



# OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

## PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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# India-Turkiye tourism ties to strengthen cultural interaction, revive bilateral engagements

**ISTANBUL:** In a significant step towards strengthening tourism collaboration between India and Turkey, a great initiative “India Days in Türkiye” was organised by the Turkish tour operators, hospitality industries together with the representation from Indian tour operators in collaboration with Indian missions in Türkiye.

The idea is to promote “Incredible India” and strengthen tourism ties between the two great nations.

The event brought together distinguished dignitaries of tourism and hospitality sector, Indian diplomats in Türkiye and the stakeholders of tourism and media, united in the visions to revive and enhance mutual tourism promotion and cultural exchanges.

The event converted into a meaningful platform to reaffirm friendship, foster collaboration and explore avenues for sustainable tourism growth.

Subsequently, Indian mission participation showcased India in the Antalya tourism fair witnessing a renewed commitment to strengthen and revive tourism co-operation between the two countries.

The event including “In- (Cont. on page - 2)



Ambassador of India to Turkey His Excellency Muktesh K Pareshi, (centre) Murtuza Kalandar of Travelshop (right), and FlyCretive Online Ltd, VS Abdulkareem at Antalia Tourism event Indian mission’s stall.



**Left:** India’s Ambassador to Turkey His Excellency Muktesh K Pardeshi lighting the traditional lamp marking the inauguration of the India Days in Türkiye. **Right:** Third from left Ambassador His Excellency Muktesh K Pardeshi, next to him His Excellency India’s Consul-General in Istanbul Mijito Vinito, Murtaza Kalandar, CMD of Travelshop Turkey, FlyCreative Online Limited, VS Abdulkareem (second from left) and other dignitaries from tourism and hospitality industries.

Glimpses on page-7

## Growth in labour market, Indians largest workforce in Kuwait

**KUWAIT CITY:** The latest labour market trends in Kuwait show that the total number of workers, excluding domestic workers, reached 2.23 million by the end of June 2025.

Among all expats, Indians constituted 25.9pc of the total workforce with 5,78,240 workers, an increase of 4,375 compared with the end of 2024. Egyptians ranked second with 4,69,370 workers, while Kuwaiti citizens came third with 448,900 workers.

According to a report by the Kuwait labour ministry, the workforce grew by 15,550 workers during the first-half of 2025. The number of expatriate workers increased by 16,227, while

the number of Kuwaiti citizens in the labour market dropped by 669. The report said that 73.1pc of Kuwaiti workers are employed in the government sector, totalling 327,967 citizens. It marked a decrease 5,112 compared with the end of 2024.

The oil sector employed 19,885 citizens, which is 4.4pc while 45,860 citizens, or 10.2pc worked in the private sector.

The average monthly salary for Kuwaiti citizens ranged from KD 1,571 – KD 1,865 for males and KD 1,356 for females. Government employees earned an average of KD 1,605 per month, while those in the private sector earned KD 1,401.

### ANTALYA:

Abdulkareem, FlyCreative Online Limited, met key global leaders of Skal International at the Antalya Tourism Fair, Türkiye. He engaged in meaningful discussions with: Denise Scrafton, World President, Skal International Andres Hayes, President Elect, Skal International N.S.N. Mohan, Vice President 2026 & President Elect 2027, Skal International Sali Cene, Past President (2015), Skal International & Hulya Aslantas, Past President, Skal International – 2009 Jose Luis Quintero, Director



2025 for sustainability. The meeting also included members of the Skal International Antalya team, showcasing strong international collaboration in the travel and tourism industry. This significant interaction marks a proud moment for India, with both the Indian national flag and the Skal flag flying high on the global tourism stage.

Mr. Kareem is scheduled to meet Muktesh K. Pardeshi, the Hon’ble Ambassador of India to Türkiye, further strengthening Indo-Turkish ties in the tourism sector during this prestigious international event.



