



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT



PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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## Indian HRA delegation strengthens bilateral ties between India-Russia-MoU for the HR mobility at LABOUR EXPO FORUM in St. Petersburg, Russia



Consul General of India at SPB Her Excellency Neelam Rani addressing the delegates and stakeholders at the B2B event at the Chamber of Commerce.



Deputy Chief of Indian embassy in Moscow His Excellency Nikhilesh Giri addressing the B2B event.



VS Abdulkareem, president of IPEPCIL and Mickail Goremikin, Founder-chairman of Russia-India Business Club signing the MoU in the presence of Her Excellency Neelam Rani.

**ST. PETERSBURG (Russia):** In a significant step towards strengthening international workforce collaboration, a delegation representing India's MEA-OE-PGE Approved Overseas Recruitment fraternity, actively participated in the recently held LABOUR EXPO FORUM in St. Petersburg, Russia. The participation was co-ordinated with the support of Indian missions, SPB Chamber of Commerce, MEA-OE-PGE and the Russian Government stakeholders in labour / expatriate workforce, underscoring India's commitment to promote ethical, safe and secure mobility of its Human Resources globally.

The Forum witnessed the presence of key diplo-



VS Abdulkareem, president of IPEPCIL and Mickail Goremikin, founder-chairman of Russia India Business Club, exchanging signed MoU documents in the presence of HE Consul-General Neelam Rani, POE (Chennai) Rajkumar and Vladimir Katenev, President, SPB Chamber of commerce and Industry.

matic officials, bureaucrats and industry stakeholders from India and Russia. The event served as a robust platform for dialogue, featuring business sessions, interactive discussions and

( More Pics on page - 7 )

B2B workshops aimed at fostering mutual co-operation between Indian Re-

ruitment Agencies (RAs) and Russian employers.

A highlight of the engagement was the series of B2B meetings facilitated by the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, organised with the initiative and support of the Consulate General of India at SPB, Kazan and Yekaterinburg with the co-ordination of

( Cont. on page - 2 )



From left: VS Abdulkareem, President of IPEPCIL, POE (Chennai) Rajkumar, Consul General of Indian consulate at SPB Her Excellency Neelam Rani, President of SPB Chamber of Commerce & Industry Vladimir Katenev and, Founder-Chairman of Russia-India Business Club Mickail Goemikin and other delegates.

## Air India will overcome challenges, says Chandrasekaran

**MUMBAI:** Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran acknowledged that Air India is going through a challenging period and that they remain committed to building a world-

class airline. "While our future is bright and we have laid a solid foundation for our ambitions, we are going through a challenging time, the impact of which

is most visible in the airline industry...The Tata Group remains committed to the Air India group.

The Board is fully supportive and will continue to work closely with the

management team," said Chandrasekaran while speaking at an Air India employee town hall on Friday.

The town hall meeting was conducted days

after Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson announced his resignation. According to reports, the airlines' losses could be as high as Rs 20,000 crore in

( Cont. on page - 2 )



Wednesday, April 15, 2026

## Indian HRA delegation strengthens bilateral ties between India–Russia MoU for the HR mobility at LABOUR EXPO FORUM in St. Petersburg, Russia

( Cont. from page - 1 )  
Indian embassy at Moscow and its consular team.

The interactions enabled the Indian RA delegates to establish direct connections with prospective Russian employers, seeking skilled and semi-skilled manpower from India; thereby opening new avenues for structured and compliant recruitment channels. In a landmark development during the event, the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) formalised a strategic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Russia–India Business Club. The MOU was signed by V. S. Abdulkaareem, President of IPEPCIL and Mickail Goremikin-Founder and Chairman of the Russia –India Business Club.

This collaboration aims to create a structured framework to bridge Indian recruitment agencies with credible Russian employers and it is designed to facilitate transparent,

accountable and regulation-compliant hiring processes, ensuring adherence to statutory norms of both countries. The initiative will further support ethical recruitment practices while addressing the growing demand for Indian talent with Russian labour market.

The MoU is expected to enhance access for the approved RAs fraternity and IPEPCIL members to verified employer networks, streamline co-ordination, and reinforce mechanisms that safeguard worker welfare. It also reflects a shared vision to promote legal and responsible migration

pathways, strengthening bilateral co-operation in workforce mobility sector.

The participation of Indian RAs delegation at the Forum marks a progressive step in expanding global employment opportunities for Indian workers while reinforcing India's position as a reliable partner in supplying skilled HR under ethical and compliant frameworks.

This engagement not only deepens Indo–Russian business relations but also sets a benchmark for future international collaborations in the domain of workforce mobility and recruitment governance.



