



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Grand Egyptian Museum to be opened in Nov Egypt-a destination to explore, experience and enjoy

MUMBAI: The Consul of Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai in collaboration of leading tour operators of India, has Jointly highlighted Egypt as one of the most inspiring and multifaceted destinations in the World --- a land where history, culture, faith and natural beauty blend seamlessly to create unforgettable experiences for tourist travellers.

Reaffirming Egypt's position as a premier global tourism destination, the

partnership aims to promote mutual co-operation in tourism and cultural exchange between Egypt and India. The joint initiative emphasises exploring Egypt's UNESCO world heritage sites, religious and historical landmarks and its diverse tourism offerings that cater to tourist travellers of all interest.

Home to the world-famous pyramids of Giza, the timeless Nile River and the awe-inspiring temples of Luxor and Karnak,



Front row: Middle in red blazer HE Dahlia Tawakol, Consul-General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai and VS Abdulkareem, CMD of Flycreative Online Ltd were present. Behind from left third HE Dina Albahey, Vice-Consul, the Consulate General of Egypt, Mumbai, behind from left second; Dalia Hafez, Country Manager Mumbai and Sri Lanka of Egypt Airlines.

Egypt continues to be a living museum of human civilization, the ancient heritage complemented by the vibrant modern life of Cairo, Alexandria, Sharm El-Sheikh and the Red Sea resorts, makes it a destination that appeals equally to explorers, pilgrims and leisure seekers.

Egypt's rich religious and cultural heritage adds another dimension to its culture from the early footsteps of Christiani-

(Cont. on page - 2)

IATO urges govt to step up global tourism promotion with stronger diplomatic, marketing outreach

NEW DELHI: The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has called on the Union government a comprehensive strategy to strengthen international tourism promotion. Highlighting tourism's potential to drive employment and economic growth, the association emphasised the need for co-ordinated, long-term initiatives to enhance India's visibility and competitiveness in global



Ravi Gosain, President of IATO

markets.

IATO has recommended that Indian diplomatic missions be allocated dedicated tourism promotion funds and appoint Tourism Attachés or Nodal Officers in at least 30 key embassies worldwide. These representatives, supported by pub-

lic relations and marketing teams, would lead targeted regional campaigns and ensure consistent global engagement.

The association also advocates for advance-approved budgets for road-

shows, trade fairs, and collaborative events, enabling embassies to partner with local tour operators, airlines, and media outlets. A 50:50 cost-sharing model between the

(Cont. on page - 2)

Heavy Diwali booking by travel, hospitality sectors

MUMBAI: In the run-up to the Diwali holidays, hospitality and travel services providers are witnessing a robust demand.

They registered strong bookings across urban and leisure destinations, with intercity bus services occupancy levels even touching 95-100pc. GST reforms also acted as a key driver for mid-scale hotels and mid-market domestic cus-

tomers. This makes it easier for travellers to explore lesser-known destinations, said Hotel Association of India (HAI) President K B Kachru.

He further said early trends show higher hotel occupancy, reflecting the excitement of travellers celebrating festivals with family, friends, and leisure getaways. "Booking patterns this season high-

light travellers' preference for convenience, flexibility, and curated experiences. Many hotels are reporting growing interest in premium and experiential stays, signalling a shift toward immersive travel that blends leisure, culture, and wellness," he noted.

Co-founder & Group CEO of MakeMyTrip, Rajesh Magow, also high-

(Cont. on page - 2)

Jose Pradeep reelected as President of KTM Society

KOCHI: Jose Pradeep has been reelected as the President of Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) Society an umbrella organisation representing the travel, tourism and hospitality industry in Kerala, for 2025 to 2027. The election was held at Hotel Radisson Blu, Kochi, during the 25th annual

general body meeting of KTM Society.

The newly appointed office-bearers also include Harikumar C of Indimate Experiences as the Vice President, S Swaminathan, Managing Director of Dravidian Trails Holidays, Kochi, as the Hon-

(Cont. on page - 2)



Oman visa renewal confusion clarified

MUSCAT: The Indian embassy in Muscat has confirmed that some attested documents have been requested by the Royal Oman Police (ROP) for the renewal of residency visas of dependents.

Confusion prevailed for a week or so, as there had been no official notification on the matter, apart from some people just sharing their experiences.

Though it is the attestation of the Foreign Ministry that is sought by the authorities, it has to be preceded by the attestation of the relevant embassies in Oman, depending on the nationality of the expatriates. An expatriate



who visited one of the Civil Status centres of the ROP said: "As I approached the counter for a token for the renewal of the Resident Card of my daughter, the official checked my documents and asked for the birth certificate, which has to be attested. He asked me to return with the document."