## Unstoppable Bharat

One recalls the old saying: "What's good for General Motors, is good for America". The American growth story was led by the automobile industry --- the same thing is happening in India now. Indian automobile industry is thriving. Market observers say that the retail total of the entire passenger vehicle industry between the implementation of the new GST rates on Sept 22, 2025 and this Diwali could be anywhere between 6.5 lakh and seven lakh units. It's not a small achievement. Thanks to the government's progressive policy, world class vehicles are now manufactured in India. In fact, some models are launched in India much before they are available in their country of origin.

Between Sept 22 and Oct 18, Maruti Suzuki, the country's largest car maker, retailed 3.5 lakh units, making it an average of nearly 13,500 units a day. Bookings, however, crossed 4.5 lakh units. Tata Motors, one of India's most trusted and among top four carmakers, has revealed that it achieved a landmark milestone with over one lakh vehicle deliveries during the period, reflecting a growth of 33pc from the year-ago period. Its EV portfolio too has shown strong traction, with over 10,000 EVs retailed during this period, marking a 37pc growth. Hyundai said it retailed an average of 2,500 cars every day and accepted 3,500 bookings daily since Sept 22. This brings the total number of cars delivered to 75,000 units. On the first day of Navratri, the company clocked dealer billings of over 11,000, making it the highest in five years. On Dhanteras, it recorded 14,000 deliveries, a rise of 20pc year-on-year. Mahindra, Kia and Toyota, which make up the top six passenger vehicle makers in India, controlling more than 90pc of the total domestic market, are estimated to have generated one lakh to 1.5 lakh units in retail sales.

*Editorial*  
By El. Vaidyanathan

According to published reports, the total Diwali sales this year touched a record Rs 6.05-lakh-crore, comprising Rs 5.40-lakh-crore in goods and Rs 65,000 crore in services, marking the highest-ever festive business in India's trading history.

It seems that Prime Minister Modi's call for "Vocal for Local" and "Swadeshi Diwali" resonated deeply with the public -- 87pc of consumers preferred Indian-made goods over imported products, resulting in a sharp decline in demand for Chinese items. Traders reported a 25pc surge in sales of Indian-manufactured products compared with last year. Mainline retail -- particularly non-corporate and traditional markets -- contributed 85pc of total trade, underscoring a powerful comeback of India's physical markets and small traders. During the festive season, the sector-wise distribution of sales shows grocery and fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) leading with 12pc, followed by gold and jewellery at 10pc, electronics and electricals at eight per cent. Consumer durables and ready-made garments each touched seven per cent and gift items at seven per cent.

Alongside retail trade, services such as packaging, hospitality, cab services, travel, event management, tent and decoration, manpower and delivery generated an estimated Rs 65,000 crore, reflecting the ripple effect of the festive economy across multiple sectors.

No doubt, the purchasing power of Indians are increasing. Higher earnings and less tax have left behind more surplus cash with Indians, particularly the middle class, the backbone of the Modi government.

### LIPSYNCH

"When it rains gold, put out the bucket,  
not the thimble" ----- Warren Buffett

## Antalya Tourism Fair, Türkiye

Skal National Club  
Vice President  
Mr Mohan with  
Abdulkarim,  
FlyCreative Online  
Limited



## UDAN will continue connectivity scheme beyond April 2027

**NEW DELHI:** The government has said the regional air connectivity scheme UDAN, which has helped operationalise 649 routes connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports in nine years, will be continued beyond April 2027.

UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) was launched on Oct 21, 2016, and the first flight was operated between Shimla and Delhi on April 27, 2017. "Under

the scheme, 649 routes have been operationalised connecting 93 unserved and underserved airports, including 15 heliports and two water aerodromes, facilitating over 1.56 crore passengers through 3.23 lakh UDAN flights," the civil aviation ministry said in a release.

More than Rs 4,300 crore has been disbursed to airlines as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and Rs 4,638 crore has been in-

vested for airport development under the regional air connectivity scheme.

Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha has reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to continue the scheme beyond April 2027 through an expanded UDAN Framework focusing on connectivity with hilly, North Eastern and aspirational regions, and the development of around 120 new destinations.

## India-Turkiye tourism ties...

(Cont. from page - 1)  
dia Days in Turkiye" and the Antalya tourism fair, in which Indian mission showcased India's diverse tourism offerings and cul-

said the Ambassador of India in Turkey His Excellency Muktesh K Pardeshi during his presentation and address at the event.

