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Saudi's flyadeal to start five weekly Riyadh-Mumbai flights from Oct 3

MUMBAI: flyadeal, the Saudia Group's fast-growing low fare carrier, has announced Mumbai as its second gateway in India, opening bookings for non-stop flights between Riyadh and Mumbai beginning October 3, 2026. This builds on flyadeal's recent entry into the Indian market as the airline inaugurated its service to Hyderabad on July 3,



2026.

flyadeal will operate five times a week between Riyadh and Mumbai using its modern fleet

of A320neo aircraft, boosting capacity by more than 7,400 seats each month between the two cities. The new Mumbai-Ri-

yadh flights are conveniently timed to provide a morning arrival into Mumbai from Riyadh, and likewise a mid-morning arrival into Riyadh from Mumbai. flyadeal's A320neo aircraft that will be used on this route feature 186 seats in an all-Economy Class configuration and Airbus' acclaimed "Airspace" cabin interior with extra-large overhead bins for increased stowage capacity as well as cabin design and lighting designed to create a welcoming ambience and maxi-

(Cont. on page - 2)

FlyCreative, Qatar Airways strengthen partnership

MUMBAI: FlyCreative Online Limited welcomed the Qatar Airways team at its corporate office for an Independence Day celebration aimed at strengthening their long-standing business relationship.

The event was attended by Flycreative CMD VS Abdulkareem along with Qatar Airways officials Hiren Shahani, Senior Account Manager (Sales), Pravin Rathod, Account Manager - Sales; Pravin Rathod, Account Manag-

er; Salahuddin Syed, Senior Account Manager and Sulekha Jhaa, Account Manager.

The celebration combined patriotism and business camaraderie and concluded with an interactive quiz centred on Qatar Airways' ongoing Independence Day offers, highlighting the continued partnership between the two travel industry leaders.



The celebration was attended by Flycreative CMD VS Abdulkareem along with Qatar Airways officials Hiren Shahani, Senior Account Manager (Sales), Pravin Rathod, Account Manager; Salahuddin Syed, Senior Account Manager, Sulekha Jhaa, Account Manager etc.

SKAL National Congress 2026 gets underway in Coimbatore



Tourism Minister of Tamil Nadu S Rajesh Kumar lighting the traditional lamp to mark the inauguration of the SKAL National Congress-2026 in Coimbatore.

COIMBATORE: The travel and tourism fraternity for a celebration of SKAL National Congress, officially commenced in Coimbatore, bringing together members of the

(Cont. on page - 6)



FlyCreative Online Limited CMD VS Abdulkareem with Tourism Regional Director Venkatesh at the SKAL Congress
GLIMPSES ON PAGE-7

Qatar Airways unveils ID special offers

MUMBAI: Qatar Airways is celebrating India's Independence Day with a special travel offer, giving customers an opportunity to explore international destinations with savings of up to 30pc on eligible bookings. The offer is available for bookings made by August 15, 2026, with travel permitted until March 31, 2027, subject to applicable terms and conditions.

The promotion comes as

Qatar Airways continues to strengthen its global network, currently connecting travellers to more than 160 destinations through its Doha hub. The airline was named World's Best Airline for a record ninth time at the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards.

Adding to the travel experience is Starlink Wi-Fi, offered complimentary to passengers on equipped aircraft, providing high-

(Cont. on page - 2)





Data on nurses

The nursing community is doing a yeoman service to the humanity and its sacrifices and hard work cannot be ignored. They work beyond borders. Indian nurses move abroad primarily to the US, Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries and the United Kingdom, seeking higher salaries and better career growth. Major destination choices involve passing specific credentialing exams, holding a recognised degree (GNM or BSc Nursing) and fulfilling strict clinical experience minimums. And it is shocking that the government does not have proper data on nurses in India.

The government data tabled in the Lok Sabha have shown that the seven-year-old Nurses Registration and Tracking System has registered less than a third of the total nurses in the country. Only 14.24 lakh of the 46.02 lakh registered nursing personnel have been enrolled, leaving 31.78 lakh outside the national system. Clearly, the move to create



an accurate national registry and streamline registration-related services on a single platform for all nurses is far from yielding satisfactory results. There are also stark regional disparities and unexpected performances with the large southern states such as

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, figuring among the laggards while Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha show between 80pc and 99pc enrolment rates. The Indian Nursing Council has attributed the delays to issues rooted in jurisdiction and federal tension on the grounds that primary registration is legally the responsibility of individual State Nursing Registration Councils. To receive a National Unique Identity card and nurse passbook, nurses rely on verification by their respective State Nursing Councils. Further, the charge is that several state councils have resisted migrating fully to the central portal and continue operating independent parallel systems.

