and space. He noted that the partnership covers vital sectors such as healthcare, education, defence and other key areas on both countries' development agendas.

Sheikh Hamdan acknowl-

edged the valuable contributions of the Indian community to the development of the UAE and highlighted the UAE's efforts to provide an inclusive environment for all residents.

Sheikh Hamdan had high-level discussions with Modi. He also met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and discussed trade ties and stepping up defence manufacturing collaboration. The Crown Prince, who is also the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar . Modi posted on X after the meeting: "Dubai has played a key role in advancing the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This special visit reaffirms our deep-rooted friendship and paves the way for even stronger collaboration in the future."

Recalling his visit to the UAE last year during which he participated in the World Government Summit in Dubai as Guest of Honour, Modi said Sheikh Hamdan's visit "signified generational continuity in the strong and historic ties be-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in New Delhi.

tween India and the UAE, emphasising the enduring partnership built on mutual trust and a shared vision for the future".

Modi expressed his gratitude to the leadership of the UAE for ensuring the welfare of around 4.3 million Indians living in the UAE.

THREE GENERATIONS OF DUBAI ROYALS VISITED INDIA



Three generations of Dubai's ruling Maktoum family have now visited India since 1974, fostering deeper connections and building stronger ties between both nations. From HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum to HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the leaders of the emirate have made several trips to India across decades. The first visit made by a Dubai royal to New Delhi was when HH Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the then Ruler of Dubai, met President Dr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed in 1974. Then, in 2007, when HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum visited India, he met with Dr Manmohan Singh at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. Now, in 2025, HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai, is continuing this tradition by meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Successful Royal visit

The Royal visit of the Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum to India has gone a long way in strengthening India-UAE ties across defence, trade, technology, space and people-to-people connections. The short two-day visit has been highly successful thanks to the meticulous planning and background discussions that had gone into this royal visit.

The Dubai Crown Prince, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, visited India at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi. This marks the Crown Prince's first official visit to India, accompanied by several key ministers, senior-level government officials and a prominent delegation of business leaders.

India and the UAE have decided to elevate their comprehensive strategic partnership following the meeting between Modi and the Crown Prince. At the high level meeting, the prime minister also recalled his visit to the UAE last year, where he participated in the World Government Summit in Dubai as the guest of honour. He emphasised that this visit signifies the strong and historic ties between India and the UAE, built on mutual trust and a shared vision for the future. Additionally, Modi expressed gratitude to the UAE leadership for ensuring the welfare of approximately 4.3 million Indians living in the country. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, to whom the whole credit of organising this royal visit goes, said he values the positive sentiment of the Crown Prince over the wide-ranging co-operation and vibrant ties between India and the UAE.

India's economic ties with Dubai have been growing rapidly since the 2022 UAE-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which has eliminated trade barriers, lowered tariffs and eased business operations, making it easier for companies in both countries to access each other's markets. According to Dubai Media Office, the trade volume between Dubai and India was worth about \$45.4 billion in 2023, up from \$36.7 billion in 2019. India was Dubai's top investor in 2024, with more than \$3 billion in foreign direct investment in various sectors, such as business services, software and IT services, consumer products, food and beverages and real estate. As of last year, more than 70,000 Indian companies have joined the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

Sheikh Hamdan held meetings with his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. On the sidelines of the visit, representatives of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce preside over a business forum in Mumbai to explore "new trade and investment prospects" with about 200 industry leaders.

Dubai was ranked the world's top destination for foreign direct investments last year, with India being the top source country, accounting for the highest percentage of capital share at 21.5pc. To date, more than 73,000 Indian companies have registered with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. Last year, in the first three quarters, Dubai had 3.1pc in GDP growth and it offers 100pc [foreign] ownership in most sectors. Dubai ranked number three in international trade and 22nd in international investment.

To sum up the Royal visit one should listen to what Modi says: "This special visit reaffirms our deep-rooted friendship and paves the way for even stronger collaboration in the future,".

LIPSYNCH

"A man of knowledge restrains his words."

—An Arab proverb

Crown Prince Hamdan enjoys Chenda Melam

NEW DELHI: His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, during his India visit shared a captivating photograph with his 16.9 million Instagram followers, showcasing a vibrant art form, Chenda Melam, which originates from Kerala. The Chenda Melam performance was to welcome the crown prince at the Delhi airport.

This traditional performance is characterised by exhilarating rhythms produced by instruments such as the Chenda (drum) and Elathalam. Chenda, a traditional percussion instrument, has played an integral role in the culture and festivals of Kerala for centuries.

