



عيد الاتحاد
EID AL ETIHAD

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | DECEMBER 02

الإمارات العربية المتحدة



**H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
The Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE**



**H. H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
The President of the UAE**



**H. E. ABDULLA HUSEIN SALMAN MOHAMED ALMRZOOQI,
Consul General of UAE, Mumbai**

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES
On The Occasion Of 54th National Day of the UAE



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NATIONAL DAY MESSAGE

On the joyous occasion of the 54th Eid Al Etihad (National Day) of the United Arab Emirates, the IPEPCIL fraternity extends its heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, H.E. Abdulla Husein Salman Mohamed Al-Marzooqi, Consul General of the UAE in Mumbai, and to the gracious people of the United Arab Emirates.

India and the UAE have long enjoyed a deep-rooted and friendly relationship, strengthened by centuries of historical, cultural, and commercial ties. For generations, Indian traders exchanged textiles and spices for dates and pearls from the region, laying the foundation for enduring people-to-people connections. Today, the vibrant Indian expatriate community—numbering approximately 3.2 million and constituting nearly 35% of the UAE's population—stands as a testament to this unwavering bond of friendship.

As the Emirates continue their remarkable journey of growth and progress, we take pride in witnessing the strong and dynamic partnership that unites our nations. On this auspicious occasion, we wish the leadership and the people of the UAE a National Day filled with pride, joy, unity and prosperity. May the spirit of Eid Al Etihad continue to illuminate the path of harmony and shared progress.

With warm regards and heartfelt congratulations,



V.S. ABDULKAREEM
PRESIDENT - IPEPCIL

UAE : HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a high-income developing market economy. Its economy is the fourth largest in the Middle East (after Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Israel), with a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$415 billion (AED 1.83 trillion) in 2021–2023.

The country's economy is reliant on revenues from hydrocarbons, especially in Abu Dhabi. In 2009, more than 85pc of the UAE's economy was based on the oil exports. In 2011, oil exports accounted for 77pc of the UAE's state budget. In recent years, there has been some economic diversification, particularly in Dubai. Abu Dhabi and other UAE emirates have remained relatively conservative in their approach to diversification. Dubai has far smaller oil reserves than its counterparts.

Hospitality is one of the largest non-commodity sources of revenue in the UAE. In 2007, there was US\$350 billion worth of active construction projects. The UAE is a member of the UNCTAD, World Trade Organisation and



President of United Arab Emirates His Majesty Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Delhi. (File photo)

OPEC.

UAE has the second-largest economy in the Arab world (after Saudi Arabia), with a gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$414 billion in 2018. A third of the GDP is from oil revenues. The economy was

expected to grow 4–4.5pc in 2013, compared with 2.3–3.5pc over the previous five years. Since independence in 1971, UAE's economy has grown by nearly 231 times to AED1.45 trillion in 2013. The non-oil trade has

grown to AED1.2 trillion, a growth of around 28 times from 1981 to 2012.

The UAE's economy is one of the most open worldwide and its economic history goes back to the times when ships sailed to India, along the

Swahili coast, as far south as Mozambique.

The UAE economy has been 'inspected' by international economic institutions on a regular basis, generally receiving good reports on economic de-

(Cont. on page - 4)

From Desert Dawn to Global Powerhouse UAE's 50 Year Transformation

In the span of just five decades, the United Arab Emirates has achieved an extraordinary national transformation—one that has positioned the country as a global centre for innovation, economic dynamism, and strategic influence. What began as a collection of small desert communities in the early 1970s has evolved into one of the world's most advanced and ambitious nations. Today, the UAE stands as a model of visionary leadership, progressive planning, and relentless pursuit of excellence across every sector of national development.

Economic and Industrial Growth

A cornerstone of the UAE's rise has been its unwavering commitment to economic diversification.

While oil played a foundational role in the country's early development, the leadership quickly recognized the need for a broader and more resilient economic model. Over the past five decades, the nation has cultivated major non-oil sectors—including tourism, real estate, logistics, advanced technology, and financial services. This transformation has reduced dependence on hydrocarbons and strengthened long-term economic stability.

