



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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**KOCHI:** Oman Air celebrated a significant milestone marking 25 years of successful operations in Kochi coinciding with the festive spirit of Onam. The celebrations brought together leading travel industry partners, trade associates and stakeholders, reaffirming the strong relationship and enduring partnership that have contributed to the airline's successful journey in the region.

The event highlighted Oman Air's continued commitment to the Kerala market and its vision for strengthening connectivity, customer experience and long-term collaboration with the travel trade. Addressing the gather-

## Oman Air celebrates 25 years of successful operations in Kochi



ing, Ahmed Al-Mahrouqi, ISC, shared the airline's vision and future outlook, while expressing appreciation to the industry partners and stakeholders for their continued trust, support and contribution to Oman Air's growth over the years.

As part of the celebrations, Oman Air recognised and felicitated its best-performing trade partners, presenting mementos in appreciation of their outstanding contribution and continued as-

( Cont. on page - 2 )

ation to the industry partners and stakeholders for their continued trust, support and contribution to Oman Air's growth over the years.

**OMAN AIR OFFERS 25PC DISCOUNT**  
Oman Air is offering guests travelling from India the opportunity to explore selected destinations across its network with up to 25pc off Business Class and up to 10pc off Economy Class fares. The sale runs until August 28 and can be availed on the Oman Air website and mobile app. Meanwhile, India remains a key part of Oman Air's 49-destination global network with its Muscat-Mumbai route having marked 30 years in 2025.

## TAAI KERALA CHAPTER CONCLAVE CELEBRATES ITS 75 YEARS

### Kerala CM calls for global promotion of state as a premier tourism destination

**KOCHI:** The Kerala Chapter Conclave of the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Kerala VD Satheesan, coinciding with the cele-

brations marking 75 years of TAAI's contribution to India's travel and tourism industry.

Addressing the gathering, the CM highlighted Kerala's immense potential

to attract travellers from across the world, describing the state as a destination blessed with a unique combination of natural beauty, high-range mountains, serene backwaters, Ayurveda, world-class hospitality and healthcare facilities.

He emphasised that Kerala's extensive connectivity, supported by multiple international airports and seaports, provides a strong foundation to further expand international tourism

( Cont. on page - 2 )



The Kerala Chapter Conclave of the TAAI was inaugurated by Kerala CM VD Satheesan



## Singapore Airlines strengthens association with travel partners

**KOCHI:** Singapore Airlines hosted a special partner meet and dinner in Kochi, bringing together its General Manager Aswin K and Manager Southern India Darryl Chua and Meera Sasikumar, Sales Manager-Kerala and San-

thosh Nadarajan, Accounts Manager (Agency Sales) with the airline's leading active travel agents from the region. The gathering provided an excellent platform to interact, exchange insights and further ( Cont. on page - 2 )

## Thousands of emigrants stranded as randomised emigration clearance system derails process: IPEPCIL seeks immediate rollback

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL), representing the overseas recruitment fraternity, has expressed serious concern over the disruption in the Emigration Clearance (EC) process following the recently introduced sys-

tem-based randomised distribution of EC applications among Protector of Emigrants (POE) offices.

IPEPCIL said the new mechanism has resulted in repeated rejections, prolonged processing delays and uncertainty, leaving thousands of emigrants

seeking employment in GCC and other ECR coun-



tries stranded, with many facing the risk of their employment visas expiring before the required emigration clearance is obtained.

According to IPEPCIL, the EC system was functioning in a relatively smooth and predictable manner under the earlier POE jurisdic-

tion-based system, where applications were processed by the concerned POE office based on jurisdiction. Subsequently, the introduction of the Centralised Processing Centre (CPC) brought some additional processing de-