Sheikh Hamdan's photograph captured the spirit of this cherished cultural tradition, offering a poignant glimpse into the unique and colourful tapestry of Kerala's heritage. Sheikh Hamdan often shares his love for photography by posting scenic shots and videos of Dubai with his followers, on the media-sharing app.



Dubai Crown Prince visits BSE

Aa Dubai Crown Prince His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum marked a remarkable moment during his maiden official visit to India by visiting the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The Crown Prince was warmly welcomed by Sundararaman Ramamurthy, MD of BSE. As part of the symbolic ceremony, Sheikh Hamdan rang the iconic BSE bell and posed with the well-known bull statue, symbolising bullish market sentiments. His visit to BSE not only highlighted the growing financial ties between India and the UAE but also displayed Dubai's strategic interest in strengthening economic engagement with India.

The visit to BSE came after Sheikh Hamdan attended the Dubai-India Business Forum, hosted by Dubai Chambers in Mumbai. The event aimed to explore deeper collaboration between the two economic hubs and brought together key business leaders and policymakers.

Union Commerce Min-

ister Piyush Goyal addressed the forum and hailed the India-UAE partnership as "a model of prosperity, trust, and shared vision." He emphasised that the presence of the Crown Prince reflected the enduring and evolving relationship between the two nations.

"Delighted to meet HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai," Goyal posted on X noting their discussions on expanding economic cooperation under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and identifying fresh avenues for bilateral growth. Goyal also in-

voked historical ties between the cities of Mumbai and Dubai, pointing out that 2024 marks the 100th year since the visit of Sheikh Saeed to India. "Both cities share a welcoming spirit rooted in centuries-old cultural and commercial links," he said, reinforcing the cultural resonance that continues to bind the regions. The minister went on to appreciate Dubai's contributions to the welfare of the Indian diaspora, citing initiatives such as the establishment of the first hospital for Indian workers in Dubai. "This is a heartwarming gesture, and we thank you on behalf of all Indians," he added.

Saudi visa suspension: travel agents seek clarity

DUBAI: UAE-based travel agents and Umrah operators are seeking clarity from Saudi authorities as they are facing difficulties in getting visit and pilgrimage visas. According to some, visa issuance has been suspended in preparation for the upcoming Haj season.

This has impacted

UAE residents who had planned to travel to Saudi Arabia for business, family visits and religious purposes. We, and many of our clients, are awaiting more information and seeking clarity on travel to Saudi. Many UAE residents are waiting to travel to the Kingdom and are asking us

(Cont. on page-7)

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FOREX RATES

As on 10th April 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	85.96	87.11
British Pound	110.29	111.86
Euro	94.52	96.56
Japanese Yen	0.59	0.60
Swiss Franc (CHF)	101.53	103.83
Canadian Dollar	60.15	61.53
Australian Dollar	51.25	52.39
Norwegian Krone	7.8	8.04
Swedish Krona	8.53	8.78
New Zealand Dollar	47.36	48.44
Hong Kong Dollar	10.93	11.26
Kuwaiti Dinar	291.055	269.016
Singapore Dollar	63.38	64.84
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.6	23.32
United Arab Emirates	23.16	23.83

Overseas News
And Employment
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India, Japan to expand bilateral tourism

India and Japan are discussing ways to work together and enhance tourism ties between the two nations.

The issue figured at the fourth Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Tourism Cooperation between India and Japan held on Tuesday. The meeting was co-chaired by Mugdha Sinha, Director General, Ministry of Tourism, and Haraikawa-Naoya, Commissioner, Japan Tourism Agency (JTA).

Officials and private stakeholders from both countries, including representatives from airlines, tourism and travel associations and government institutions, took part. Key organisations included Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO), Japan Associ-

ation of Travel Agents (JATA), JTTRI, Japan Airlines and ANA from the Japanese side.

The Indian delegation included officials from the Ministries of External Affairs, Civil Aviation, Education, NCHMCT, ICCR and private stakeholders like the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI) and the Association of Buddhist Tour Operators (ABTO).

The Co-Chairs of the two countries exchanged notes on the profile of the visitors. They delved into the data insights of the tourists travelling between the two countries, including to Buddhist destinations, in order to undertake suitable policy interventions to make

the destinations more attractive for the millennial tourists.

The meeting focused on finding new ways to work together and enhance tourism ties between the two nations. Japanese Ambassador to India ONO Keiichi emphasised the strong cultural ties and mutual benefits of enriched tourism between the two countries.