Industrial growth has followed a similarly impressive trajectory. The UAE is now home to several globally competitive industrial companies, including Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA), one of the world's largest aluminium producers. EGA's achievement in



becoming the first UAE industrial company to license its core process technology internationally stands as a testament to the country's technological capabilities and industrial maturity. These developments have helped elevate the UAE to the position of the second-largest economy in the Arab world, with top global rankings in competitiveness, efficiency, and business-friendly governance.

Urbanization and Infrastructure

The rapid modernization of the UAE's cities has become one of the nation's most recognizable symbols of progress. What were once modest waterfront settlements have evolved into some of the most futuristic urban land-

(Cont. on page - 4)

From Desert Dawn to Global Powerhouse: UAE's 50-Year Transformation

(Cont. from page - 3)

scapes in the world. Dubai's skyline—anchored by the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building—is now instantly identifiable on a global scale. Adjacent developments like Downtown Dubai and the Dubai Mall, one of the largest shopping destinations worldwide, have further strengthened the city's reputation as a global hub for tourism, luxury, and commerce.

Abu Dhabi, the nation's capital, has undergone its own equally impressive transformation. It is now home to iconic cultural institutions such as the Louvre Abu Dhabi, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and planned communities that blend modernity with sustainability. Both cities boast expansive and efficient transportation networks, including metro systems, advanced airports, and world-class highways that reflect the UAE's significant investments in infrastructure.

Technology, Innovation, and Space Exploration

The UAE's rise as a global innovation hub has been supported by a strong emphasis on digital transformation and future-focused policies. The creation of dedicated ministries for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology underscores the country's commitment to leading in the fields that will shape the global economy of tomorrow. From e-government services to smart-city initiatives, the UAE has consistently adopted cutting-edge digital solutions to modernize



its economy and enhance public services. Perhaps the most ambitious demonstration of the UAE's technological progress has been its entry into space exploration. The launch of the Hope Probe—marking the first Arab interplanetary mission to Mars—was a historic milestone that captured international attention. The UAE also succeeded in sending its first astronaut to the International Space Station, placing it among a select group of nations with human spaceflight capability. These achievements reflect not only scientific ambition but also a national vision that aims to inspire future generations.

Social Development and Quality of Life

Social progress has kept pace with the country's economic and technological transformations. The UAE's healthcare system has grown to include advanced medical centers, internationally accredited hospitals, and an emphasis on preventive care, con-

tributing to significantly higher life expectancy rates. In the field of education, world-class universities and global institutions have established campuses in the country, supporting the creation of a knowledge-based society.

The UAE has also made major strides in social reforms, particularly in the advancement of Emirati women, who now hold leading roles in government, business, and diplomacy. Reforms opening pathways to citizenship for talented foreign residents have further strengthened the UAE's appeal

as a global destination for talent. With one of the lowest crime rates in the world, the nation is consistently ranked among the safest and most livable countries globally.

Sustainability and the Future

Looking ahead, the UAE is preparing for the next 50 years with a strong focus on sustainability and clean energy. The UAE Energy Strategy 2050 aims to create a balanced energy mix that prioritizes renewable sources, reducing carbon emissions while ensuring long-term environmental resilience. Projects such as the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park—one of the largest solar parks in the world—demonstrate the country's commitment to leading the global transition to clean energy.

As the UAE continues to invest in technology, innovation, and sustainable development, it stands poised to maintain its status as a global leader. The nation's first 50 years tell a story of ambition and achievement. Its next 50 promise to be just as remarkable.

UAE : HIGH INCOME ECONOMY

(Cont. from page - 3)
developments. International Monetary Fund (IMF) expected UAE's economic growth to increase to 4.5pc in 2015, compared with 4.3pc in 2014.