( Cont. on page - 6 )

one

35 years of reforms

The best thing to happen in our lifetime is the economic reforms started by the then Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, 35 years back. Fresh from retirement as the governor of Reserve Bank of India, Dr Singh boldly took over charge as the finance minister, the selection made by the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. The economic condition of India was pathetic at that time (foreign exchange just enough for 21 days' imports), to say the least. In a later TV interview, Dr Singh said he was called by Rao who said: "Manmohan, I know that the economy is in a terribly bad condition. I have great faith in you and you will be my finance minister. Do whatever you think right -- nobody will interfere in your work". This assurance made Dr Singh to take historic decisions. "Liberalisation" was his key word. The economy was strangled by government controls and bureaucratic red-tapism. Corruption was the rule of the day. Then he unleashed a series of economic measures. A section of the industry, opposed his measures as they will not be able to sell their substandard products in a liberalised economy. But the PM stood behind Dr Singh like a rock. One of his boldest decisions was the devaluation of the rupee --- three times in a single day. This provided higher income to exporters, who until now were not interested in exports as the reward was much less. All export restrictions were removed and the slogan in the market at that time was "Exporter is the king". No wonder, foreign exchange started flooding the Indian economy. Software Technology Parks, easier access to imported technology and export incentives helped the industry expand beyond the domestic market.

The abolition of licensing Raj and relaxation of foreign investment rules attracted global manufacturers to India. Today, Indian automobile industry is the third largest in the world. We produce 30 million vehicles per year. All world class brands are available in India now. And what's more, Indian cars are exported. India is now the world's largest three-wheeler manufacturer. Tata Motors, M & M, Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, TVS Motors etc are the gems of our economy.

According to the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), the IT and business process management industry generated nearly \$300 billion in revenue in FY25, including exports of more than \$230 billion. India accounts for about 17.6pc of the global outsourcing market and has more than 5.4 million software engineers.

India's telecom industry was state-controlled till the early 1990s, with limited landline access and no mobile market. The National Telecom Policy of 1994 opened up the industry to private operators, while spectrum auctions and successive generations of mobile technology expanded coverage. There was a time when one had to wait 10 to 15 years to get a landline phone connection. India now has more than 1.33 billion telephone subscribers and over one billion internet users. Pharma sector is doing very well. India today has nearly 160 airports. The modernised rail expansion is there all to see.

On the farm front, we are exporting food grains and India is the largest producer of milk. India's real GDP grew by 7.7pc for the 2025-26 financial year, one of the highest in the world. The list can go on and on.

LIPSYNCH

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

— Albert Einstein

Oman Air celebrates 25 years of successful...

( Cont. from page - 1 )

sociation with the airline.

Adding a distinctly Kerala flavour to the occasion, the celebrations were infused with the traditional spirit of Onam. Guests attended in elegant ethnic attire, creating a warm and vibrant ambience, while a traditional Ona Sadhya brought everyone together in the true spirit of Kerala's culture, hospitality and togetherness.

The 25-year milestone was not merely a celebration of the past, but also a reaffirmation of the part-



nership between Oman Air and the travel trade fraternity in Kerala—built on trust, collaboration and shared growth. The gathering concluded on a positive note, with a shared commitment to further

strengthen the partnership and work together towards a successful and sustainable future.

Twenty-five years of connectivity, collaboration and trust—and many more successful years ahead.

Govt to finalise airfare pricing soon

NEW DELHI:

The government announced it is expediting the framing of regulations safeguarding passengers against arbitrary airfare increases. The Supreme Court (SC), meanwhile, advised the government to ground airlines that are not complying with its directives.

The SC last month directed the national government to place the rules framed under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, following a petition seeking stronger regulation of India's civil aviation in the face of arbitrary increases in airfares and ex-

cess baggage charges imposed on passengers.

The Centre, meanwhile, assured the Supreme Court that, until the rules are finalised, the Ministry of Civil Aviation will con-

( Cont. on page - 6 )

Singapore Airlines strengthens...

( Cont. from page - 1 )

strengthen the long-standing relationship between Singapore Airlines and its valued trade partners. The discussions highlighted the importance of continued collaboration, mutual support and exploring new opportunities for sustainable growth.

The airline team expressed appreciation to its top-performing agents for their continued trust,

commitment and contribution to Singapore Airlines and SILK Air success in the South Indian market, while reaffirming its commitment to providing continued support to the travel trade fraternity going forward.

The evening concluded on a warm and positive note, reinforcing the strong partnership and shared vision for continued growth and success.

Kerala CM calls for global promotion of state...

( Cont. from page - 1 )

and position the state as a leading global destination.

Satheesan welcomed the initiatives of TAAI in promoting Kerala and assured the Association the state government's support and co-operation in strengthening tourism-related initiatives. He also extended an invitation to TAAI to consider hosting its Annual Convention in Kerala, offering the government's support to facilitate the event.