The discussions focused on expanding bilateral tourism, with initiatives such as promoting Buddhist sites in India to Japanese tourists, improving air connectivity and encouraging Japanese student visits to the country. The meeting also explored increased private sector involvement and strategies to harness media and influencer engagements for boosting tourist flow.

Normal monsoon forecast

NEW DELHI: Private weather forecaster Skymet expects the country to have a normal monsoon during the upcoming season (June to Sept 2025) at 103pc of the long-period average (LPA), with an error margin of +/-5pc. The LPA is 868.6 mm for the four-month period, with the spread of “normal” being quantified at 96-104 of the of LPA.

India Meteorological Department (IMD), the official national forecaster, is expected to come out soon with the keenly anticipated first update of the monsoon long-range forecast for the season.

Heat entrenches over North-West India as low-pressure area over Bay becomes “well-marked”. In terms of

geographical spread, Skymet expects sufficiently good rains over West and South India. Core monsoon rain-fed zone of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will receive adequate rainfall. Excess rainfall is likely all along the Western Ghats, more so over Kerala, coastal Karnataka and Goa. The North-East region and hills of North India may receive less than normal rainfall.

Occurrence of El Nino, which normally slows down the monsoon, is ruled out. Pacific will likely turn neutral (neither La Nina nor El Nino) during monsoon. Remnants of La Nina and neutral state together are expected to shield it from any egregious outcome.



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GULF FAQs

Can an NRI file divorce in India?

My husband and I got married in a court in Dubai. We are now preparing for a mutual divorce. Can we complete these formalities in our home country (India) while still being UAE residents? What would the process be like?

It is assumed that you both are Indian nationals and are non-Muslims by faith. In the UAE, non-Muslim individuals may apply the provisions of UAE Personal Laws for Non-Muslims if they intend to marry in the UAE. This is by Article 1(1) of the Federal Decree Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil person-

al Status, which states: "The provisions of the present Decree-Law shall apply to non-Muslim citizens or the United Arab Emirates, and to non-Muslim foreigners who reside in the State unless one of them invokes the application of their respective law, in relation to matters of marriage, divorce, estate will and proof of affiliation, without prejudice to Articles 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 of the reference Federal Law No. 5 of 1985.

In India, non-Muslim Indian nationals may opt for the personal law of the faith they follow to



apply for divorce procedures before the court, which has jurisdiction based on their domicile (permanent address) in India or in the place where both husband and wife have resided last, or in the place of domicile of wife or where the marriage has been solemnised.

Based on the above, you and your husband may seek further legal advice from a lawyer practising in India before deciding to file mutual divorce procedures in India.

However, it is suggested that you translate your marriage certificate in the UAE and attest to

it by the UAE Ministry of Justice. Thereafter, it must be attested by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation and by the Consulate General of India in Dubai. Furthermore, you and your husband may engage a lawyer(s) in India and provide the said lawyer(s) a power of attorney duly attested by the Consulate General of India in Dubai to register the divorce case before a court of competent jurisdiction in India. If directed by the court, you and your husband may have to travel to India to appear in court.

How to recover from a mistake at work?

Here are three power moves to recover from a mistake at work?

1. Own it like a pro: Imagine you are leading a meeting, and half-way through, you realise you've been explaining last quarter's numbers again. Instead of crum-

bling, you pause, acknowledge the mistake with humour ("Well, unless we have invented time travel, let's look at the right report"), and redirect. Owning your mistake with confidence shows competence, not weakness.

2. Fix it fast (and smart): If your slip-up affects others, don't just apologise - solve it. Sent the wrong report to a client? Follow up with the correct one, along with a quick, professional correction. Missed a deadline? Offer a revised

timeline and a solid plan to prevent a repeat. The quicker and smoother your fix, the more credibility you retain.

3. Fail forward, don't flop backward: Ever heard of the fail forward concept from John C. Maxwell? It's the idea

that mistakes should propel you, not paralyse you. Think of the time Steve Jobs got fired from Apple - only to return and revolutionise the tech industry. Your mistake isn't your downfall; it's your launchpad. Learn from it, tweak your approach, and prove that one blip doesn't define you. Why psychological safety matters: Let's get one thing straight -- if your workplace makes you terrified to admit a mistake, that a leadership problem, not a you problem.

High-performing teams (think research on psychological safety) thrive because they treat mistakes as learning moments, not career killers. The best leaders encourage ownership, not blame.