The IMF ascribed UAE's potentially strong economic growth in World Economic Outlook Report to the increased contribution of non-petroleum sectors, which registered a growth average of more than six per cent in 2014 and 2015. Such contribution includes banking, tourism, commerce and real estate. Increase of Emirati purchasing power and governmental expenditures in in-

frastructure projects have considerably increased. Internationally, UAE is ranked among the top 20 for global service business, according to AT Kearney, the top 30 on the WEF "most-networked countries" and in the top quarter as a least corrupt country per the TI's corruption index.

The government of the UAE announced a broad restructuring and merger of more than 50pc of its federal agencies, including ministries and departments, in an attempt to deal with and recover from the economic shocks following months-long coronavirus lockdown.



THE INDO - ARAB SOCIETY

(Inaugurated by Late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1954)



Congratulations and Best Wishes on the occasion of the 54th National Day of United Arab Emirates, On behalf of The Indo-Arab Society, I extend my warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to H. H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, The President of the UAE, H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, The Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, H.E. Abdulla Husein Salman Mohamed Almarzooqi, Consul General of UAE, Mumbai, and the people of UAE on the joyous occasion of their National Day.



Dr. Mohammed Ali Patanakar
PRESIDENT –
THE INDO ARAB SOCIETY

Umm Al Quwain Unveils 'Arqoob': A New Outdoor Adventure Hub for Campers and Off-Road Enthusiasts

Umm Al Quwain has launched Arqoob, an all-new outdoor destination designed to bring camping enthusiasts and adventure lovers together through a blend of recreational, cultural and eco-friendly experiences. The project features dedicated camping zones, integrated public facilities, and a wide variety of leisure activities, all set within the emirate's serene natural landscape.

Arqoob offers purpose-built off-road tracks for vehicles and bicycles, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for thrill-seekers and sports enthusiasts. The destination also includes designated camping and desert ex-



pedition areas, along with open spaces for artistic, cultural and family-friendly events—creating a versatile environment that caters to diverse interests.

Developed in line with

Umm Al Quwain's long-term vision to diversify the tourism sector, the project leverages the emirate's natural geography to promote sustainable and authentic economic growth.

By prioritising eco-tourism and culture-based activities, Arqoob aims to position the emirate as a rising player in leisure and adventure tourism.

Officials say the new

destination is expected to stimulate the local economy by attracting a wider range of visitors, supporting small and medium-sized businesses, and enhancing the emirate's appeal in the sports and recreational tourism segment. All facilities within Arqoob are being developed under strict safety and sustainability standards, ensuring responsible use of natural resources while balancing environmental preservation with outdoor enjoyment. With its mix of adventure, tranquility and culture, Arqoob is set to become a key attraction for residents and tourists seeking an immersive outdoor escape.

2nd DECEMBER 2025
54th UAE NATIONAL DAY



H. H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
The President of the UAE



H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
The Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE



H. E. Abdulla Husein Salman Mohamed Almrzooqi
Consul General of the UAE, Mumbai

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UAE's timeless spirit: Where ancient history meets modern marvels



Al Fahidi Fort is a historic fort in Dubai, U A E, that is home to the Dubai Museum. It is considered the city's oldest existing building, with its oldest tower dating back to around 1787.



The Al Ain Oasis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is a vast palm plantation area that contains the ancient falaj irrigation system and is surrounded by numerous historical monuments, including forts, watchtowers.



Fugerah Fort is a fort in the city of Fujairah, UAE. Dating back to the 16th century, it is among the oldest as well as the largest castles in the country.



The Jebel Hafeet tombs are ancient, 5,000-year-old, beehive-shaped stone structures located at the foot of Jebel Hafeet in Al Ain, UAE. Images of the tombs show them as circular, above-ground structures made of stacked stones, situated in a desert and mountainous landscape near the Omani border.



Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi: An architectural masterpiece that unites materials and artisans from around the globe, known for its grand scale, stunning white marble, and traditional Islamic design elements like domes and minarets.



The Burj Khalifa is 828 metres (2,717 feet) tall, making it the tallest building in the world. Its total height, including the tip, is 829.8 metres (2,722 feet). The building has 163 floors and was completed in 2009.