The conclave, held against the backdrop of TAAI's 75-year milestone, brought together leading travel professionals, tourism stakeholders and in-

dustry representatives to deliberate on opportunities for Kerala's tourism growth, strengthening industry collaboration and creating new avenues for domestic and international visitor arrivals.

The occasion also underscored the important role of travel agents and tourism professionals as catalysts in connecting destinations with the global travel market.

The collective vision emerging from the conclave was to further strengthen the partnership between the government and the travel trade fraternity to promote Kerala through innovative, sus-

tainable and globally competitive tourism initiatives.

With TAAI completing 75 years of service to the Indian travel industry, the Kerala Chapter Conclave served as a significant platform to celebrate the Association's legacy while looking ahead towards a new era of collaboration, connectivity and sustainable tourism growth.

Kerala's natural assets, strong infrastructure and diverse tourism offerings, combined with the expertise and global network of the travel trade, can provide a powerful platform to position Kerala even more prominently on the world tourism map.

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| British Pound       | 128.78   | 130.63    |
| Euro                | 109.89   | 112.19    |
| Japanese Yen        | 59.7     | 60.63     |
| Swiss Franc (CHF)   | 116.74   | 119.3     |
| Canadian Dollar     | 68.26    | 69.79     |
| Australian Dollar   | 67.09    | 68.58     |
| Norwegian Krone     | 10       | 10.3      |
| Swedish Krona       | 9.88     | 10.16     |
| New Zealand Dollar  | 55.57    | 56.81     |
| Hong Kong Dollar    | 11.98    | 12.34     |
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## SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES LAUNCHES DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN MUMBAI AND COPENHAGEN

**MUMBAI:** Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) announced the launch of its much-awaited return to India with direct, non-stop flights between Mumbai and Copenhagen. Operating five times weekly from Oct 1, 2026, the route restores SAS' presence in India after 17 years, expanding its intercontinental network and opening access to one of the

The launch of this route comes at a strategically significant moment, capturing both India's immense growth potential and Mumbai's position as a global financial hub. This connection unlocks dynamic opportunities for travel, business and cultural exchange between Northern Europe and India's vibrant financial cap-

ital.

The new service also strengthens Copenhagen Airport's role as a major international gateway, offering smooth

connections to key SAS destinations in Europe and long-haul destinations in North America.

As one of the world's most punctual airlines, regularly recognised for global operational excellence, SAS will offer travellers between Scandinavia and India superior reliability, world-class service and seamless connectivity

across its global network.

The service will be operated using an Airbus A330 featuring a modern three-class configuration:

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# GULF FAQs

## Lost your job? How UAE borrowers can renegotiate loan repayments?

**If I lose my job, what options do I have to negotiate the repayment terms of my outstanding loans with UAE banks? Can payments be deferred?**

Pursuant to the queries raised, the provisions of the consumer protection regulation issued by Central Bank of the UAE are applicable.

In the UAE, lenders are required to support borrowers facing financial difficulties by offering qualified credit counselling, encouraging open discussions about debt concerns and giving fair consideration to alternative repayment options such as rescheduling or restructuring.

This ensures that borrowers are treated fairly and have a chance to manage their obligations in a sustainable way. This is in accordance with Article 5.2.4.1 of Consumer Protection Standards, issued under Circular No. 8/2020 by the Central Bank of the UAE (the "Consumer Protection Regulation").

"Licensed financial in-

stitutions must provide borrowers with qualified credit counselling services on debt problems and encourage borrowers to feel confident about approaching the licensed financial institutions and openly discussing their financial concerns."

"When approached by a borrower, the licensed financial institution must give reasonable consideration to alternative arrangements that could enable borrowers to overcome their repayment/payment difficulties." If a lender and a borrower agree on a new repayment plan, the lender must, within 10 business days, give the borrower a written document explaining the new terms. This must include a detailed payment schedule, showing how each payment will go towards interest/profit and the outstanding balance. The lender must also inform the borrower that details of any arrears (missed or late payments) will be reported to the credit bureau. This is in accordance with Article 5.2.4.4 of the

Consumer Protection Regulation.

"Where licensed financial institutions reach an agreement on a revised repayment/payment arrangement with a borrower, the licensed financial institution must, within 10 complete business days,



provide the borrower in writing with a clear disclosure and explanation of the revised repayment/payment arrangement. The licensed financial institution will provide the borrower with a copy of a detailed and revised payment

schedule and a breakdown of how payments will be allocated to interest/profit and the outstanding balance owing. The licensed financial institution must disclose to the borrower that reporting relating to the borrower's arrears must be shared with the



or restructuring an existing one. This is in accordance with Article 7.1.4.8 of the Consumer Protection Regulation.

