



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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AIRCRAASH

ALL FEARED DEAD

AHMEDABAD: A London-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed in the Meghaninagar area near Ahmedabad Airport on Thursday afternoon. It was carrying 242 passengers and crew, including 169 Indians, 53 Britons, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals. Some medical students are also feared dead.



(Above)The ill-fated Air India plane fell on a medical hostel. (Left) The plane goes up in flames.

The plane crashed on a medical hostel and at least 30 bodies have been recovered from a build-

ing .The crash occurred just after the plane took off, TV channels reported. One channel showed

the plane taking off over a residential area and then disappearing from the screen before a huge

jet of fire rising into the sky from beyond the houses. According to the Di-

rectorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the flight was oper- (Cont. on page-2)

Visa abuse won't be tolerated, US warns Indian students

NEW DELHI: The US embassy in India has warned travellers not to misuse their visas, after a video showing an Indian student in handcuffs at Newark Liberty International Airport drew attention online. "We cannot and will not tolerate illegal entry, abuse of visas or the violation of US law," the embassy said. "Legitimate travellers are welcome. However, there is no right to visit the US."

The warning followed widespread circulation of a video on social media showing a visibly distressed Indian student being restrained by officials at Newark airport. The clip was shared by Indian-American entrepreneur Kunal Jain, who claimed the student was being deported and "treated like a criminal." Jain wrote that the student was in tears and handcuffed before being sent back to India. The Indian Consulate General in New York said it had taken up the matter with authorities.

Saudi may lift visa ban

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia is expected to lift the temporary travel restrictions on Indian nationals following the end of visa regulations introduced earlier in April to manage the flow of pilgrims and reduce overcrowding during the Hajj season. In April 2025, the Saudi au-

thorities temporarily suspended the issuance of Umrah, business, and family visit visas to nationals of 14 countries, including India. This measure, which will remain in place until mid-June 2025, was implemented as part of the Kingdom's (Cont. on page-2)



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Train to Kashmir

The oft repeated slogan -- "Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is one" -- to emphasise the unity and integrity of our country has literally become a reality. On June 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the historic train service connecting Srinagar with Katra effectively integrating the region with the rest of the country via rail. Connecting Kashmir, the mountainous terrain with deep valleys and heavy snow fall during the winter, to our railway system for a seamless travel was a long cherished dream of every Indian. Modern technology, financial backing of the government and above all the strong political will to implement this project helped realise this distant dream. True, the foundation stone for this project was laid way back in 1983 but due to financial constraints and lack of technology the project was delayed. The spectacular highlights of the rail link is that it passes through



36 tunnels (stretching a total 119km) and 943 bridges (combined length: 13km), which together make up nearly half the length of the 272km stretch from Udhampur to Baramulla. The route's crown jewel is the 1,315-metre-long steel-and-concrete bridge over the Chenab river that connects two mountains with an arch 359 metres above the water. This height is more than that of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, which stands at 330 metres.

According to engineers, the Chenab bridge will last for 120 years and can withstand extreme weather, including snowfall and wind speeds up to 260kmph as well as earthquakes and landslides. Modi stood on the Chenab Bridge and waved the Tricolour before boarding a train for a test run to reach another of the link's marvels --- the Anji Bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge. The bridge, 862m long and 331m above the ground, connects the Katra and Reasi towns in Jammu. Its main pylon rises 193m above its foundation.

It may be recalled that earlier, the implementation of Konkan rail network connecting Mumbai and Mangalore through the loose soil filled and hilly areas of coastal Rathnagiri was a great achievement. The project abandoned by the British -- whose contribution to our railways nobody can deny--- was taken up by the then government on the advise of the great engineer E. Sreedharan (better known as the Metro Man). Sreedharan, who was educated and trained in Germany, implemented this project as a challenge. Socialist leaders Prof Madhu Dandavate and George Fernandes (who were ministers from time to time in different central ministries) played a key role in the implementation of the Konkan railway. For the first time, railways successfully issued bonds to finance this project.

Mass transport can be provided only by a well oiled rail system. In recent years, the rail travel has become quite comfortable and speedy. India has one of the largest railway system in the world. The present railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (an IIT and IAS rank holder) has done a wonderful job in modernizing the railway systems. World class facilities at the rail stations, high speed trains, improving the catering services, excellent ticketing services and eliminating the ticket black marketers and bringing down the accident rates are some of his star achievements, True, much more need to be done.