Louvre Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi: Designed by Jean Nouvel, its standout feature is a massive, "floating" dome inspired by the cupola and palm leaves, creating a "rain of light" effect that blends with the sea and sand environment.



The Museum of the Future in Dubai is a futuristic landmark that combines exhibitions, immersive theater, and themed attractions to explore potential advancements in science, technology, and AI.

2ND
DECEMBER
2025

54th
UAE
NATIONAL
DAY

*Congratulations & Best wishes
on the occasion of
National Day of the UAE*



H. H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
The President of the UAE



H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,
The Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE





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**CELEBRATING THE UAE NATIONAL DAY
WITH PRIDE AND RESPECT**

The UAE continues to inspire the world with its vision, innovation, and cultural harmony —
a place where dreams take flight and possibilities are endless.
As we honour the nation's remarkable journey, we extend our heartfelt wishes to all
Emiratis and residents. May the UAE continue to soar higher, shine brighter,
and lead with pride and purpose.
"Happy National Day 🇦🇪"



NMIA all set for launch; IndiGo to be first to land

MUMBAI: The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will begin commercial operations Dec 25. The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi on Oct 8 this year. The launch will add a significant boost to the capacity needed for Mumbai, which lost its numero uno position in traffic to Delhi in 2008-09, as Delhi kept expanding and Mumbai not having enough land to expand or add a parallel runway.

NMIA will start with 23 scheduled daily departures, scaling up to 34 departures from Feb 2026. IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India Express had announced that they would start operations from NMIA from the first day of operations. While they have kept their word, the actual operations are a shadow of what was announced.

In the first month, the airport will operate only for 12 hours, between 0800 hours and 2000 hours, managing up to 10 flight movements per hour. Currently, NMIA is conducting comprehensive Operational Readiness and Air-

port Transfer (ORAT) trials, having formally inducted the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Oct 29.

Earlier announcements

Nagpur, Cochin, and Mangalore, offering 67 weekly frequencies, a far cry from its earlier announcement of starting with 18 daily departures to 15 destina-



made by airlines looked like a grand opening for NMIA, but it looks more muted with a scaled growth as we get closer to operationalisation of the much needed capacity in Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Who will land first? The inaugural flight to arrive at NMIA will be IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru, scheduled for a touch-down at 0800 am. The first flight to depart from NMIA will be IndiGo flight 6E882 to Hyderabad, which is scheduled to depart at 0840 hours. IndiGo will connect NMIA to Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, North Goa (Mopa), Jaipur,

tions which it had made in May 2025.

The airline had announced that it would scale up to 79 daily departures including 14 interna-

(Cont. on page - 2)

Why is the Indian rupee falling?

MUMBAI: The Indian rupee has been trading right on the edge of record territory in 2025, hovering around 89.46 to the US dollar as of Nov 28. At these levels, the currency sits close to its weakest readings on record, after briefly touching 89.48 per dollar in late November amid renewed pressure on emerging market assets.

Hasan Fardan Al Fardan, CEO of Al Fardan Exchange, said the rupee's softness reflects "external pressures: subdued foreign-portfolio inflows, global trade uncertainty and headwinds from elevated US tariffs." He added that "RBI increased the intervention band to \$89.50 from \$88.80, leading to a sudden depreciation of the rupee last week."

By widening its intervention band, RBI has effectively signalled greater tolerance for currency adjustment while still reserving the right to step in when markets become disorderly. "RBI has stepped in to

avert disorderly moves, intervening through dollar sales to cushion volatility and protect stability," Al Fardan said.

Most FX strategists now expect USD/rupee to trade in a broad 88.9 to 89.8 range in the near term, with only limited near-term scope for a sharp rupee re-



bound absent progress on US-India trade talks and a clearer path to US rate cuts. That keeps the balance of risk tilted toward a period of extended weakness rather than a quick snapback.

For UAE-based Indians, the story looks very different. Because the dirham is pegged to the US dollar, rupee weakness against the dollar feeds directly

ate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has said that all airlines in India have completed their software upgrades on their active AirbusA320 family aircraft to address the potential issue related to solar radiation affecting flight control data.