## Air Arabia resumes flights to India

**DUBAI:** Air Arabia has announced a limited resumption of flights to and from the UAE in a gradual restart of travel operations. India flights are also resumed.

The airline said the schedule will operate subject to regulatory and operational approvals, with flights departing from Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and

Ras Al Khaimah to 49 international destinations across 17 countries.

Passengers can book available flights through Air Arabia's website, mobile application or authorised travel agents. Those whose flights were previously cancelled may re-book, provided they have not already used change

( Cont. on page - 6 )

# NRIs' term insurance purchases from India double in last two years

**CHENNAI:** The demand for term insurance among NRIs has doubled in the last two years, witnessing a steep 35pc month-on-month spike, reportedly driven by the West Asia crisis.

According to data released by insurance aggregator Policybazaar, younger buyers in the age group of 25–35 years are driving this growth, as global uncertainty is forcing NRIs to invest in term insurance to secure their families.

Of the total demand, 54pc comes from individuals in the 25 to 35 age group, up from 44pc in

2024. This sharp shift towards younger buyers reflects protection-first financial planning among globally travelling professionals.

The West Asia corridor contributes over 50pc of total demand, with recent geopolitical tensions pushing NRIs to prioritise financial protection for families back home. The

UAE leads with the highest share, supported by its large Indian expatriate base, followed by the US and Canada and the UK. Saudi Arabia and Qatar further highlight that West Asia remains a key region where many NRIs are actively purchasing term insurance from India.

Term insurance choices ( Cont. on page - 6 )

## Ten illegal Indians in US indicted for visa fraud

**NEW DELHI:** As many as 10 Indian nationals, living illegally in the US, have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Boston for conspiring to carry out staged armed robberies at convenience stores for the purpose of visa fraud.

They have been indicted by a federal grand jury with one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud in connection with a conspiracy to carry out staged armed robberies at convenience stores for the purpose of allowing store clerks to falsely claim they were crime victims on immigration applications. The defendants are Jitendrakumar Patel, 39; Maheshkumar Patel, 36; Sanjaykumar Patel, 45; Dipikaben Patel, 40, deported to India after un-

lawfully residing in Massachusetts; Rameshbhai Patel, 52; Amitababen Patel, 43; Ronakkumar Patel, 28; Sangitaben Patel, 36; Minkesh Patel, 42 and Sonal Patel, 42.

All 10 defendants were previously charged by criminal complaint and released on conditions. Rameshbhai Patel and Ronakkumar Patel have been taken into immigration custody. They have been indicted by a federal grand jury with one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud in connection with a conspiracy to carry out staged armed robberies at convenience stores for the purpose of allowing store clerks to falsely claim they were crime victims on immigration applications.

## Air India will overcome challenges...

( Cont. from page - 1 )  
the recently concluded financial year 2025-26. The losses have escalated to record levels due to frequent airspace closures in West Asia and a permanent closure in Pakistan since March last year, rising expenses and the impact of rupee devaluation against the US dollar. These challenges exacerbate the repercussions from the tragic Ahmedabad (Flight AI 171) crash on June 12, 2025, which resulted in 241 people on board and 19 people outside losing their lives. "We remain committed to building a world-class airline. Our vision is to connect India to the

world, and to establish service standards where there is as much dignity and respect for the passenger in the last row as there is for the passenger in the front row," said Chandrasekaran in the gathering.

He stated that safety of passengers remain central to all their decisions. "Safety is of utmost importance for Air India.

It is non-negotiable and sits at the centre of every decision we take across operations, engineering, training and customer experience," he said. Chandrasekaran also appreciated the Air India workforce and said that they have demonstrated resilience in

difficult conditions. He stated that Air India has reached a critical stage in its transformation journey while highlighting structural and operational changes underway over the past four years.

"Over 17,000 employees have been hired and onboarded, four airlines have been merged into two, core systems are being modernised, the fleet is expanding, aircraft are undergoing major refurbishment, and our network and operational metrics continue to improve, resulting in a clear improvement in customer experience and Net Promoter Scores," he added.

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# Rupee rules weak by 56 paise to settle at 93.39

**MUMBAI:** The rupee slumped by 56 paise to settle at 93.39 against the US dollar on Monday after a failed US-Iran peace talk fuelled uncertainties in West Asia, leading to a surge in crude oil prices and a global chase for the greenback. According to forex analysts, uncertainties over the

opening of Strait of Hormuz following the US announcement to blockade Iranian ports further intensified withdrawal for foreign capital from domestic equities, weakening the Indian currency. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 93.30 against

the US dollar and moved between a low of 93.40 and a high of 93.25 during the session. The unit closed the session at 93.39 against the greenback, registering a loss of 56 paise from its previous closing level. On Friday, the rupee settled 32 paise lower at 92.83 against the US dol-

lar. The forex market will remain closed on Tuesday on account of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Jayanti. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said the rupee depreciated on risk-aversion in the global markets as talks between the US and Iran failed.