The takeaway: Mess up, level up: A mistake at work isn't a career death sentence. It's an opportunity to show resilience, problem-solving skills and a willingness to improve. So the next time you drop the ball, pick it up, own it, and throw it back even stronger.

That's how real pros turn failures into wins.

Should employees pay for fuel, Salik?

I am constantly on the road as part of my job. However, I pay for the fuel and Salik fees out of my pocket. Shouldn't the company be bearing this cost? What are my rights in this regard?

In this case, it is assumed that you are employed by a mainland company in Dubai, therefore, the provisions of the UAE employment law and the subsequent cabinet resolution are applicable.

It should be noted that an employee, at the time of joining and before signing an employment contract should check the contents of the employment contract, particularly with regards to salary and the allowances which are offered to him or her. This is in accordance with Article 8

(2) of the Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations, which states: The employee, or his representative, may prove the employment contract, the salary and any other rights he is entitled to under the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations and implementing resolutions by any means of proof. Further, the aforesaid provision of law has been further clarified and elaborated in Article 10(1) 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. The law states: "Subject to the provisions of Article 8 of the Employment Law,

the employment contract shall basically contain the name and address of the Employer, the name, nationality and date of birth of the employee, anything needed to prove his identity, his qualification, position or occupation, date of joining, place of work, working hours, days of rest, probationary period, if any, the duration of the contract, the agreed salary including benefits and allowances, the period of annual leave entitlement, the notice period, the procedures for termination of Employment Contract and any other details decided by the ministry, as is required to regulate the relationship between the parties. Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, if your employment con-

tract does not specify the provision of your employer providing car fuel and Salik under other allowances, you may not be entitled to claim the same. However, in the UAE, the employment contract generally includes a travel allowance, this may include the car fuel and salik. If the same is not be explicitly included, it is advisable that you may discuss the matter with your employer and may decide mutually.

Applicable laws:

1. Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations.

2. Cabinet Resolution No. 1 of 2022 on the Implementation of Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Employment Relations.

DUBAI CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT TO IMPROVE TRADE TIES

Good chemistry between Indian, Dubai companies

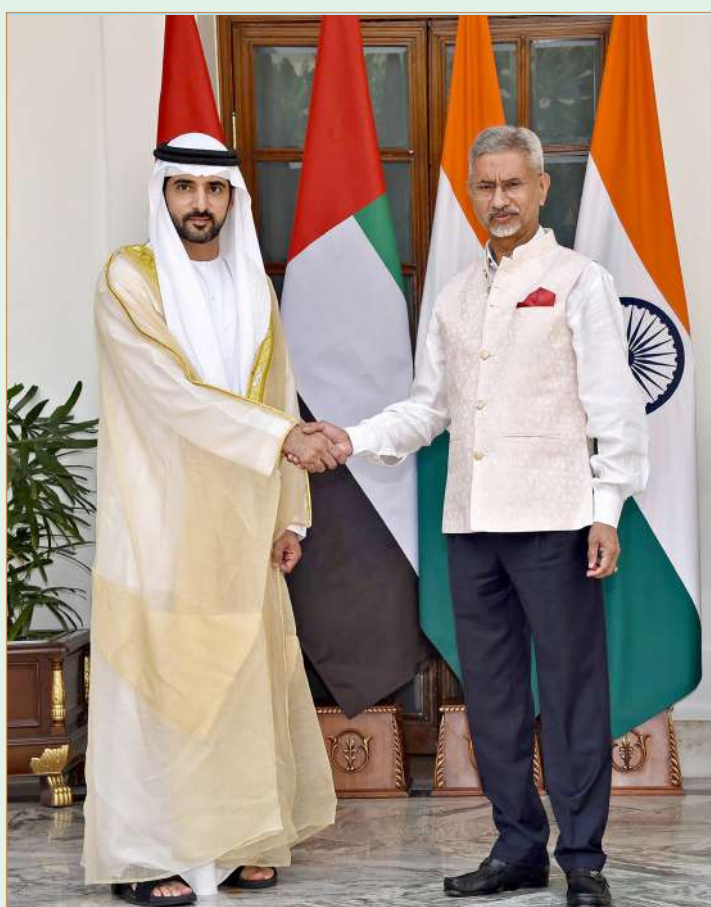
MUMBAI: Dubai was ranked the world's top destination for foreign direct investments last year, with India being the top source country, accounting for the highest percentage of capital share at 21.5pc.