LIPSYNCH

"Investment in travel is an investment in yourself."
 ---- A Japanese quote

AIR CRASH

(Cont. from page-1)

ated by CaptSumeet Sabharwal, assisted by First Officer Clive Kunder. CaptSabharwal, a highly experienced Line Training Captain (LTC), had logged 8,200 flight hours while First Officer Kunder had 1,100 hours of flying experience.

Air Traffic Control (ATC) records indicate the aircraft took off from Ahmedabad's runway 23 at 13:39 local time. Shortly after departure,



(Left) Vijay Rupani, ex-Gujarat CM, was among the passengers (Right) Ranjitha, a nurse from Thiruvalla, Kerala, who died in the Ahmedabad air crash



the crew issued a MAYDAY distress call but then ceased all communication. The plane crashed beyond the airport perimeter moments later.

This marks the first-ever fatal crash involving a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, a long-haul aircraft known globally for its

fuel efficiency, advanced technology and comfortable passenger experience

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

The concerned can contact thegovt control room on Phone No.079-232-51900 and Mobile No.9978405304. Air India has also set up a dedicated passenger hotline number 1800 5691 444 for the family members of the passengers seeking information

Before leaving Kuwait, expats should get employer's exit permit

KUWAIT CITY: Kuwait is to require foreigners working in the private sector to obtain their employer's permission before leaving the country, authorities said adding further restrictions on workers bound by the Kafala sponsorship system.

Human rights groups have long criticised the Kafala system, which is

widely prevalent in the oil-rich Gulf states and ties migrant workers' visas to their employers, often preventing them from changing jobs or sometimes leaving the country.

First Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Fahad Yousef issued a ministerial circular "requiring expatriate workers in the private sector to obtain an 'exit

permit' from their registered employer before leaving the country," the Public Authority of Manpower said in a statement on its X account.

The procedure, which can be done online, aims to "strengthen oversight of the movement of expatriate workers and ensure a balance between the workers' and employers' rights", the statement added. Saudi Arabia has similar restrictions on expatriate workers, who are required to obtain exit and re-entry permits from their sponsor to leave and re-enter the country. Starting in 2017, Qatar made a series of reforms to its employment regulations after being selected to host the 2022 World Cup.

In 2018, Doha began allowing most foreigner workers to leave the country without their em-

(Cont. on page-7)

Saudi may lift visa ban

(Cont. from page-1)

countries, including India. This measure, which will remain in place until mid-June 2025, was implemented as part of the Kingdom's broader efforts to streamline pilgrimage operations and ensure the safety and comfort of worshippers and visitors.

The temporary ban was not a targeted travel ban against specific nationalities but rather a logistical

measure to prevent congestion in the lead-up to Haj. It primarily affected short-term visa categories and does not reflect any change in the broader bilateral ties between Saudi Arabia and the countries involved. Indian citizens are expected to regain access to short-term visa services following the conclusion of the Haj season and resumption of regular visa processing.

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FOREX RATES

As on 12th June 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	84.92	86.02
British Pound	115.33	116.93
Euro	97.54	99.59
Japanese Yen	59.03	59.97
Swiss Franc (CHF)	103.57	105.8
Canadian Dollar	61.89	63.28
Australian Dollar	55.07	56.26
Norwegian Krone	8.36	8.6
Swedish Krona	8.82	9.07
New Zealand Dollar	51.01	52.12
Hong Kong Dollar	10.68	11.01
Kuwaiti Dinar	286.9277	267.4549
Singapore Dollar	65.99	67.45
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.35	23.05
United Arab Emirates	22.88	23.53

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GULF FAQs

Can my husband continue using bank account after his visa cancellation?

My husband lost his job recently and as per the rules, he has 30 days to leave the country. He is currently looking for another job and we would want to keep the same account. If his work visa is cancelled, can he continue using his bank account?

Based on the information provided and the applicable regulations in the UAE, the cancellation of a residency visa does not automatically lead to the freezing or closure of a bank account. Additionally, an account is not considered dormant if the customer's address is known or if they are actively using a bank

account (s). Dormancy of accounts is governed solely by the UAE Central Bank regulations. This is under Article 9 (d) of the UAE Central Bank Regulation No. 29/2011 (dated Feb 23, 2011) on Regulations Regarding Bank Loans & Other Services Offered to Individual Customers, which states:

"None of the opened accounts can be considered "dormant" if the customer's address is known or if the customer is present and has other active accounts with the bank. Accounts are classified as dormant only in accordance with the provisions of these regulations issued by the Central Bank in this re-

gard."