# Rajma Chawal shines in global cuisine rankings

**NEW DELHI:** In a proud moment for Indian cuisine, the humble yet widely loved Rajma Chawal has earned global recognition by featuring among the world's top bean dishes. Known for its rich flavours, comforting nature and deep-rooted presence in Indian households, the dish has now captured international attention. According to the latest rankings released by

TasteAtlas, both Rajma and its classic pairing with rice have secured spots in the top 100 bean dishes worldwide. The list is based



on thousands of ratings submitted by food lovers across the globe, reflecting a growing appreciation for traditional and regional cuisines. Rajma, a spiced curry made with red kidney beans, has been ranked 14th on the list. Meanwhile, the beloved combination of Rajma Chawal holds the 25th position, marking a significant achievement for Indian food. The

rankings include popular dishes from countries such as Brazil, Portugal, Mexico and Turkey, making this recognition even more notable. A staple in regions like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Delhi, Rajma Chawal is often associated with comfort and nostalgia. Its simple preparation, paired with bold spices, makes it both accessible and flavourful.

**FOREX RATES**  
As on 13th April 2026 (In rupees)

Currency	Bill Buy	Bill Sell
US Dollar	91.94	93.17
British Pound	123.4	125.22
Euro	107.21	109.5
Japanese Yen	57.77	58.71
Swiss Franc (CHF)	115.83	118.37
Canadian Dollar	66.23	67.73
Australian Dollar	64.76	66.22
Norwegian Krone	9.57	9.86
Swedish Krona	9.79	10.07
New Zealand Dollar	53.51	54.7
Hong Kong Dollar	11.58	11.95
Kuwaiti Dinar	310.6863	287.9379
Singapore Dollar	71.84	73.5
Saudi Arabian Riyal	24.18	24.95
U A E Dirham	24.77	25.48

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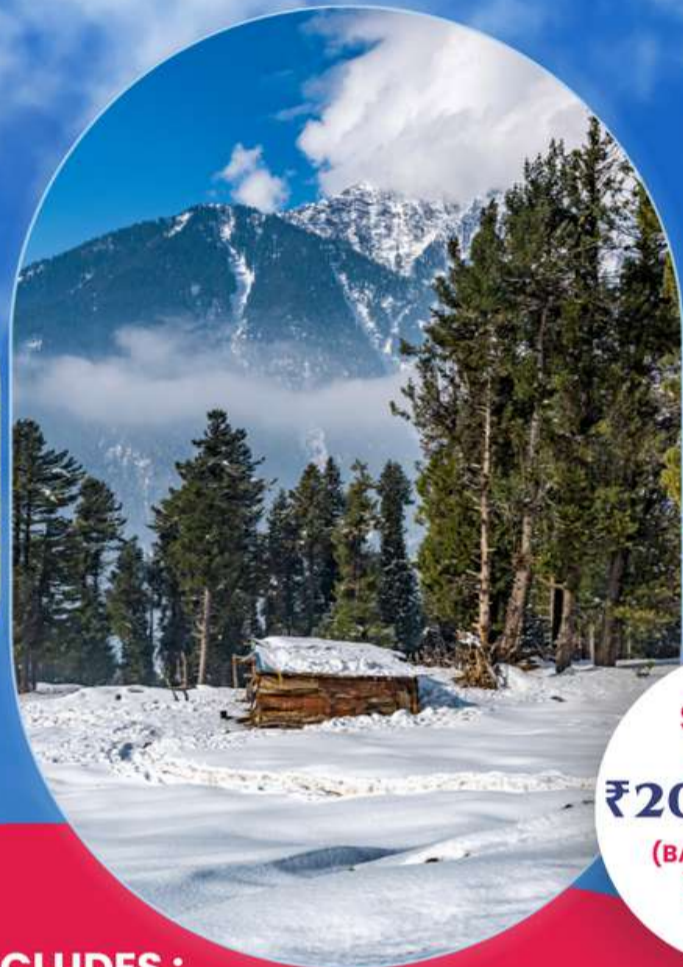
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# GULF FAQs

## Law to regulate outsourcing of UAE govt services

Can you please explain the salient features of the recent law issued by Dubai ruler to regulate outsourcing of govt services?

