



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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IPEPCIL calls for urgent reform in GCC medical screening process for Indian emigrants

MUMBAI: The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) has called upon the Ministry of External Affairs to initiate diplomatic dialogue with Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) authorities to address rising concerns over the current pre-medical screening system faced by Indian emigrants.

IPEPCIL has highlighted two pressing issues:

- Monopolistic control over medical appointments through a single online channel tied to a select group of GHC-empanelled doctors, violating fair trade norms.
- Large-scale disqualifications of otherwise healthy candidates due to minor chest X-ray “scars”, which are not related to active Tuberculosis (TB).
- “Post-Covid residual scars or past infections like pneumonia, are being wrongly treated as

disqualifying factors. This outdated method is denying thousands of healthy candidates their right to work abroad,” said Mr. V.S. Abdulkareem, President of IPEPCIL.



Leading health bodies like WHO, ICMR and IMA confirm that only active TB poses a health risk and that past scars should not be used as grounds for rejection without clinical symptoms.

Despite informal assurances from the Gulf Health Council (GHC) to improve transparency and review outdated criteria, no significant changes have been implemented. IPEPCIL has

formally submitted a request to Mr Surinder Bhagat, Joint Secretary (Overseas Employment), seeking MEA’s diplomatic intervention.

About IPEPCIL: The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council is a national body representing licensed recruitment agencies. It works closely with the Ministry of External Affairs to promote ethical migration and protect the rights of Indian workers overseas.

Police raid illegal overseas hiring agents in TN’s Melur

MADURAI: The Protector of Emigrants (POE), Chennai, under the ministry of external affairs in co-ordination with Madurai police, conducted raids on multiple premises of illegal recruiting agents operating in Melur in the district.

The sleuths seized hundreds of passports during the operation and further investigations are underway.

The action was initiated based on credible information regarding the presence of several unauthorised agents in the area. Melur is notorious for having the highest concentration of illegal recruiting agents in the state. POE for the regions of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, Rajkumar M, urged all those seeking employment abroad to exercise utmost caution. In a statement, he emphasised the importance of securing overseas employment only through licensed recruitment agents authorised by the ministry of external

affairs (MEA) and only on valid work visas.

He advised all aspiring overseas job seekers to verify the credentials of recruitment agencies before making any financial commitments. A list of licensed recruitment agents is available at emigrate.gov.in. Rajkumar also issued a stern warning to individuals or entities facilitating illegal emigration. “It is a punishable offence under the Emigration Act, 1983, for any agent to send Indian citizens abroad without a valid recruitment licence.

“Such agents must immediately halt their activities and obtain

(Cont. on page-2)

Crackdown on illegal job agencies in Mangaluru

MANGALURU: In der the ministry of external affairs, visited Mangaluru after receiving credible information regarding unauthorised interviews being conducted in Karnataka and Goa, un-

(Cont. on page-7)



Police checking illegal documents seized in Melur.



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Iran, affordable travel destination in Middle East (Part-1)

In 2025, Iran has emerged as the most affordable travel destination in the Middle East, driven by a dramatically devalued currency that gives international tourists unmatched spending power. With one US dollar equating to over 42,000 Iranian rials, the country offers significantly cheaper accommodations, food, transport, and cultural experiences compared with regional counterparts like Egypt, Turkey, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, and Yemen. While other nations in the region grapple with high travel costs, limited accessibility or luxury-driven economies, Iran delivers rich heritage, vibrant cities and authentic experiences at a fraction of the price—making it the top value choice for

cost-conscious travelers.

In 2025, Iran stands out as the most affordable travel destination in the Middle East, thanks to its highly favorable currency exchange rates. With one US dollar equal to 42,112.50 Iranian rials and one euro worth 47,011.05 rials, international tourists can enjoy significant purchasing power. This exchange rate advantage makes Iran a top pick for travellers looking to explore rich culture, stunning landscapes, and historic sites—without draining their wallets.