Poor nurse registration response --irrespective of whether it is caused by incomplete digital tracking systems, outdated state registries, delayed licensing or regional autonomy or ignorance — has widespread consequences across health-care systems, apart from personally affecting nurses. For nurses, there will be delays in sanctioning their requests for inter-state transfer and credential verification for overseas employment. For the nation, without a centralised live registry that can provide a true measure of how many nurses (with specialisations) are available where, there might be artificial surpluses or deficits on paper, leading to less-than-ideal deployment of resources and implementation of policy decisions. Incomplete registries also make it easy for unverified individuals, impersonators or personnel with revoked licences to practise using bogus credentials, thus compromising patient safety. A live tracker would be of utmost use during public health emergencies — including disease outbreaks and natural disasters. Else, it could be impossible for state agencies to track, mobilise or deploy specialised nursing personnel to high-alert zones. Given the crucial complementary role, and in some areas, even the primary role that nurses play in the health-care system, efforts must be made to ensure that all nurses are brought into the portal.

Talking about nurses, we are reminded of Florence Nightingale, a pioneering figure in the field of nursing during the 19th century, who revolutionised medical practices through her innovative approaches to healthcare and dedication to improving patient outcomes. Nightingale's pioneering use of data analysis in healthcare and her establishment of nursing education standards laid the foundation for the nursing profession as we know it today. Her contributions continue to resonate in the field of medicine to this day.

LIPSYNCH

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

— Theodore Roosevelt.

TAAI's new office opened near Mumbai airport



TAAI's new office was opened in Mumbai in the presence of all office-bearers

MUMBAI: It was a day filled with nostalgia, immense pride, emotion and celebration as members of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), its managing committee and chairpersons from across India, past presidents and the leaders of the travel, tourism and hospitality industry gathered to inaugu-

rate TAAI's new office to house TAAI's Secretariat in Mumbai. The inauguration of the new secretariat premises, comes at a particularly significant moment in TAAI's history, as the Association celebrates 75 years of service, leadership and contribution to India's travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

Speaking on the occasion, TAAI President Sunil Kumar R described the new secretariat as an important institutional accomplishment created as part of TAAI's 75 years of excellence celebrations. Located in an excellent and highly accessible complex close to Terminal 2 of Mumbai International Airport, the new TAAI Secretariat offers approximately 1,100 sq. ft. of carpet area, with plush and contemporary interiors designed to meet the evolving needs of the Association. Past presidents Mahendra K. Sanghi (1980–1982), Cyrus Guzder (1984–1985), AshwiniKakkar (2005–2006) and Iqbal Mulla performed the honours of cutting the ribbons and lighting the traditional lamp.

Qatar Airways unveils...

(Cont. from page - 1) speed connectivity even while flying. Qatar Airways says more than 140 of its aircraft are equipped with Starlink.

Travellers connecting through Hamad International Airport in Doha can also experience one of the world's leading aviation hubs, renowned for its fa-

cilities, shopping and dining options.

With attractive fares, award-winning service and a vast international network, Qatar Airways' Independence Day promotion offers Indian travellers an opportunity to turn their holiday plans into new journeys and experiences.

Saudi's flyadeal to start five weekly...

(Cont. from page - 1) mize comfort.

Travellers will also enjoy the convenience of keeping their personal electronic devices charged with USB-A or USB-C ports in every seat. "India holds great importance in flyadeal's international growth strategy and adding Mumbai as our second Indian destination is a key milestone that expands our presence in this vital market. Our new Riyadh-Mumbai flight boosts capacity and gives the many Indian expatriates, business travellers and a growing number of tourists more choice and greater convenience when flying to and from the Kingdom. With our industry-leading on-time performance and affordable fares that de-

liver great value, we are delighted to offer modern, reliable, and high-quality travel on what will be one of our most important international routes,"said Sanjiv Kapoor, flyadeal acting CEO and Executive Vice President Strategies at Saudia Group.