"Licensed financial institutions must conduct a comprehensive due diligence on the borrower's overall indebtedness by obtaining information on the borrower's outstanding debt obligations, including both secured and unsecured financing. Verification with the Credit Information Agency must also be completed." In accordance with the aforementioned provision of the law, you may approach your bank(s) to request a consolidation of loans or restructuring of loans. However, the approval may depend on your eligibility and the bank's assessment of affordability, including compliance with the Debt Burden Ratio (DBR) provided by the Central Bank of the UAE. However, the regulatory framework ensures that banks should provide you with fair and transparent options.

## When can a ship be impounded?

**I have a loan against one person who owns a ship. Do I have the right to attach the ship in order to guarantee**

**my money? What are the procedures of such attachment?**

You can attach the ship only in case your debt is considered as maritime debt, according to Article 53 of the Federal Decree Law No 43 Of 2023 concerning the Maritime Law which exclusively defines the maritime debts and stipulates that "Prejudgment attachment shall be created on the ship in satisfaction of a maritime debt only, by a decision of the competent court".

The procedures for such attachment are:

\* You should submit the application to the competent court.

\*You should submit a financial guarantee with the attachment to fulfil the necessary needs for the security and safety of the

ship and its crew during the period of attachment.

\*The competent court should accept the financial guarantee submitted by the attachment application.

\*The attachment of the ship shall result in preventing the same from sailing.

A copy of the prejudgment attachment report shall be delivered by the enforcement officer to the ship agent or to the captain of the ship or his representative. The prejudgment attachment applicant shall file a case for the validity of the attachment before the competent court in whose jurisdiction the attachment is executed, not later than five working days from the date of the attachment. Otherwise, the prejudgment attachment shall be considered null and void.

## Do UAE labour laws limit working hours for maritime ship crew?

**I am a crew of maritime ship. I work usually more than 48 hours per week and the company is confirming that my work type is exempted from the provisions relating to the maximum limit of working hours. Is it true?**

It's true that your work as a crew of maritime ship is exempted from the provisions relating to the maximum limit of working hours, according to Article 15 of the Cabinet Resolution No. (1) Of 2022 Concerning the Executive Regulations of Federal Decree-Law No. (33) Of 2021 Regulating Labor Relations, (The following categories shall be exempted from the provisions relating to the maximum limit of working hours:

a. Chairmen and members of board of directors.

b. Persons occupying supervisory positions if the occupants of such positions enjoy the capacities of an employer.

c. Workers comprising the crew of maritime ships and workers employed at sea and enjoy special service conditions due to the nature of their work.

d. Activities whose technical nature require its performance in successive shifts or rounds provided that the average of working hours does not exceed 56 hours per week.

e. Preparatory or supplementary activities which are required to be performed outside the general time zones determined for work at the establishment.

# Thousands of emigrants stranded as randomised emigration clearance system derails process: IPEPCIL seeks immediate rollback

( Cont. from page - 1 )

lays, but the system continued to function. The latest move towards randomised distribution has, however, further complicated the process and created significant operational difficulties for emigrants, overseas employers and registered recruitment agencies.

**"Reforms should facilitate mobility, not create barriers":**

IPEPCIL emphasised that reforms and technology-driven processes should ultimately make overseas employment faster, transparent, accountable and accessible, rather than creating additional layers of uncertainty for genuine emigrants.

The Council pointed out that the earlier jurisdiction-based mechanism had provided a clear chain of responsibility and accountability, enabling recruitment agencies and emigrants to follow up with the concerned POE office and resolve procedural issues within a reasonable timeframe.

The randomized allocation system, IPEPCIL said, has made the process more complicated, particularly when applications are returned for clarification, rejected on procedural grounds or require

repeated submissions and follow-up with an office that is geographically distant from the applicant or recruitment agency.

**Thousands of emigrants facing uncertainty :**

The prolonged processing of EC applications is having a direct impact on emigrants who have already secured employment and obtained valid employment visas.