Whether wandering the vibrant bazaars of Isfahan, exploring the ancient ruins of Persepolis or strolling through Shiraz's poetic gardens, visitors consistently find that their money goes much further in

Iran than in neighboring countries.

WHY IRAN OFFERS EXCEPTIONAL VALUE: Affordable Accommodations: Travellers can stay in beautifully decorated boutique hotels or even five-star properties at the cost of mid-range rooms elsewhere.

DINING ON A BUDGET: Authentic Persian cuisine—like kebabs, saffron rice, and stews—costs only a few dollars per meal, even in tourist areas.

TRANSPORT AND ENTRY FEES:

Domestic travel by bus, train, or short-haul flights remains inexpensive and entrance fees to museums and cultural landmarks are a fraction of what one might pay in other regional capitals.

SOUVENIR SHOPPING:Iran's tradition-



Golestan Palace magnificent historical monument downtown; the UNESCO-registered

al crafts—hand-woven carpets, copperware, ceramics, and miniature paintings—are not only rich in heritage but also accessible in price due to the strong exchange rate.

Iran's affordability isn't its only draw. The country boasts 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites, diverse climates ranging from deserts to forests, and a legacy of hospitality deeply rooted in its culture. Despite ongoing geopolitical complexi-

ties, more adventurous travellers are returning, drawn by its reputation for safety, rich traditions and the opportunity to explore a lesser-visited yet deeply rewarding destination.

This growing wave of budget-conscious travel to Iran marks a clear shift in regional tourism dynamics—positioning Iran as the leading value destination in the Middle East in 2025.

(To be continued on next issue)

AURA GLOBAL SCHOOLS: A PARAGON OF EXCELLENCE

Aura Global Schools Perinthalmanna, Malappuram, Kerala, operating under the aegis of Aura Academic Institutions Private Limited lead by Mr K K Ashraf and an erudite board of directors from different walks of life, a venerable institution in the realm of education-- continues to epitomize the essence of academic excellence. With a plethora of innovative initiatives and commitment to nurturing young minds, the school has established itself as a bastion of quality education.



ing campus, replete with state-of-the-art infrastructure, provides a conducive environment for students to flourish and serves to be a haven for holistic development. The pedagogical approach is multifaceted, encompassing a range of

extracurricular activities that succor creativity, critical thinking and camaraderie among students. From sports and games, arts and crafts to artificial intelligence, the school's diverse offerings cater to varied interests and aptitudes of its students, says Mr V.S. Abdulkareem, its founder-director and CMD of Fly Creative.

In a distinguished academic feat, Aura Global Schools has attained a remarkable tour de force in the recent Grade 10 CBSE board examinations, with a spotless record of 100pc pass percentage. A galaxy of talent emerged, as some students showcased their mathematical virtuosi-



Well-qualified staff teach children

ty by achieving centum marks in Mathematics, while some others soared to dizzying heights, securing full A1 scores and ranking among the national level top performers. The top scorer garnered an impressive 98.2pc, exemplifying the school's pedagogical masterstroke. This stellar performance is a testament to the institution's pursuit of academic excellence and its ability to nurture nascent talent. As a paragon of educational institutions, Aura Global Schools sets a high standard for others to emulate, inspiring a new generation of scholars to strive for eminence, says Mr Abdulkareem.

The Principal Dr Sweetly S Pulikkottil expertly steers the school's faculty of unimpeachable character. The expert team comprising experienced and erudite national and international educators, is dedicated to providing personalised attention to students thereby propelling the institution toward unparalleled excellence. Their pedagogical prowess and persistent commitment to overall excellence have earned the school a reputation for producing well-rounded individuals who outstand in various fields.

Aura Global Schools, a nexus of academic rigor
(Cont. on page-7)

Police raid illegal overseas...

(Cont. from page-1) necessary authorisation. Strict action will be taken against all violators. Additional raids are planned in the region in the coming months," he said.