Following the launch of Hyderabad as flyadeal's first Indian destination on July 3, the addition of Mumbai to the airline's network reinforces its long-term ambition to build a larger network across India. A part of the Saudia Group, flyadeal has been expanding its international network in line with the country's Vision 2030 to boost inbound visitors through a growing dynamic aviation and tourism industry. The Riyadh – Mumbai route

is a key route connecting the commercial capitals of both countries.

As India's financial capital and home to Bollywood, one of the world's largest film industries, the city is a compelling destination for travellers from Saudi Arabia for business and leisure alike.

The Riyadh-Mumbai flights are timed to offer convenient connections through Riyadh to and from Jeddah, Madinah, Dammam and other Saudi cities, whether for business, tourism or religious travel. Tickets for flyadeal Riyadh-Mumbai flights are now on sale, bookable via flyadeal's mobile app on Android and iOS, its website www.flyadeal.com, and through travel agents, including online agencies.

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The boy from TN village who ruled Tata business empire

MUMBAI: He was a taskmaster. His tenure saw the Tata Group achieve several milestones, including the big bet on chips and batteries, a decade-old shareholder dispute resolution and a group that grew several-fold across

multiple avenues spanning from tech to steel and cars.

Son of Natarajan, a small time farmer in Namakkal's Mohanur village in Tamil Nadu, Chandrasekaran became the first chairman from outside the Tata family to lead this \$400 billion group (holding company Tata Sons), a break from a century-and-a-half of tradition. He spent most of his time at Bombay House, the Tata headquarters at Fort in Mumbai.

Natarajan Chandrasekaran's resignation this week effectively closes a nine-year tenure that changed the shape of India's largest business empire. He will continue in office until his term formally ends on Feb 20, 2027, but has told the board that he will not seek reappointment.



Ratan Tata's death and SEBI's demand that Tata Sons should go public made Chandrasekarans's position shaky. Noel Tata, chairman of Tata Trusts, is dead against the Tata Sons, the holding company, going public. After what seems like almost a year of turbulence at the Tata Sons board, the exit sets the stage to take at the key achievements under his tenure. Chandrasekaran had taken over the Tata Sons board at a very crit-

ical juncture in 2017. His tenure saw the Tata Group achieve several milestones, including the big bet on chips and batteries, a decade-old shareholder dispute resolution, and a group that grew several-fold across multiple avenues spanning from tech to steel and cars.

Chandrasekaran joined Tata Consultancy Services almost 40 years ago in 1987. He was eventually named its chief executive and managing director in 2009. Under him, TCS overtook its peers to become India's most valuable company, with its market value roughly tripling and net profit more than quadrupling over his time as CEO. That record made him the board's choice to succeed Cyrus Mistry at Tata Sons in 2017.

Chandrasekaran's most visible decision was bringing Air India back into the Tata fold. The airline, founded by JRD Tata in 1932 and nationalised in 1953, returned to Tata ownership in January 2022, ending a decades-long absence from the sector for the group.

In his tenure, Chandrasekaran also combined Tata Tea's beverages business with Tata Chemicals' pulses and salt to create Tata Consumer Products. As of today, the company commands a market capitalisation of Rs 1,04,937 crore. Apart from that, the auto finance business of Tata Motors was merged with Tata Capital while Tata Motors separated its passenger vehicle business and its commercial vehicles arm.



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GULF FAQs

Non-Muslim expats' marriage in Dubai require documents, process explained

We are non-Muslim expatriates living in Dubai and would like to get married here. Is this possible, and could you explain the process, required documents and applicable procedures?

Pursuant to your queries, as you and your partner are non-Muslims residing in the emirate of Dubai, the provisions of the UAE Personal Laws for Non-Muslims are applicable. In the UAE, non-Muslim individuals may apply the provisions of UAE Personal Laws for Non-Muslims if they intend to get married in the UAE. This is in accordance with Article 1(1) of the Federal Decree Law No. 41 of 2022 on Civil personal Status (the "UAE Personal Laws for Non-Muslims"), which states: "The provisions of the present Decree-Law shall apply to non-Muslim citizens or the UAE, and to non-Muslim foreigners who reside in the State unless one of them invokes the application of their re-



spective 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".