Dozens of airlines from Asia to the US said they had carried out a snap software retrofit ordered by Airbus, and mandated by global regulators, after a vulnerability to solar flares emerged in a recent mid-air incident on a JetBlue A320.

In India, the Director-

International airlines like Air Arabia and many more have completed the update across all affected aircraft in the Airbus A320 fleet. US Secretary Sean Duffy said he is in close contact with Airbus about its software update recall for the A320.

Real estate developer rewards 1,000 employees with free London trip

CHENNAI: City-based real estate developer Casagrand has announced that it will fully sponsor a week-long holiday in London for 1,000 of its employees working across India and Dubai, as part of its annual employee reward programme, Profit Share Bonanza. The initiative, launched to celebrate the company's workforce, has so far funded international travel for more than 6,000 team members, covering destinations including Singapore, Thailand, Malay-

sia, Dubai, Spain and other global cities.

The programme has expanded in scale each year, reflecting Casagrand's belief that its success is shaped by its people and should be celebrated with them in meaningful, memorable ways. Employees from offices across India and Dubai will travel together on an itinerary designed to showcase London's history, culture and iconic attractions.

The experience includes (Cont. on page - 2)

into stronger AED-rupee rates. As of Nov 28, Dh 1 trades at roughly Rs 24.35 to Rs24.4, sitting near the top of this year's range and marking one of the most favourable payout windows in recent memory.

The daily tape through Nov underlines the shift. AED-rupee spent the first-half of the month clustered around Rs 24.03 to Rs 24.15, then pushed decisively higher after mid-month, touching about Rs 24.40 on Nov 21 and holding above Rs 24.25 in the final week. Each dirham now converts into materially more rupees than earlier in 2025, lifting remittance values for salaried workers and small business owners alike.

The timing of this currency window coincides with a structural upswing in remittance flows into India. World Bank estimates India received about \$129 billion in remittances in (Cont. on page - 2)

US benefited greatly from H-1B Indians

WASHINGTON: Elon Musk, the world's richest man, has said that the US has benefited immensely by hiring talented Indians over the years, as he finally appeared on Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath's People by WTF podcast on Sunday after days of speculation.

During a lengthy conversation, the SpaceX and Tesla chief also noted that some of the country's anti-immigration sentiment stems from past abuses of the H-1B visa programme and what he described as an overly lenient approach under earlier administrations.

He made the remarks at a time when the long-cherished American dream—promising top-ti-

er education, high-paying jobs, improved living standards and upward mobility—is increasingly fading for thousands of Indians due to tightening US visa norms and unpredictable policy shifts.

"I think America has benefited immensely from talented Indians that have come to America," Musk asserted as Kamath remembered skilled and qualified Indians, like Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai, heading Google operations, who have been contributing to US economic progress over the years.

Indian students accounted for 27pc of all foreign students in the US in 2024, marking an 11.8pc increase from the previ-

ous year, according to the annual report by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Student and Exchange Visitor Pro-



gram (SEVP).

"That seems to be changing now though," Kamath cut the billionaire short in an apparent reference to the H-1B visa rules recently curtailed by the Trump administration and

their impact on Indian job-seekers, as the two erupted in laughter. Days after Donald Trump backed the H-1B visa programme, Re-

moves threaten Indian professionals, the primary beneficiaries of H-1B visas, which often serve as a pathway to US citizenship through Green Cards.

"Under the Biden administration, it was basically a total free-for-all with no border controls. You know, unless you've got border controls, you're not a country. So, you had massive amounts of illegal immigration under Biden. It actually had somewhat of a negative selection effect," Musk, who headed the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), said.

(Cont. on page - 5)

Real estate developer rewards 1,000 employees...

(Cont. from page - 1) a guided audio tour of Windsor Castle, a curated visit to Camden Market, and a gala dinner hosted at the InterContinental London, InterContinental London.