An individual's bank account may be listed as a "dormant account" in the UAE in accordance with UAE Central Bank Circular No.1/2020 (dated Jan 15, 2020) on Dormant Accounts. An account may be classified as dormant only if it has had no financial or non-financial activity for three years, and there has been no communication from the account holder. This is in accordance with Article 2 (1) (1) of the UAE Dormant Bank Account Regulations, which states: "Criteria for

Determining Dormant Accounts and Unclaimed Balances: An individual/corporate savings or call or current account where there have been no transactions (withdrawals or deposits) or non-financial actions (service requests, due diligence, particulars, update etc.) for a period of three years from the date of the last transaction on the account, oth-

er than transactions initiated by the bank (such as interest and charges posted by the system or manually), and there has been no communication from the customer (whether written or electronic)."

Therefore, based on the standard banking practices in the UAE and the legal provisions mentioned, your husband can still continue using his bank account after his visa is cancelled, as long as he keeps the account active and maintains communication with the bank. However, due to the change in residency status, the account may be classified as a non-resident account.



Can banks block end-of-service benefits for unpaid loans or credit card bills?

I resigned from my work recently. I have some outstanding loans and credit card bills. Can my bank claim these from my end-of-service settlement?

In the UAE, a personal loan provided by a lender to a borrower may fall under the provisions of Notice No. 3692/2012 of the Central Bank of the UAE pertaining to General Terms and Conditions and Loan Agreements texts drafted and approved by Emirates Bank Association. When a personal loan is granted to a borrower, a lender will enter into a personal loan agreement with the borrower.

A personal loan agreement between a lender and a borrower may include a clause stating that the salary and the end-of-service benefits of such borrower should

be credited to a bank account of a lender from whom he or she has availed personal loan. This is in accordance with Article 2(1) of Securities and Documentation of

the Personal Loan Agreements Formats Approved by the Central Bank of UAE.

As a guarantee and security to pay the loan interests, commissions, fees

and any other amounts that become due under this Agreement the Borrower commits and undertakes as follows:

Provide the bank with a letter from the borrow-

er's employer pursuant to which the employer undertakes to transfer his monthly salary and the end of service benefits to the bank throughout the loan period."

I am wrongly accused of absconding, what to do?

I worked in a private company. About three months ago, the employer asked me to look for another job, claiming that the company was going through difficult financial circumstances. This was in front of two of my colleagues. However, I have now learned that the employer has filed a complaint against me for absconding. What is the appropriate action to be taken against the employer and how can I prove that I left work based on the

employer's request, and that I have not received delayed salaries for more than a year, in addition to my other labor entitlements ?

The appropriate procedure to be taken is to file a labour complaint against the employer in front of the Ministry of Labour for dismissing you in front of your colleagues and claim all your labour rights, including but not limited to your salaries for the past year with annual leave and gratuity. You have to use the judgment and submit it to

the labour ministry to remove the absconding.

As for the labour claim, the burden to prove that the employer had dismissed you and that you did not leave the work by your own, falls on you. You have to request your colleagues' testimony as well as to provide any other prove that supports your claim including documents, emails and WhatsApp messages. It is important to prove that you did not leave the work by your own because according to Article-50 of the Labour Law, if the foreign

worker is absent from work, for no legitimate reason, before the end of the contract period, no other work permit shall be granted there-to to join other work in the state in accordance with the provisions of this decree by law, for a period of one year as of the date of the absence from work. Also, no other employer who knows of the foregoing may employ him or keep him in his service during that period. As a conclusion, the court will take the decision as per its estimation and the documents submitted.

Steady hiring trend in India this year

NEW DELHI: The hiring intent in India remains steady in the third quarter this year (July-Sept) globally, driven by strong growth in the private services sector and expectations of economic benefits stemming from shifts in global trade dynamics, especially in relation to China.

Employers report a Net Employment Outlook (NEO) of 42pc for the July-Sept period, according to the latest Manpower-

Group Employment Outlook Survey.

The results, based on responses from 3,146 employers across India during April 2025, show the Indian hiring outlook remains very animated. Amid these favourable conditions, India continues to position itself as a key player in the global employment landscape.

"As we enter the third quarter of 2025, India's employment Outlook remains robust, with a

NEO of 42pc -- among the highest globally.