In his capacity as the Ruler of Dubai, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, has issued a law (No. (5) of 2026) regulating the outsourcing of government services in Dubai. As defined by this law, outsourcing refers to a contracted company delivering some or all services on behalf of a government entity under agreed terms. The law aims to enhance the efficiency of government services, improve quality and ease customer access.

**WHAT DOES THE LAW DEFINE?** The law lays out the responsibilities of the Department of Finance in governing this kind of outsourcing. It details the rules and procedures for outsourcing and sets out the obligations of the contractor — defined as a licensed private (for-profit or non-profit) organisation authorised in Dubai to carry out the outsourcing contract.



### FAIR COMPETITION:

According to the law, a government entity may engage one or more contractors to provide the same service but cannot enter into exclusive contracts unless a contractor is the sole bidder, ensuring fair competition.

### OUTSOURCING CONTRACT:

The Law defines what must be included in the outsourcing contract, its duration, rules for termination and measures to protect the contractor's assets.

### VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES:

It also covers violations and penalties, allowing the entity to involve the contractor in collecting any fines related to breaches of applicable regulations by service users.

**MONITORING:** According to the law, the government entity must regularly monitor and evaluate the contractor's performance, using performance indicators set out in the outsourcing contract.

### AT LEAST ONE EMIRA-

### TI FOR EACH EXPAT EMPLOYEE:

The law requires the contractor to employ at least one UAE national for each non-national employee. The salaries and incentive mechanisms for UAE national employees must follow applica-

ble regulations and the terms agreed in the outsourcing contract.

### MUST COMPLY WITH- IN THREE YEARS:

Provisions of Law No. (12) of 2020 on Contracts and Warehouse Management in the Dubai government apply to the procedures to selecting a contractor and to any matters not specifically addressed in the outsourcing contract. The new law also requires the government entity and the contractor to ensure their operations comply with its provisions within three years from the date the law takes effect.

Any provision in other legislation that may conflict with this law is repealed to the extent of the conflict. This law is effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

## Housing allowance

**My labour contract stipulates that my employer will pay me a housing allowance of Dh36,000 per year. The company paid me the amount in the first year covering the period May, 2003, to May, 2004. But, from May 2004 to date, the company has not paid me the housing allowance. I had to issue lease cheques for the last lease because the company delayed in paying the allowance which covers just part of the rent of my house. Despite several promises from the company for reimbursement, I have not been paid the housing allowance since May, 2004. I am leaving the company now. Am I entitled to claim the**

### housing allowance?

According to the Labour Law, an employee loses his dues if he fails to claim it within a year from the date of entitlement. This one year entitlement for claiming dues is aimed at maintaining public welfare. The last para of Article No 6 of the Labour Law No. 8 of 1980 and its amendments stipulates: "In all cases, no claim of any entitlement due under the provisions of this law, shall be heard if brought to court after the lapse of one year from the date on which such entitlement became due, and no claim shall be admitted if the procedure stated in this Article are not adhered to." The complainant may ask The employer to solve the housing allowance dues amicably.

## Need I file a fresh complaint?

**I filed a case with the courts claiming my labour dues. The judge has turned down the case on grounds that I did not file a complaint with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Why can't I directly file a case with the court against my employer? Now, after my case was turned down by the judge, should I file a fresh complaint with the ministry?**

A complaint can be filed with the relevant office of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry even after a case on the same subject has been turned down by the judge. It was turned down because the Labour Law stipulates that any complaint should be first investigated and a

relevant order be issued by the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry prior to filing of a court case.

Article No. 6 of the Federal Labour Law No. 8 of 1980 and its amendment stipulates that disputes between workers and employers should first be heard by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' Labour Relations Department.

If an amicable settlement is not reached, the said department must, within two weeks from the date of submitting the complaint, refer the dispute to the concerned court accompanied by a summary of the case, the arguments of the two parties and the observations of the department.

## Asha Bhosle cremated with full state honours

**MUMBAI:** The mortal remains of the iconic singer Asha Bhosle was consigned to flames. She was given a state funeral with full honours. Many VIPs including Chief Minister Fadnavis, political leaders and film personalities attended the funeral procession. Earlier, Uddhav Thackeray along with family members, Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde, cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, actor Riteish Deshmukh and music director AR Rahman paid their respects. Asha Bhosle passed away on Sunday at the age of 92 due to multiple-organ failure. She was admitted to the Breach Candy Hospital on April 11 after suffering from a chest infection.