The trip also features visits to major landmarks such as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, London Bridge, Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square, along with a stop at Madame Tussauds. The holiday will conclude

with a scenic cruise along the River Thames, offering panoramic views of the city.

Commenting on the initiative, founder and managing director Arun M N said: "Every year, when we honour our people through this tradition, it reflects what Casagrand truly stands for. Our teams are the heart and soul of this organisation. Their happiness, laughter and tears of joy fill us with pride in the culture we have built

together.

Sharing wealth and celebrating success with our people is a core belief, and it means even more when we see so many experiencing international travel for the very first time in their lives. For many, this trip marks the fulfilment of long-held dreams and the creation of lifelong memories. Returning home with a renewed sense of pride and belonging is one of the most rewarding parts of this tradition."

publican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene announced a bill to phase it out, claiming it replaces American workers. Such

Why is the Indian rupee...

(Cont. from page - 1) 2024, the highest of any country and accounting for roughly 14pc of global flows. UN and World Bank projections point to continued double-digit growth for South Asia into 2025, supported by resilient labour demand in the Gulf and other high-income destinations.

Al Fardan noted that this macro backdrop matters on the ground. "The current environment gives residents more rupees per dirham, which is favorable for those supporting education, EMI or invest-

ments in India. Sending money home now can have a greater impact with the same hard-earned money," he said.

For many UAE Indians, the question is no longer whether the rupee is weak, but how to use that weakness without over-betting on it. The combination of a historically soft rupee and a strong structural remittance story has already prompted an uptick in transfers, with households pulling forward payments for school fees, medical costs and home loans to lock in today's rates.

NMIA all set for launch; IndiGo to be first to land

(Cont. from page - 1) tional ones by Nov 2025, the airport is getting operational only towards the end of Dec. The airline will add flights to Chennai and Coimbatore effective Dec 29 and to Vadodara from Dec 30.

Akasa Air will start operations with daily flights to Delhi and Goa - Mopa, followed by flights to Kochi and a sole weekly to Ahmedabad towards the end of Dec. The airline however plans to progressively ramp up operations from NMIA, scaling up to 300 domestic and 50 in-

ternational weekly departures. As part of its broader network strategy, the airline is also set to ramp up to 10 parking bases by the end of FY2027, with a focused international expansion into key Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian markets. The plan is remarkably different than what it had announced. In June 2025, Akasa Air had announced that it would commence NMIA operations with 100+ weekly domestic departures.

Air India Express is starting operations at NMIA with Daily flights to Ben-

galuru and five times a week to Delhi, scaling it up to 12x weekly to Delhi and double daily to Bengaluru in Jan. The airline, which was the last of the three to announce the NMIA operations, had said that it would start with 20 daily departures to 15 cities.

Interestingly, these destinations are all private airports or joint ventures with none being operated by state owned AAI. Airlines have little to blame in this case since the airport was initially expected to start operations in 2024. With a supply chain

crunch, airlines cannot time the capacity to opening of the airport which is delayed. The airport too has been battling challenges towards completion and while both NMIA and NIA, Jewar were initially announced to begin operations in 2024, while NMIA starts operations, there is no clarity on when Jewar would see commercial operations or even inauguration.

The airport is expected to transition to round-the-clock operations from Feb 2026 when the airport expects 34 daily departures.

There is no word yet on when the international operations will start. While operationally on the air side, international flights will not need much preparation; a lot needs to be put in place in the terminal where customs, immigration services need to be tested thoroughly.

The peak season is towards the end for this quarter, and the additional growth for Mumbai will happen in summer 2026 when NMIA will be available round the clock and the season will justify additional growth.