Further, non-Muslim individuals (a bridegroom and a bride) who wish to marry in the UAE through the respective Personal Status Court, must be at least 21 years of age, each

individual to the marriage (a bridegroom and a bride) needs to expressly declare before the judge his and her consent to marry and both the individuals (a bridegroom and a bride) needs to sign a disclosure form. The conditions related to civil marriage of non-Muslims in the UAE are mentioned in Article 5 of the UAE Personal Laws for non-Muslims.

Additionally, the proce-

dures of civil marriage for non-Muslims in the UAE are mentioned in Article 6 of the UAE Personal Laws for Non-Muslims, which states: "Procedures for civil marriage contract and its certification;

1. Civil marriage procedures may take place before the certification judge in the competent court, by filing an application using a form prepared to this effect, and subject to the other conditions and procedures set forth in the present Decree-Law and its implementing regulations.

2. Marriage shall take place by filling out the form prepared to this effect by both spouses before the certification judge. Spouses may agree on conditions of the contract and the contract shall, as between them, prevail in terms of rights of spouses during marriage and post-divorce rights, especially the joint custody of children.

3. Marriage contract form shall include the disclosure by the spouses of any prior marriages along with the date of divorce, if any, and a declaration by the wife that no marriage is still effective. The husband

must submit this declaration in the event that the law of his home country does not permit polygamy. In any event, the husband must disclose any existing marriage relationship before the certification judge.

4. The contract must include an indication of the consent of each of them, verbally or in writing.

5. The implementing Regulations of this Decree-Law shall specify the approved bilingual contract form for civil marriage.

6. After verifying the fulfillment of all the conditions of a civil marriage contract and after completing the procedures stipulated in this Article, the certification judge shall ratify the marriage contract and the contract shall be entered in the register maintained for this purpose."

Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, you and your partner, may consider marrying before a Judge in the Personal Status Court of Dubai upon fulfilling the aforementioned requirements mentioned in UAE Personal Laws for non-Muslims. Based on the religion of you and your partner you may also consider marrying in non-Muslim religious centers (churches, Hindu temple or Sikh Temple / Gurudwara) in Dubai which are approved by the Community Development Authority of Dubai. According to your nationality, you may confer with your respective embassy or the consulate in the UAE if it provides services of conducting marriages for non-Muslim residents of UAE. Should they provide such a service you may consider registering your marriage at such embassy or consulate in the UAE.

Can parents ask children for monthly maintenance?

I am a 70 years old man living in Dubai. I have a son and two daughters. I am not able to work anymore and my son is not paying me any dirham even though he works in Dubai and receives a handsome salary. Do I have the right to file a case against my son only to oblige him to pay me monthly maintenance?

As a general rule, Article (107) of the Federal Decree-Law No. (41) of 2024 On the Issuance of the Personal Status Law provides that (the maintenance of parents falls upon their solvent child,

male or female, adult or underaged if they do not have property to spend from. If the parents' property is not enough for their maintenance, the solvent children are obligated to provide what fulfills it).

Furthermore, and according to Article (109) of the same law, If the child's earnings do not exceed his needs and the needs of his wife and children, he shall include his parents who are entitled to maintenance in his household. in Article 108, parents' maintenance is distributed among their children in accordance with the solvency of each one of them.

you are legally entitled to file a case against your son only in front of Dubai courts in order to oblige him to pay you monthly maintenance. The court will assess the evidence and determine the extent of his obligation, taking into consideration your necessities and basic needs of food, clothing, housing and medical treatment. Moreover, when estimating the alimony, the extent of well being of the spender, the condition of the person being spent on and the economic situation at the time and place should be taken into consideration.

Passengers should reach airports early as tight security measures may cause delays

NEW DELHI: Air India has issued a travel advisory urging passengers flying between August 10 and August 20, 2026, to reach airports significantly earlier than usual due to heightened security protocols being introduced at airports.

In a post on social me-

dia platform X, the airline said travellers should factor in additional time for security checks and other airport formalities to avoid last-minute delays. The carrier noted that enhanced security arrangements could lead to longer processing times at various stages of the departure

process. "Due to enhanced security measures being implemented at airports, guests travelling between August 10 and August 20, 2026, are advised to arrive well in advance of their scheduled departure," Air India said in the advisory.

The airline also requested passengers to plan their journeys accordingly and allow extra time for check-in procedures, baggage screening and security checks to ensure a hassle-free travel experience. "Please allow additional time for security checks and airport formalities to ensure a

smooth travel experience," the airline stated. The advisory comes as airports across the country step up security arrangements during the period.