Madurai police have assured the Protector of Emigrants that they will continue to conduct regular raids and take strict action against il-

legal agents operating in the region. To report illegal recruitment, cyber slavery or to apply for a valid recruitment licence, contact the Office of the POE, Chennai at 9042149222, or email poe.chennai@mea.gov.in. For more information on licensed agents and official advisories, please visit: emigrate.gov.in, the statement said.

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Lakshadweep, an idyllic archipelago off India's south western coast in the Arabian Sea, is a haven of pristine beaches, coral reefs, and clear turquoise waters. As India's smallest Union Territory, it comprises 36 islands, including 12 atolls and 3 reefs, known for their unspoiled natural beauty and marine biodiversity. Settled off the Kerala coast on Laccadive sea, Lakshadweep translates to 'a hundred thousand islands'.

Agatti, Kavaratti, and Bangaram are popular islands, offering serene beaches and vibrant marine life, making them ideal for water sports like snorkeling, scuba diving, and kayaking. The underwater coral gardens and diverse aquatic species attract nature enthusiasts from around the world.

The islands are accessible from Kochi by air and sea, with eco-tourism being a focus to preserve their natural charm. Lakshadweep's tranquility, cultural richness, and mesmerizing landscapes make it a unique destination for peaceful getaways.

Lakshadweep

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Euro	94.81	96.81
Japanese Yen	58.59	59.5
Swiss Franc (CHF)	101.35	103.53
Canadian Dollar	60.6	61.97
Australian Dollar	54.38	55.55
Norwegian Krone	8.09	8.33
Swedish Krona	8.61	8.86
New Zealand Dollar	49.85	50.94
Hong Kong Dollar	10.73	11.06
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Telangana : Telangana is the link between the North and South of India.

Andhra Pradesh : Andhra Pradesh is famous for its rich cultural heritage, stunning temples, and picturesque landscapes

Karnataka : Karnataka is famous for temples, majestic architecture, and princely vibe.



GULF FAQs

Up to 10-year jail, termination for workers submitting fake documents

If an employee submits a forged educational certificate, it may be considered a criminal offence under Federal Law by Decree No. (31) of 2021, Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law.

Article 251 of the UAE Penal Law defines forgery of a document as any act that changes the authenticity of a document through specific methods, with the intent to use it as a valid document, resulting in harm. Forgery includes altering an existing document by adding, deleting or changing text, numbers, marks, or photographs. It also involves placing a forged or altered signature, seal or thumbprint on a document. Obtaining someone's signature or seal through fraud or without their knowledge of the document's content is also considered forgery. Additionally, creating a fake document and attributing it to someone else, filling out a blank signed or

sealed document without consent, impersonating another person in identity-related documents, or falsifying facts in documents intended to confirm truth all constitute forgery under this law.

Furthermore, anyone who forges an official document may be subject

ery of a non-official document shall be punished with incarceration."

Article 253 of the UAE Panel Law:" A penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years shall be imposed on whoever forges a copy of an official document and such copy has been used,



to a penalty of imprisonment and/or a fine. This is under Article 252 and Article 253 of the UAE Penal Law, which reads as below: Article 252 of the UAE Penal Law: "Forgery of an official document shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, and forg-

or uses a copy of an official document knowing of its forgery. The penalty shall be incarceration if such copy is of an unofficial document."

Additionally, anyone using a forged document may also be imprisoned and/or fined as mentioned in the aforesaid Article 252 and Article

253 of the UAE Penal Law. This is in accordance with Article 258 of the UAE Penal Law, which states: Whosoever knowingly uses a forged document shall be punished by the penalty prescribed for the crime of forgery as the case may be. Whosoever unlawfully uses or benefits from a genuine document or the copy thereof in the name of another person shall be punished by the same penalty, as the case may be."