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FOREX RATES		
As on 1st December 2025 (In rupees)		
Currency	BillBuy	BillSell
US Dollar	90.37	89.96
British Pound	119.54	117.89
Euro	105.27	104.31
Japanese Yen	58.22	57.53
Swiss Franc (CHF)	112.87	112.22
Canadian Dollar	64.93	64.15
Australian Dollar	59.45	58.32
Norwegian Krone	8.96	8.82
Swedish Krona	9.59	9.46
New Zealand Dollar	51.96	50.57
Hong Kong Dollar	11.65	11.61
Kuwaiti Dinar	289.0533	289.2741
Singapore Dollar	70.07	69.16
Saudi Arabian Riyal	24.21	24.11
U A E Dirham	24.72	24.61

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KEEZHA PERUMPALLAM (KETHU/SOUTH NODE OF THE MOON) VAITHEESWARAN KOVIL (MANGALA/MARS) THIRUVENKADU (BUDHA/MERCURY) THIRUNAGESWARAN (RAHU/NORTH NODE OF THE MOON)

DAY 1
• 12:00 – Check-in at Hotel Vinayaga
• 2:30 PM – Start from hotel
• Thingalur Chandra Temple (Chandran)
• Alangudi Guru Temple (Guru)
• Thirunageswaram Naganatha Swamy Temple (Raaghu)
• Return to hotel

DAY 2
• 7:30 AM – Breakfast
• 7:50 AM – Start from hotel
• Thirunallar Shani Temple (Saneeswarar)
• Keezhaperumpallam Temple (Kedhu)
• Thiruvankadu Budha Temple (Budhan)
• Vaitheeswaran Temple (Chevvai/Angaraha)
• Kanjanur Sukran Temple (Sukran)
• Suriyanar Koll Temple (Sooriyan)
• Return to hotel

DAY 3
• 7:30 AM – Breakfast
• Check-out from hotel

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JOB PROVIDERS AND JOB SEEKERS

ATF prices hiked again; brace for higher airfares

NEW DELHI: Air travellers may soon have to shell out more for tickets as Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices have been raised for the third straight month, adding fresh cost inching closer to the Rs1-lakh mark. Prices in other major metros have also surged, with Kolkata at Rs1,02,371.02, Mumbai at Rs93,281.04, and Chennai recording the highest



Fuel typically accounts for 35–45pc of an airline's operating costs, making any upward revision immediately significant for the industry. A senior airline executive said the latest hike will inevitably impact fare structures if prices continue to rise. "Sustained ATF increases leave carriers with limited room. Higher fares become unavoidable if this trend persists," the executive noted. The aviation sector, which has been rebounding from pandemic-era losses, now faces the challenge of balancing profitability with affordability for passengers. The coming weeks may therefore see airlines recalibrating ticket prices as they absorb the steep fuel costs.

pressures on airlines already battling high operational expenses. According to the latest revision, ATF now costs Rs99,676.77 per kilolitre (1000 litres) in Delhi, rate at Rs1,03,301.80 per kilolitre. The average increase of Rs5,113.75 per kilolitre this month continues a rising trend that has stretched airline finances.

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Kavaratti Island

Kavaratti Island is the serene capital of Lakshadweep, known for its turquoise lagoons, white sandy beaches, and rich marine life.

Burj Khalifa DUBAI'S TALL PRIDE

Burj Khalifa is a mega-tall skyscraper in Dubai. Designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, it is the world's tallest structure, with a total height of 829.8 m (2,722 ft or just over half-a-mile) and a roof height (excluding the antenna, but including a 242.6 m spire) of 828 m (2,717 ft). It has also been the tallest building in the world since its topping out in 2009, surpassing Taipei 101, which had held the record for a half-decade.

Construction of the Burj Khalifa began in 2004; the exterior was completed five years later. The primary structure is reinforced concrete. Some of the structural steel for the building was salvaged from the demolished Palace of the Republic in East Berlin. The building was opened in 2010 as part of a new development plan called Downtown Dubai. It was designed to be the centre-piece of large-scale, mixed-use development.

The building is named after the former president of the United Arab Emirates -- Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The UAE government provided Dubai with financial support. President of the UAE Khalifa bin Zayed organised federal financial support. For his support, Mohammad bin Rashid, Ruler of Dubai, changed the name from "Burj Dubai" to "Burj Khalifa" during inauguration.