IPEPCIL said that when an emigrant is compelled to wait indefinitely for clearance, the consequences can include visa expiry, loss of employment opportunities, additional financial burden and uncertainty for families dependent on overseas employment income.

The Council cautioned that continued delays could also adversely affect India's competitiveness in the international manpower market. Overseas employers require certainty and timely deployment of workers. If Indian recruitment agencies are unable to mobilize workers within committed timelines because of procedural delays, employers may increasingly look towards other manpower-supplying countries.

This could eventually result in the diversion of over-

seas manpower demand from India to competing labour-sending countries, adversely affecting employment opportunities for Indian workers as well as the country's foreign-exchange earnings.

Impact on Overseas Recruitment Agencies :IPEPCIL also highlighted that registered Overseas Recruitment Agencies are facing difficulties in obtaining registration certificate (RC) renewals, branch approvals, endorsements and other regulatory clearances, with several matters remaining pending for extended periods.

The Council said that such delays are creating uncertainty not only for recruitment agencies but also for overseas employers who depend on authorised Indian agencies for timely manpower mobilization.

IPEPCIL urged the Ministry of External Affairs – Overseas Employment (MEA-OE) and the concerned authorities to undertake an immediate review of the present EC and regulatory processing mechanism, identify the operational bottlenecks and restore a system that ensures predictable timelines, accountability and ease of processing.

**IPEPCIL demands restoration of POE jurisdiction-based EC processing:**

IPEPCIL has called upon MEA-OE to roll back the newly introduced randomised allocation of EC applications and reinstate the earlier POE jurisdiction-based system, at least until a more efficient and stakeholder-friendly mechanism is established and tested.

The Council said the objective should be to create a system where genuine emigrants holding valid employment visas can obtain clearance in a time-bound, transparent and accountable manner, without being subjected to repeated procedural hurdles. IPEPCIL further urged the authorities to engage with the overseas recruitment fraternity and other stakeholders before introducing major changes in the EC and overseas employment regulatory framework.

"Protect emigrants and India's manpower-export interests":IPEPCIL stressed that overseas employment is an important contributor to India's economy, supporting millions of families and generating substantial foreign-exchange inflows through remittances.

"The EC system should

be an enabler of safe, legal and orderly migration, not a bottleneck. Every day of avoidable delay can mean a lost employment opportunity for an Indian worker and a lost manpower opportunity for an overseas employer. If the present situation continues, India risks losing manpower demand to competing labour-sending countries."

IPEPCIL therefore appealed to the MEA-OE, Protector General of Emigrants and the concerned authorities to urgently intervene, review the implementation of the randomized EC allocation system, clear the pending applications and regulatory matters, and restore a smooth, transparent and predictable process. The Council reiterated its commitment to working with the Government to strengthen safe, legal, ethical and orderly overseas employment, while ensuring that regulatory reforms protect the interests of emigrants, maintain the confidence of overseas employers and safeguard India's position as a preferred source of skilled and reliable manpower., says V.S. Abdulkareem, President, Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL).

## Onam celebrations start in UAE



### Onam Thiruvathira dance at a mall in Dubai

**DUBAI:** The 10-day Onam celebrations are under way across the UAE, with Indian expats from Kerala gearing up for a festival that

Traditionally, the core Onam countdown spans 10 days, beginning with Atham star and ending with Thiruvonam star, the festival's main day.

Onam is Kerala's major harvest festival and is tied to the legendary homecoming of mythical King Mahabali. The festival is celebrated through floral decorations known as Pookkalams, the elaborate vegetarian sadhya, cultural performances, traditional games and gatherings with family and friends.

## Govt to finalise airfare...

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tinue to issue memorandums to airlines on pricing

The SC has been reviewing in recent months airline pricing. During a hearing on May 15, the SC said that airfares needed to be rationalised to provide relief to passengers against sharp increases during festivals.

The court described such steep fare hikes as "exploitation" and sought responses from the Centre and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. The government submitted draft rules on air fares, surge pricing before the

Supreme Court in a sealed cover, saying the rules will be finalised within three weeks.

The draft framework covers airline fares, surge pricing and excess baggage charges. According to reports, the petition filed by S Laxminarayanan seeks "binding rules on airfare pricing and measures addressing surge pricing, baggage charges, cancellation and refund norms."

During the July hearing, the petitioners argued existing regulatory framework was not being adequately enforced.

# GLIMPSES: OMAN AIR CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