In the UAE, submitting a fake degree certificate to obtain a job may also be considered fraud or misrepresentation, which may lead to termination under Article 44 (1) of the Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulations of the Employment Relations. This article reads as follows: The employer may dismiss the employee without notice after conducting a written investigation with him and the dismissal decision

shall be in writing and justified and the employer or its representative shall hand it over to the employee in any of the following cases: 1. It is proven that the employee impersonated another person, or submitted forged certificates or documents."

In accordance with the aforementioned, if it is confirmed that your employees have forged their educational certificates you as an employer may explore appropriate measures, which may include disciplinary action, potentially leading to termination of such employees without notice and, reporting the matter to the police. Additionally, you may register a complaint against the said employees with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MoHRE). It is recommended to consult a legal professional in the UAE to ensure any actions taken are compliant with the UAE Laws.

Fighting for labour dues

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

ministry?

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

the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry prior to filing of a court case. Article No. 6 of the Federal Labour Law No. 8 of 1980 and its amendment stipulates that disputes between workers and employers should first be heard by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' Labour Relations Department. If an amicable settlement is not reached, the said department must, within two weeks from the date of submitting the complaint, refer the dispute to the concerned court accompanied by a summary of the case, the arguments of the two parties and the observations of the department.



Can employer withhold my passport?



Has the employer the right to withhold my passport and deprive me from travelling on vacation?

Keeping the passport of the worker is not allowed whatever be the relationship between the two parties. The Dubai Cassation Court has

clearly stated that it is not permitted for the employer to keep the passport of the worker and to deprive him or her of the right of travelling and moving, whatever be the nature of relationship between the two parties. The Cassation Court has elaborated that withholding a passport is a practice which reveals the employer's intention to prevent the worker from travelling. Cases of banning a worker from travelling is governed by Article No. 329 of the Civil Procedures Law which also stipulates that it is necessary to obtain a court order with regard to ban travel.

Massive job opportunity ahead for Indian workforce

NEW DELHI: A massive opportunity lies ahead for the Indian workforce as high-income countries are projected to face a labour shortage of 45 to 50 million by 2030.

As many as 20 countries would require 90pc of this workforce. “The US would have the highest demand with a requirement of 11 to 12 million workers, while the UK follows it with

a demand for five to six million workers,” experts here said at a function.

In a presentation made during the launch of the GATI Foundation in New Delhi, experts said that

Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, South Korea, Germany, Russia, Japan, Canada and the Netherlands would also require millions of workers five years from now. An ageing population is expected to compel traditionally closed economies such as Japan, South Korea, Germany and nations across Western Europe to open up.

Among the numerous measures suggested to capitalise on this scenario was the creation of an

institutional framework in the host countries by leveraging Indian embassies and the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) cadre. A promotion unit must promote “Talent India” through one-on-one meetings, roadshows and information dissemination, experts said.

They pointed out that the migration agreement between Germany and Kerala helped 528 nurses from Kerala secure placements across 12 states in Germany in 2024.

AURA GLOBAL SCHOOLS...

(Cont. from page-2) and innovation, is characterized by a judicious blend of proven teaching methods and innovative approaches. The school’s emphasis on value education, community service and leadership opportunities ensure that students develop into empathetic and socially aware global leaders.

Aura’s administration acts as a strong citadel, ensuring the safety and security of its students with a robust infrastructure that includes CCTV cameras, security personnel and implementing a systematic process for documenting student pick-up and drop-off, guaranteeing accurate tracking and enhanced safeguarding.

Specially designed menu prioritizes the student health and well being by providing balanced meals through its school meal programme. The school’s cafeteria

serves nutritious breakfast, lunch and evening snacks carefully crafted to cater to the diverse dietary need of the students.

Notable achievements in sports like badminton, fencing, football, skating, archery, boxing and athletics and showcased artistic talents in the Arts Fest through performing arts and cultural exchange programmes demonstrate the school’s commitment to fostering well-rounded individuals.