To date, more than 73,000 Indian companies have registered with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. At the Dubai-India Business Forum in Mumbai, a top official revealed what's attracting Indian companies. Dubai-India Business Forum was held in Mumbai as part of the officials visit of Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. "Last year, in the first three quarters, we had 3.1pc in GDP growth in Dubai. We offer 100pc [foreign] ownership [in most sectors]," Salem Al Shamsi, Vice President — International Relations Sector, Dubai Chambers, said during his presentation at the forum attended by more than 200 top officials and investors, including a delegation featuring 39 business leaders from Dubai.

"Dubai ranked number three in international trade and 22nd in international investment based on the IMD [World Competitiveness Ranking 2024]. We have 27 specialised free zones, also establishment on the mainland where you can do your businesses."

Al Shamsi highlighted the tax benefits enjoyed by both individuals, including about 3.8 million Indian expats and businesses in Dubai. "When it comes to taxation, which is really important, we have zero per cent on personal income tax, five per cent on VAT and nine per cent when it comes to corporate tax," Al Shamsi said, noting the significance of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which reduces tariffs and promotes smoother trade.

Dubai, with a four-hour flight radius reaching half the world's population and more than



Union External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar greets the Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum in New Delhi.

200 flights daily from airlines like Emirates and Flydubai, is a strategic location for global connectivity. "We have 250 plus flights daily from Dubai International Airport and we have DP World, which operates and runs 74 ports worldwide, which can help in terms of moving goods around the globe," he said, noting the city with robust infrastructure is among the most connected by sea and air routes.

India is a member of World Logistics Passport (WLP), a global freight loyalty programme launched under the directives of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. "This passport can help in fast tracking cargo movements, reducing administrative costs and advancing cargo [information], facilitating movement between ports and air."

Mumbai's international airport and the Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal are part of the WILP programme. In 2024, India was ranked number one in terms of FDI value into Dubai. "While Dubai has more than 1,100 [FDI] projects, India had 276 in 2024, worth of \$2.3 billion." Indian investments have been made into were software and IT services, business services and consumer

products. "In terms of trade analysis, there are eight potential products that Indian companies may increase their exports to Dubai, including medicine, car parts, vehicle and frozen beef."

Logistics sector: Mobility technologies (drones, autonomous transport, robotics, air traffic management system in new DWC Airport); digital technologies (Internet of Things, blockchain, supply chain solutions, tracking and security); sustainability solutions (electric vehicles, EV charging stations and Dubai Green Mobility Strategy to have 42,000 EVs by 2030).

Financial sector: Banking (corporate and investment banking, banking infrastructure, green financing, financial research), FinTech and digital payments, insurance, cryptocurrency, digital remittances and investment management.

Digital economy sector: Sovereign cloud and AI infrastructure, virtual and augmented reality, gaming industry, robotics and automation, 3D printing, digital marketing and e-commerce.

New Ludhiana international airport getting ready

LUDHIANA: Finally, the upcoming international airport is ready to take off in Ludhiana with final touches targeted to be finished by April 30.

Recently, the Centre Deputy Commission-

Modi to visit Saudi Arabia

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Saudi Arabia this month to bolster economic co-operation and strengthen strategic ties between the two countries amid churn in the geopolitical realm.

It will be a follow-up

had asked the state government to hand over the physical possession of the civil airport terminal complete in all respects to launch the operations.

Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Jain has pressed the Indian Air Force (IAF) to complete the ongoing pending 10pc work at the earliest and has initiated the process to procure certain statutory nods from various departments, mainly the Union government before the month-end. The development assumes significance as the new international airport coming up at the Halwara air base had been granted the airport code, which is mandatory before launching the operations and was named the Halwara Airport

Saudi visa suspension...

(Cont. from page-2) before April 13 but must to apply for visa, which exit the Kingdom before is not being issued for April 29," he added.

Umrah operators said they are unable to get any categories of visas issued whether they are multi-entry, single-entry, Umrah or family visit.

Authorities in Saudi Arabia had announced on Monday that Umrah pilgrims can last enter the country on April 13. Raja said UAE residents who already hold valid multiple-entry Saudi visas will not be permitted to enter the Kingdom after April 13 either. "People who have single-entry visas can also travel

It's the Haj season ... and we do not have complete clarity on visa approvals yet. We are also waiting for a clear picture from the Saudi authorities," said Shihab Perwad from Rehan Al Jazeera Tourism. "We have been applying and while the system accepts the applications, the status remains on standby.