Similar experiences were shared by several others on our and other social me-

dia platforms. As per the information, the attested marriage certificate is required for the renewal of the visa of the spouses of expatriates. Sources in the

Indian embassy said that there has been notification in this regard by the relevant authorities, and the attestation of all marriage (for spouses) and birth certificates (for children) can be requested via SGVIS, the official visa, passport, and attestation service

provider for the Indian embassy in Oman.

SVIS said that these documents, to be attested by the Indian Embassy, can be submitted at its centres after booking an appointment. It is necessary to bring the original documents to the appointment.

Heavy Diwali booking by travel, hospitality sectors

(Cont. from page - 1) lighted that visiting friends and relatives (VFR) remains the biggest driver of festive season travel, as many Indians head back to their hometowns to celebrate Diwali. He said, of the top 10 most booked destinations, five are metros: Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai.

"This year, with the festival falling early in the week, many travellers are booking their trips as early as the preceding Friday to enjoy extended festivities," Magow said. For air travel, Air India Express and Akasa Air have launched their

flash sale for Diwali 2024. The airlines are offering competitive, low-cost airfare to celebrate this year's festive season.

Air India Express introduced its discount as a flash sale, with ticket prices starting at Rs 1,456 under its Lite Offer. The low-cost carrier is also offering tickets starting at Rs 1,606 under its Xpress Value Fares, according to the company's website.

Akasa Air has also introduced a Diwali sale offer where customers are eligible to get upto 15pc off on the base fare for flight bookings.

Egypt-a destination to explore, experience and enjoy

(Cont. from page - 1) ty and the sacred monastery of Saint Catherine in Sinai, to the magnificent mosques and Islamic architectures of historic Cairo.

The deep spiritual and cultural diversity makes Egypt not just a travel destination, but a journey through faith and history.

Speaking on the collaboration, HE Dahlia Tawakol, the Consul-General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai, emphasised the importance of peo-

ple to people connections in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting tourism flows between the two nations. She welcomed the continued engagements of Indian tour operators in promoting Egypt as a preferred tourism destination.

In an interactive session, the tour operators expressed gratitude to the Consul of Egypt for its proactive support, and assured collaborative efforts to enhance tourism promotion through seminars, adver-

tisements, social media campaign, familiarisation tours, trade interactions and joint marketing initiatives, said VS Abdulkareem, CMD of FlyCreative Online Ltd.

As global travel continues to rebound, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to promote safe, sustainable and culturally enriching tourism, encouraging travellers to explore and experience the timeless charm of Egypt - a destination that continues to explore the world.

Jose Pradeep reelected as President of KTM Society



Jose Pradeep
President of KTM



Harikumar C
Vice President



S Swaminathan
Secretary



Jobin Joseph
Joint Secretary



Jibran Asif,
Treasurer

(Cont. from page - 1) orary Secretary, Jobin Joseph, Managing Director of Spice Routes Luxury Cruises Alleppey as joint Secretary and Jibran Asif, Director of Abad Hotels & Resorts, as the Honorary Treasurer.

The Managing Committee comprises 12 members, including Michael Dominic (Managing Director of CGH Earth Hotels), KR Vancheeswaran (MD of Weinberg Resorts Wayanad), Ranju Joseph (Director of Pioneer Personalised Holidays Kochi), Manu PV (MD of Discover Kerala Holidays, Thiruvananthapuram), Janeesh J (Director of Chalukya Grace Holidays, Thiru-

vananthapuram), Jayakumar (CEO Poovar Island Resort), Jose Thomas MD of Treetop Resorts, Thkkedy, Maria Rodrigues (Director of Coastline Holidays, Kochi), PK Krishnan Chandran (Kerala Holidays Kochi), Vinod V (General Manager, Clouds Valley Leisure Hotel, Munnar), Lalit Viswakumar

(Area Director Operations & GM Taj Malabar Resort & Spa) and Prasad Manjali, (Managing Director Citrine Hotels). The new office-bearers, along with the managing committee, will organise the 13th edition of KTM in 2026, which is the largest travel and tourism event in the country.

IATO urges govt to step up global tourism...

(Cont. from page - 1) Ministry of Tourism (MoT) and states or union territories has been suggested to ensure joint international marketing efforts.

Ravi Gosain, President of IATO, said: "We welcome the Ministry of Tourism's initiative to present a comprehensive plan for tourism promotion before the 16th Finance Commission. India needs a stronger global presence through integrated campaigns in both traditional and emerging markets. A sustained budgetary allocation and continuity of the "Incredible India" branding will be essential in positioning India as a year-round destination."