Hands-on culinary training equips students with the art of cooking, baking and the kitchen etiquette. Expert instruction in Western dance, aerobics, instrumental and vocal music empowers students to develop their technical skills, creativity and stage presence.

The school cultivates a culture of open communication between par-

ents and teachers. This synergy ensures comprehensive support and guidance enabling the holistic development of the students.

Under the wings of Aura group yet another institution stands as an abode of knowledge and holistic development at Kodungalloor, Thrissur, Kerala, Aura Edify Global School. The team headed by Ms. Sumeetha strives to bring excellence in academics and co-curricular activities.

Both the institutions with a strong vision to nurture young minds are the perfect choices for any parent to enroll their bundles of joy.

Through nurturing leaders and innovators by empowering young minds to be the global citizens for shaping a better tomorrow, Aura Global Schools stands as a testament to the power of quality education, observes Mr Abdulkareem.

Crackdown on illegal...

(Cont. on page-1)

ducted for overseas job placements. Two separate cases of illegal recruitment came to light in the city.

Shukla said action was taken in close co-ordination with the Mangaluru City Police as part of their ongoing efforts to ensure safe and legal migration for Indian citizens within their jurisdiction. Upon receiving information that a recruitment drive was about to take place in Bendoorwell, Shukla immediately travelled to Mangaluru.

By the time he reached, the planned interviews

were postponed. However, the investigation revealed that the agency in question, identified as Z-Zone Consultancy, was operating without the mandatory licence required under the Emigration Act, 1983. A police case was already registered against Z-Zone Consultancy. The POE confirmed that this agency was attempting to recruit individuals for jobs overseas without valid authorisation from the ministry of external affairs. Another agency operating out of Pumpwell, which was active on social media platforms for the past six months.

US tax on remittances setback for NRIs

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives has introduced a new legislative proposal to impose a five per cent tax on remittances sent abroad by non-US citizens.

According to RBI, remittances from the US in India’s total inward remittances remained the largest at 27.7pc in 2023-24, up from 23.4pc in 2020-21. This reflects a steady recovery in the US job market.

It said that in the US labour force, the percentage rise in foreign-born workers stood at 6.3pc in 2022 from 0.7pc in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. However, in

the case of native-born workers, the share largely remained unchanged at one per cent. About 78pc of Indian migrants in the US are employed in high earning sectors such as management, business and sciences. According to RBI, India’s remittances have more than doubled from \$55.6 billion in 2010-11 to \$118.7 billion in 2023-24, which means about \$33 billion were from the US. If the bill is enacted, India might need to forgo \$1.65 billion in remittances. Over 54 lakh Indians are living in the US, of which more than 33 lakh are in the Persons of Indian

Origin (PIO) category.

This measure is poised to significantly impact the Indian diaspora, particularly those on H-1B visas and green card holders, who collectively remit about \$33 billion annually to India. If enacted, the Indian community in the US could face an additional financial burden of around \$1.6 billion each year.

The remittance tax would apply to all non-citizens, including individuals on H-1B and L-1 visas, as well as green card holders. The bill specifies that a five per cent tax will be levied on any money transferred out of the US by non-citi-

zens, with no exemption threshold, meaning even small transfers would be subject to the tax. The tax would be withheld by the remittance transfer provider at the time of the transaction.

India is currently the world’s top recipient of remittances, with around \$83 billion sent annually from abroad, much of it from the US. The proposed tax could have profound financial implications for NRIs, affecting everyday family support, property purchases, educational expenses and more. Until now, remittances were not subject to US taxation, making this a significant policy

shift.

The bill is part of a broader tax package that aims to make the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent, increase the standard deduction, and extend the child tax credit through 2028. While US citizens could apply for credits to offset the cost, the remittance tax would hit immigrant households hardest.

Online, many have expressed outrage over the proposal, with some calling it a “new form of stealing.” The sentiment reflects a broader concern among immigrant communities about being unfairly targeted by fiscal policies.