Earlier, Chennai International Airport announced that it would remain under high security alert from Aug 10 to Aug 20 and urged passengers to reach the airport well

before their flight departures. Airport authorities in Chennai advised travellers to account for additional time required for check-in and security screening, warning that the enhanced measures could increase waiting times. They said the steps were aimed at ensuring passenger safety while maintaining smooth airport operations.



Tight airport security

Freshers' hiring intent rises to 75 pc in H2, IT hiring down

CHENNAI: India's fresher hiring outlook has strengthened in H2 2026, with overall hiring intent rising to 75pc up from 73pc in H1 2026. However, hiring intent in the IT sector has declined to 76pc from 81pc, even as sectors such as retail, e-commerce and technology start-ups and manufacturing continue to drive demand for entry-level talent.

SKAL National Congress...

(Cont. from page - 1)

The congress is set to feature meaningful interactions, new business connections and opportunities to strengthen ties within the industry, under Skal International's spirit of "Doing Business Among Friends."

The event is being hosted by Skal National India and Skal Coimbatore, with participants looking forward to an engaging and memorable congress.

According to TeamLease EdTech's Career Outlook Report, the overall growth reflects sustained employer demand for entry-level talent, led by retail, e-commerce and technology start-ups and manufacturing. These sectors continue to anchor the country's fresher hiring momentum. Nevertheless, the recovery is not uniform across industries. Compared with H1 2026, fresher hiring intent has declined in IT, falling to 76pc from 81pc, while consulting, telecom and marketing & advertising each dropped by three per cent and media & entertainment and educational services each declined by two per cent.

This indicates that roughly one in three industries tracked in the report scaled back their fresher hiring plans even as the national outlook improved. Shantanu Rooj, Founder & CEO, TeamLease EdTech, said: "What

we're seeing this second-half of the year is less about how many freshers get hired, and more about which freshers get hired. Sectors like retail, e-commerce and manufacturing are scaling up because they're finding candidates who arrive with practical, job-ready skills, not just a degree. IT and consulting, on the other hand, are being more selective precisely because the skill bar has moved: employers in these sectors now expect freshers to show AI fluency, applied problem-solving, and hands-on project experience from day one, not capabilities they'll build on the job. This shift is exactly why we believe skilling can no longer be an afterthought to education; it needs to be embedded into how freshers learn, right from the classroom, so they're equipped for the roles that are actually growing, not just the ones they hoped for."

Labour ministry clarifies end-of-service gratuity

MUSCAT: The ministry of labour has issued a circular clarifying the method for calculating end-of-service gratuity for workers who are not covered by the Social Protection Law upon the termination of their employment.

According to the circular, workers whose employment contracts were concluded during the period when the previous Labour Law was in force will be entitled to end-of-service gratuity calculated at the rate of 15 days' wages for each completed year of service during the first three years, and one month's wage for

each subsequent completed year of service.

The ministry further stated that for workers whose employment contracts were concluded under the provisions of the new Labour Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 53/2023, the end-of-service gratuity will be calculated at a rate of not less than one basic wage for each completed year of service.

The circular also noted that for the purpose of calculating the end-of-service gratuity, the employee's last basic wage shall be adopted as the basis of calculation.

Two Kolkata youths promised job in Turkey, trafficked to Uzbekistan

KOLKATA: A bogus placement agency in Kolkata's Thakurpukur has been accused of luring two youths from the city's Ekbalpur area with the promise of high-paying jobs in Turkey, only to send them to Uzbekistan instead.

The two youths eventually managed to return to Kolkata and file a police complaint. The police have now arrested two individuals associated with the fraudulent agency.

Allegedly, the agency collected Rs 2 lakh from each individual. Later, they were informed that the job would be in Uz-

bekistan rather than Turkey. Their passports were collected after fake visa documents were sent via WhatsApp.

Upon receiving their passports in Delhi, the youths discovered they were being sent to Uzbekistan on tourist visas, with assurances that the visa status would be changed upon arrival.

However, the situation changed drastically once they reached Uzbekistan. Instead of the promised high-paying jobs, they were allegedly forced to work as delivery personnel and were provided with only one meal a day.

Glimpses of SKAL National Congress 2026 in Coimbatore