IATO further called for reforms to the Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme, describing the current structure as restrictive. It recommend-

ed expanding eligibility to include digital marketing, hybrid events, and sustainable tourism initiatives, while covering up to 90pc of participation costs. Simplified digital reimbursement processes and inclusion of small and niche operators in adventure, rural and experiential tourism were also proposed.

Among other key recommendations are the creation of a unified India Pavilion at global tourism fairs to replace fragmented state stalls and the launch of a refreshed Incredible India brand identity in 2026. IATO also urged for collaboration with Indian hospitality chains, airlines, and cultural institutions to develop high-impact global campaigns, including themed "India Evenings" at international fairs featuring Bollywood, festivals, and heritage experiences.

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FOREX RATES
As on 13th October 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	88.24	89.42
British Pound	117.47	119.14
Euro	101.78	103.98
Japanese Yen	57.78	58.72
Swiss Franc (CHF)	109.03	111.42
Canadian Dollar	62.69	64.11
Australian Dollar	57.79	59.06
Norwegian Krone	8.67	8.93
Swedish Krona	9.16	9.43
New Zealand Dollar	50.51	51.66
Hong Kong Dollar	11.19	11.54
Kuwaiti Dinar	295.1687	283.9403
Singapore Dollar	67.68	69.25
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.22	23.96
United Arab Emirates	23.77	24.46

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DIAMOND (CHILD)	RS.30,000	RS.8,000	RS.38,000
GOLD (ADULT)	RS.23,000	RS.10,500	RS.33,500
GOLD (CHILD)	RS.23,000	RS.7,000	RS.30,000

VOYAGE DATES	
02 Oct	05 Oct 2025 (Advanced Schedule)
11 Oct	15 Oct 2025
17 Oct	21 Oct 2025
23 Oct	27 Oct 2025
29 Oct	02 Oct 2026
04 Nov	08 Nov 2025
10 Nov	14 Nov 2025

Note : 10% hike from 01 Dec – 15 Jan | Age Policy : Adult : 10+ yrs | Child : 2-10 yrs

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China Visa Update
Suspension of Application
Submission and Delay of Collection

Dear Applicants and Trade Partners,

Please be informed that due to some technical issues, it has been informed by Consulate General that there will be no acceptance of visa and legalization application from 13th October 2025 (Monday) onwards till further notice.

The collection of passport with expected date of 10th October 2025 onwards will be delayed as well.

We shall update on the notices once the submission and collection of passports will be resumed.

Applicants hurry to submit applications could choose Centers of New Delhi or Kolkata for submission.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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TAAI president Sunil Kumar appointed vice chairman of FAITH

MUMBAI: The president of Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) Sunil Kumar has been appointed as the vice chairman of the Federation of Associations In Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) for 2025-26.

This appointment underscores TAAI'S continued leadership and active participation in shaping the future of India's travel, tourism and hospitality sectors through FAITH – the apex body representing all major national associations of the industry.

As TAAI prepares to



ous year in 2026, Sunil Kumar's elevation to the key position further highlights his dedication and visionary contribution to strengthening India's tourism ecosystem at both national and global levels.

ADVISORY TO OVERSEAS JOB ASPIRANTS FROM POEs

Legal recruiting agents follow the Emigration Act, 1983, ensuring transparency, ethics and worker protection. Illegal agents bypass regulations, risking exploitation, fraud and unregulated practices that harm emigrants.

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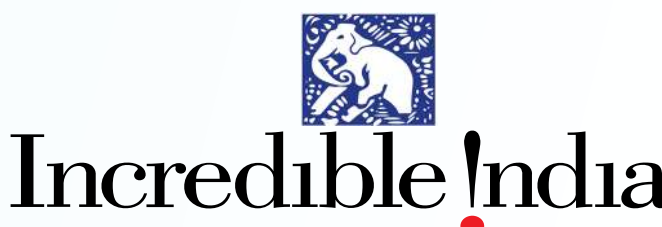
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GULF FAQs

Up to Dh1 lakh fine: Dubai ruler issues law for engineering consultancies

Dubai has introduced new regulations to govern engineering consultancy offices in the emirate. The law mandates proper authorisation and registration with Dubai Municipality for all engineering fields.

The law prohibits anyone from undertaking engineering consultancy activities in Dubai without a proper licence. These activities cover all fields of engineering, including architectural, civil, electrical, electronic, mechanical, mining, petroleum, chemical, coastal, and geological engineering, among others.