Despite a slight dip from the previous quarter, the 12-point year-on-year gain highlights sustained employer confidence and growth momentum in the labour market," said Sandeep Gulati,

MD, ManpowerGroup India and Middle East. "Even amid global geopolitical uncertainty and trade disruptions, Indian employers are staying proactive -- 82pc report increased investment in automation, while 67pc are evolving their work-

force strategies to meet changing skill demands," said Gulati. The majority of employers (54pc) anticipate an increase in hiring, 32pc expect to maintain current staffing levels, 12pc anticipate a decrease and two per cent are unsure.

Services sector India's primary engine of growth

NEW DELHI: While it is true that the manufacturing sector in India has not recorded a robust growth rate, the services sector has outperformed and grown at higher rates than any other country.

During the financial year ended March 31, 2025, the services sector has contributed almost 60pc of the GDP and the export of services from India during this financial year has been at a record high of \$387.5 billion. Apart from the growth coming from the IT and IT-enabled services, the share of "other business services" has gone up dramatically driven by Global Capability Centres which have

been set up by multinational companies in different locations of India. It is expected that during the next three financial years the growth in high value services will continue. This will boost discretionary consumption, which in turn will spur manufacturing activity.

Export of manufactured goods will also get a boost from the bilateral trade agreements which India has signed with the major economies, resulting in low tariff exports. According to data recently released by RBI, India's total exports comprising goods and services reached an aggregate figure of \$824.9 billion in 2024-25.



IndiGo expands with flights to Almaty, Tashkent, Tbilisi from Mumbai

MUMBAI: IndiGo has said it is set to enhance its international capacity to Central Asia with the launch of direct flights to three key destinations -- Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Tbilisi (Georgia) --- from Mumbai. The airline said it will commence operations from Mumbai to Almaty on July 1, followed by flights to Tashkent from Aug 1 and to Tbilisi from Aug 2.

IndiGo had launched flights to these cities from Delhi in 2023 and this move marks another step in the airline's commitment to expanding its international footprint and meeting the rising

demand for international travel, the airline said.

IndiGo will operate four weekly flights to both Tashkent and Almaty, and three weekly flights to Tbilisi, significantly enhancing connectivity between India and the growing markets of Central Asia, it said, adding the new routes are set to boost tourism, trade and people-to-people ties, while offering customers more travel options across the region.

"Building on the success of our Delhi-Central Asia routes, we are commencing direct flights to Almaty, Tashkent and Tbilisi from Mumbai, reinforcing our commitment

to connecting India to the world. "These routes will further enhance accessibility to these culturally rich destinations, fostering global connections and enriching tourism," said Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales at IndiGo.

Before leaving Kuwait...

(Cont. from page-2) ployer's authorisation, extending the new procedure to domestic staff two years later.

In the UAE, employers do not have the right to confiscate employees' passports or prevent them from leaving the country.

Visa-free entry lifts Philippines to top three searched destinations for Indians

NEW DELHI: Travel searches for the Philippines from India rose 28pc after the Southeast Asian country announced visa-free entry, according to visa processing platform Atlys. The Philippines had recently announced visa-free entry to Indian nationals for stays of up to 14 days.

Earlier, the Philippines ranked as the eighth most searched South-

east Asian destination among Indian travellers on the Atlys platform. "After the announcement, it swiftly climbed to third place, trailing only Thailand and Indonesia. The sudden repositioning underscores the significant impact visa accessibility can have on destination interest, particularly within India's fast-growing outbound travel market," the company said.

Based on trends seen in similar cases, the platform expects a 20-30pc rise in sustained demand over the coming months. "The removal of visa restrictions has clearly lowered the friction for planning travel. With this policy shift, it's no longer a distant consideration, it's an immediate contender," Atlys founder and CEO Mohak Nahta said.

Data from Atlys further

revealed that the search is mainly driven by couples and honeymooners, with 42pc of all recent Philippines-related searches on the platform. It is followed by solo travellers at 27 pc with most of the interest originating from major cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru.

Families accounted for another 21pc many of whom are planning multi-stop itineraries

that combine beach escapes like Palawan and Cebu with urban experiences in Manila. The platform is also seeing a noticeable uptick in interest from first-time international travellers, many of whom are now considering the Philippines as a viable option thanks to the removal of visa-related barriers that would have previously discouraged such plans, according to the data.