## Qatar promises full support to India's energy needs

**DOHA:** India has emphasised the need for "unimpeded freedom" of navigation and the smooth flow of global commerce to sustain supply chains, as Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held high-level talks in Qatar amid ongoing tensions in West Asia.

During his two-day visit to Doha, Puri met Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi with discussions focusing on energy security, bilateral co-operation and regional stability. Qatar reiterated its position as a reliable energy partner, with Al-Kaabi assuring continued co-operation and supply commitments to India, a major energy importer. The visit assumes significance against the backdrop of heightened geopolitical tensions impacting global oil flows

and supply chains, with India closely monitoring developments in key transit routes such as the Strait of Hormuz.

Both sides welcomed the recently announced two-week ceasefire and stressed the importance of an early end to disruptions in global energy supplies. They underlined that ensuring free movement of shipping, particularly through critical routes, remained essential for maintaining stability in international markets. Puri conveyed greetings and a message of solidarity from Prime Minister Modi to Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. He also recalled recent telephonic conversations between Modi and the Qatari leadership, during

## Saudi bans expats entering Makkah without permits

**RIYADH:** Expatriates and residents without official permits are barred from entering Makkah from Monday, April 13, under new Hajj-season regulations announced by Saudi authorities.

According to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Public Security confirmed that Hajj arrangements and procedures requiring residents to obtain entry permits came into effect on

April 13. It said residents without valid permits will be barred from entering Makkah.

The measures apply to those without a work permit for the Holy Sites, a Makkah-issued residency ID or a Hajj permit. Under the rules, only individuals with valid documentation will be allowed entry, with checkpoints turning back those who fail to meet requirements.

Authorities have set April 18 (DhulQada 1) as the final deadline for foreign pilgrims arriving on Umrah visas to depart the Kingdom. The issu-

ance of Umrah permits via the Nusuk platform will be suspended for all categories — including citizens, expatriates and GCC nationals — from April 18 to May 31, according to Saudi Gazette. From April 18, entry to Makkah will also be prohibited for all visa holders except those with valid Hajj visas. Public Security said entry permits for workers during the Hajj season are issued electronically through the Absher Individuals platform and the Muqem Portal, integrated with the unified Tasreeh platform for Hajj permit issuance.

## India-UK trade deal from May

**NEW DELHI:** The India-UK free trade agreement, signed in July last year, is likely to come into force from the second week of May, according to an official.

India and the UK, on July 24, 2025 had signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), under which 99pc of Indian exports will enter the British market at zero duty, while tariffs on British products, such as cars and whisky, will be reduced in India. "We are expecting the pact to be implement-

ed from the second week of May," the official said.

The two countries have also signed the Double Contributions Convention (DCC) pact to ensure temporary workers would not have to duplicate social levies in either country. The official said that both pacts are likely to be implemented in parallel. CETA aims to double the \$56 billion trade between the two economies by 2030. While India has opened its market to various consumer goods, including chocolates, biscuits and cosmetics.

## Air Arabia resumes flights...

(Cont. from page - 2) as part of a flexible operating plan that responds to evolving conditions. The airline said passengers affected by cancellations will be notified and offered a range of options, including a one-time free change of travel date within 30 days, a full-value credit voucher or a full refund to the original form of payment.

The network includes destinations across the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe, including India, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand and Turkey,

## NRI's term insurance purchases from India double in last two years

(Cont. from page - 2) among NRIs are increasingly aligned with income maturity, while remaining anchored in adequate protection. High-income earners with incomes above Rs 40 lakh opt for Rs 3-5 crore coverage, indicating a stronger focus on income replacement and long-term security.

Mid-income NRIs in the Rs 20-40 lakh bracket prefer Rs 2-3 crore cover, reflecting growing financial responsibilities, while entry-level earners earning

below Rs 20 lakh incline towards Rs 1 crore cover, balancing affordability with essential protection.

Close to 80pc of NRIs are opting for pure term plans over return-of-premium term products, while nearly 85-90pc prefer limited pay options, completing premiums early. This ensures continued life cover without long-term payment commitments. Additionally, a majority of NRI customers are opting for cover beyond 70 years (67pc), while 32pc

choose coverage in the 60-70 years range, reflecting a clear inclination towards securing financial protection well into later life stages. Varun Agarwal, Head of Term Insurance at Policybazaar.com, said: "Term insurance is no longer a decision NRIs are postponing. Purchases from India have This shift is being supported by seamless online journeys, including video medicals for covers up to Rs 5 crore, along with tax-free premiums and costs.

# GLIMPSES OF INDIA-RUSSIA LABOUR EXPO FORUM AT SPB