It also prohibits individuals or offices from portraying themselves as engineering consultancy offices without a valid trade licence and registration with Dubai Municipality, which must detail the office's licensed scope, classification, technical staff and other essential information.

Engineering consultancy offices are not allowed to operate beyond their licensed scope, employ un-

registered engineers or contract with unlicensed companies to carry out consultancy work in Dubai.

TYPES OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANCIES:

The law defines the types of engineering consultancy offices in Dubai to which this law applies. These are:

*Local companies established in the emirate

*Branches of UAE-based offices with at least three consecutive years of engineering consultancy experience.

*Branches of foreign offices with at least 10 consecutive years of such experience

*Joint endeavours formed through partnerships between a local office and one or more foreign offices with at least 10 years of engineering consultancy experience

*Engineering advisory offices specialising in providing opinion and consultancy services owned by one or more registered engineers, each with a minimum of 10 years of engineering consultancy

experience.

*Engineering audit offices authorised to conduct third-party audits in any engineering consultancy activity.

The law lays down the conditions and procedures for registrations, the validity of registration tenures, deregistration processes, criteria for classifying offices, office obligations, and rules for registering and deregistering technical staff.

UNIFIED SYSTEM: Dubai Municipality, in co-ordination with relevant authorities, shall establish a unified electronic system across the emirate linked to the "Invest in Dubai"

platform. The system manages applications for registering engineering consultancy offices, determining their classification, issuing professional competency certificates and handling other matters related to engineering consultancy activities in Dubai.

The Municipality also maintains a comprehensive registry of licensed engineering consultancy offices, their consultancy scope, classification, technical staff, and other relevant data. It regularly approves and updates the classification system for companies engaged in construction, building, or demolition activities and

issues professional competency certificates for their technical staff.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE:

The new law mandates the establishment of a permanent Committee for the Regulation and Development of Engineering Consultancy Activities' in Dubai, appointed by the Chairman of The Executive Council.

FINES, PUNISHMENTS:

Those found to be in violation of the law or related decisions may face fines of up to Dh100,000, with the penalty increasing for repeat offences within the same year. Authorities may also take punitive measures.

I was fired as I am pregnant, what to do?

I worked as an employee for three years in Dubai. The company's attitude towards me changed from the date they learned I was pregnant, with emails being sent to me questioning my performance and accomplishments and stating that I was taking

sick leave due to my pregnancy. I filed a complaint against the company for such behaviour, but the company terminated me after this complaint, citing lack of performance. My question is: do I deserve compensation for arbitrary dismissal?

According to Article 47 of the Labour Law, the termination of a worker's service by the employer is considered unlawful if it is due to the worker filing a serious complaint to the ministry or filing a lawsuit against the employer, provided the validity of such complaint or lawsuit is proven.

In general, filing a labour complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization is not, by itself, considered by the court as a reason for unlawful termination, unless it is clearly and evidently proven through documents. This was es-



established in the court's ruling No. 33/2024 Labour Cassation on 26/3/2024. Whoever claims that an unlawful termination has occurred bears the burden of proof. This means you must demonstrate that your termination was not due to lack of performance, but rather as a result of filing a complaint against the company. Therefore, the court shall have the authority to determine whether the situation constitutes an arbitrary dismissal or not.

A TASTE OF SRI LANKA; CULINARY DIPLOMACY THROUGH CULTURE AND FLAVOURS

The Consul of Sri Lanka hosted a vibrant food festival, showcasing the nation's rich culinary heritage, inviting selected guests to experience its authentic flavors and traditions.

The event aimed to promote tourism and cultural exchange, highlighting how food serves as a bridge connecting people across border.

The Consul General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai HE. Priyanga Wickramasinghe and Dy. Consul Mrs. Shirani Ariyaratne together with the guests at the Food Fest .



Keep airfares resonable for festive season, aviation minister Naidu tells airlines

NEW DELHI: Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu held a review meeting with officials of airlines to assess their operational and technical performance and asked them to keep airfares at reasonable levels during the festive season. Representatives of Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, Akasa Air, Alliance Air, Fly91, FlyBig and IndiaOne Air, among others, participated in the meeting. They presented their performance metrics, including action taken reports on security incidents and pas-

senger grievances.

During the meeting with the airline representatives that went on for more than five hours, Naidu emphasised that they should strictly adhere to safety protocols. The periodic meeting also came against the backdrop of two incidents involving Air India's Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. Naidu asked airlines to adopt best practices in passenger convenience and service quality. "Detailed discussions were held with each airline on identifying bottlenecks in their operations

and addressing their challenges," an official release said. Amid concerns about airfares surging during festive seasons when there is more traffic demand, the minister told the airlines to ensure that airfares remain

reasonable across the sectors during the upcoming festival season. "Airlines assured that passenger convenience will remain their top priority and informed that additional flight capacities have been deployed

on high-traffic routes to meet festive demand," the release said. The civil aviation ministry's passenger grievance redressal portal, AirSewa, has been upgraded for enabling passengers to register complaints.