The design is derived from the Islamic architecture of the region, such as in the Great Mosque of Samarra. The Y-shaped tripartite floor geometry is designed to optimise residential and hotel space. A buttressed central core and wings are used to support the height of the building. The Burj Khalifa's central core houses all vertical transportation except egress stairs within each of the wings. The structure

also features a cladding system which is designed to withstand Dubai's hot summer temperatures. It contains a total of 57 elevators and eight escalators.

Development

Construction began on



Jan 12, 2004, with the exterior of the structure completed on Oct 1, 2009. The building officially opened on Jan 4, 2010 and is part of the two km (490 acres) Downtown Dubai development at the "First Interchange" along Sheikh Zayed Road, near Dubai's main business district.

The tower's architecture and engineering were performed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of Chicago, with Adrian Smith as chief architect and Bill Baker as a chief structural engineer. The firm had designed the Sears Tower in Chicago, a previous record holder for the world's tallest building. Hyder Consulting was supervising engineer and NORR Group Consultants supervised the architecture. The primary contractor was Samsung C&T of South Korea, together with the Belgian group BE-

SIX and the local company Arabtec.

Conception

Burj Khalifa was designed to be the centrepiece of a large-scale, mixed-use development to include 30,000 homes, nine hotels (including

ing in Jan 2010. It was renamed in honour of the ruler of Abu Dhabi, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Abu Dhabi and the federal government of UAE lent Dubai tens of billions of US dollars so that Dubai could pay its debts. In the 2000s, Dubai started diversifying its economy but it suffered from the 2008 financial crisis and the Great Recession, leaving large-scale projects already in construction abandoned.

WORLD RECORD

*The Burj Khalifa set several world records, including: Tallest existing structure: 829.8 m (2,722 ft) (previously KVLV-TV mast - 628.8 m or 2,063 ft).

*Eight tallest structure ever built: 829.8 m (2,722 ft) (previously Warsaw radio mast - 646.38 m or 2,121 ft).

*Tallest freestanding structure: 829.8 m (2,722 ft) (previously CN Tower - 553.3 m or 1,815 ft).

*Tallest skyscraper (to top of spire): 828 m (2,717 ft) (previously Taipei 101 - 509.2 m or 1,671 ft).

*Tallest skyscraper to top of antenna: 829.8 m (2,722 ft) (previously the Willis (formerly Sears) Tower - 527 m or 1,729 ft).

*Building with most floors: 163 (previously World Trade Centre - 110).

*World's highest elevator installation (situated inside a rod at the very top of the building).

*World's longest travel distance elevators: 504 m (1,654 ft).

*Highest vertical concrete pumping (for a building): 606 m (1,988 ft).

*World's tallest structure that includes residential space.

*World's highest installation of an aluminium and glass façade: 512 m (1,680 ft).

A 304-room Armani Hotel, the first of four by Armani, occupies 15 of the lower 39 floors. The sky lobbies on the 43rd and 76th floors house swimming pools. Floors 20 through 108 have 900 private residential apartments (which, according to the developer, sold out within eight hours of being on the market). Corporate offices and suites fill most of the remaining floors, except for the 122nd, 123rd, and 124th, where the At.Mosphere Restaurant, sky lobby and an indoor and outdoor observation deck are located respectively.

US benefited greatly from H-1B Indians

(Cont. from page - 2)

"So if there's a massive financial incentive to come to the US illegally and get all these government benefits, then you are going to necessarily create a diffusion gradient for people to come to the US. It's an incentive structure. And that obviously made no sense. Like, you got to have border controls. It's kind of ridiculous not to," he continued to lament the previous Biden administration's immigration policies.

Continuing with what he thought about the US immigration policies before Trump 2.0 and its impli-

cations, Musk said that he was not sure about how real the perception of talented people from other countries taking their jobs among US citizens is.

"My direct observation is that there is always a scarcity of talented people. You need to have talented people to perform these difficult tasks. Some companies are making it more of a cost thing where it's like that if they are able to employ someone for a fraction of an American citizen, then these other companies would hire people just to save cost," he pointed out.