Vibrant Gujarat regional conference garners Rs 3.24-lakh-cr investments

AHMEDABAD: Over 1,200 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for an estimated investment of Rs 3.24-lakh-crore have been signed during the first edi-

tion of Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference (VGRC) held in Mehsana district. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel delivered his address at the concluding ceremony of the two-day event held at Ganpat University at Kherva village.

Patel said the success of this first regional conference has strengthened Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building a global village and promoting "vocal for local". CM Patel emphasised that Modi has seamlessly connected people with the government, leading India to achieve remark-

able progress across every sector ranging from Swachhata to semiconductors. "A total of 1,212 MoUs were signed during this Regional Conference. Through these MoUs, an estimated investment of Rs 3.24-lakh-crore is expected in north Gujarat in the near future, giving new momentum to the region's development," he said. The Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conferences are being organised to realise the PM's vision of inclusive growth, ensuring development is not confined to cities but reaches every village and region.

NRIs can apply for e-Gate at Indian airports

NEW DELHI: Non-resident Indians (NRIs) travelling through 13 Indian airports can now save time at immigration counters by registering for the government's new e-Gate facility. But there's a small catch – the Aadhaar card isn't accepted as address proof during registration.

The e-Gate facility, under the Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP), is now available at 13 airports, including Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Amritsar, Kochi, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram and Trichy.

Here's a quick guide on how NRIs can register, what documents work, and what to expect at the airport.

What is the e-Gate service? How NRIs can apply for e-Gate at Indian airports – and why Aadhaar can't be used as proof: The e-Gate system, rolled out by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI), Indian Ministry of Home Affairs, allows pre-verified passengers to breeze through immigration using self-service kiosks. Instead of standing

in long queues, travellers can scan their passports, verify biometrics and walk straight through the gate – similar to what Indian expats experience at airports in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Why Emirates ID is required for expats flying back to UAE? The programme can be availed by two categories of travellers: Indian nationals, and foreign nationals holding an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card.

Why Aadhaar doesn't work? While Aadhaar is a key Indian identity document, it doesn't count as valid address proof for e-Gate registration, especially for NRIs. A message on the portal clearly states: "Aadhaar card is not admissible as proof of address." For NRIs and OCI card holders, the passport page showing the address is accepted instead. The following documents are accepted: Election photo identity card, electricity or telephone bill (landline or post-paid mobile) from the last three months, driving licence, spouse's passport copy (if the applicant's address matches the spouse's passport), parent's pass-

port copy (in the case of minors), and for those residing abroad, a government-issued identity document showing the current foreign address. How NRIs can register? Visit the official e-Gate portal at <https://ftittp.mha.gov.in/fti/>.

UAE's new customs guidelines for travellers entering, leaving country

ABU DHABI: The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security has issued a comprehensive set of travel regulations for passengers entering or leaving the UAE, aimed at ensuring safety, compliance and smooth customs procedures.

The guidelines stress the importance of declaring cash, valuables and restricted items to avoid penalties and ensure security across the country's ports of entry. In line with the Unified Customs Law of the GCC, travellers carrying more than Dh60,000 — or its equivalent in other currencies — in cash, bearer negotiable instruments, precious metals or valuable stones must declare

these items using the official disclosure form. The rule applies to both arrivals and departures, and failure to declare such amounts may result in confiscation or legal penalties.

Travelling through Dubai Airport? Here are the banned and restricted items for hand luggage: For personal belongings and gifts, customs law allows exemptions within defined limits. The total value of accompanying gifts must not exceed Dh3,000, and items must be personal, non-commercial and in reasonable quantities. Frequent travellers or individuals trading similar goods are not eligible for this exemption. Tobacco products are also subject to quantity limits of up to 200 cig-

arettes or an equivalent amount of pipe tobacco or shisha. Any excess quantities are subject to customs duties. The list of prohibited goods includes items that cannot be brought into or taken out of the UAE under any circumstances. These include narcotics, gambling devices, nylon fishing nets, raw ivory, counterfeit currency, used or retreaded tyres, radioactive materials and red-beam laser pens, along with printed or visual materials that violate religious values or public morality.

Materials contaminated by radiation or nuclear dust, as well as paan, betel leaves and other banned products under UAE law or international agreements, are also prohibited.