Tourism serves as a vi-

sion, the representatives from both the sides underlined that, tourism acts as a bridge of friendship and understanding between nations, facilitating



tural heritage, drawing strong participation from local tour and hospitality sectors, dignitaries and media representatives.

These initiatives highlight the shared aspirations to build new bridges of understanding and restore the historical warmth and goodwill that have long characterised India-Turkiye relations,

tal bridge, connecting societies, fostering dialogue and strengthening mutual respect.

The renewed engagement aims to translate this philosophy into action-through enhanced marketing collaboration, knowledge sharing and co-ordinated promotional activities.

Speaking on the occa-

dialogues, appreciation and co-operation beyond borders to explore the revival and sustainable growth with a mutual trust between the peoples of India and Turkey, said VSAbdulkareem, CMD, Flycreative Online Ltd who represented the event from India

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| As on 23rd October 2025 (In rupees) |          |           |
| Currency                            | Bill/Buy | Bill/Sell |
| US Dollar                           | 87.31    | 88.46     |
| British Pound                       | 116.38   | 118.05    |
| Euro                                | 100.9    | 103.04    |
| Japanese Yen                        | 57.26    | 58.18     |
| Swiss Franc (CHF)                   | 109.05   | 111.43    |
| Canadian Dollar                     | 62.08    | 63.49     |
| Australian Dollar                   | 56.42    | 57.66     |
| Norwegian Krone                     | 8.61     | 8.86      |
| Swedish Krona                       | 9.16     | 9.43      |
| New Zealand Dollar                  | 49.74    | 50.86     |
| Hong Kong Dollar                    | 11.09    | 11.43     |
| Kuwaiti Dinar                       | 293.17   | 283.82    |
| Singapore Dollar                    | 66.88    | 68.4      |
| Saudi Arabian Riyal                 | 22.98    | 23.71     |
| U A E Dirham                        | 23.52    | 24.2      |

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**Day 6** Departure

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# GULF FAQs

## Ex-husband insults woman; what are penalties for defamation?

**I am a divorced mother living in the UAE. My ex-husband has begun contacting my son (from another marriage) and speaking negatively about me to him. What legal options do I have to address this situation?**

In the UAE, any person who makes false, insulting or defamatory statements about another may be held legally accountable and the applicable provisions depend on the medium through which such defamatory statements are made.

Any defamatory statements made may fall under Article 425 of the Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021 Promulgating the Crimes and Penalties Law which states that anyone who attributes to another person an incident that exposes them to punishment or public contempt shall be punished with, "a penalty of incarceration for a period not exceeding two

years or a fine not exceeding Dh20,000".

Article 426 of the UAE Penal Code provides that anyone who insults another person's honour or dignity without attributing a specific incident may be punished with detention for up to one year or a fine of up to Dh20,000. "A penalty of incarceration for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding Dh20,000 shall be imposed on anyone who slanders others through any means of publicity in such a way as to violate his honour or dignity without attributing a particular incident thereto. The penalty shall be incarceration for a period not exceeding two years and/or a fine not less than Dh20,000 and not exceeding Dh50,000 if the slander is directed to a public servant or a person entrusted with a public service during, due to or on the occasion of performing the public service, or it prejudices honour or repu-

tation of the families or if it is noted to achieve an illegal purpose". If the statements are communicated through electronic means such as phone, email or social media, then Article 43 of Federal Decree-Law No. 34 of 2021 on Combatting Rumours and Cybercrimes may apply. It states that using electronic means to insult another or attribute a harmful quality to them may result in imprisonment and/or a fine of Dh250,000 to Dh500,000.

Based on the aforementioned provisions, you may have the option to take le-



gal action if your ex-husband is making defamatory or insulting statements about you to your child. You may consider filing a complaint with the relevant authorities, including the police or public prose-

cution. The steps you may take depend on the circumstances and available evidence, and legal advice from a qualified practitioner may assist in determining the best course of action.

## How can I (NRI) claim my deceased mother's fixed deposits in India?

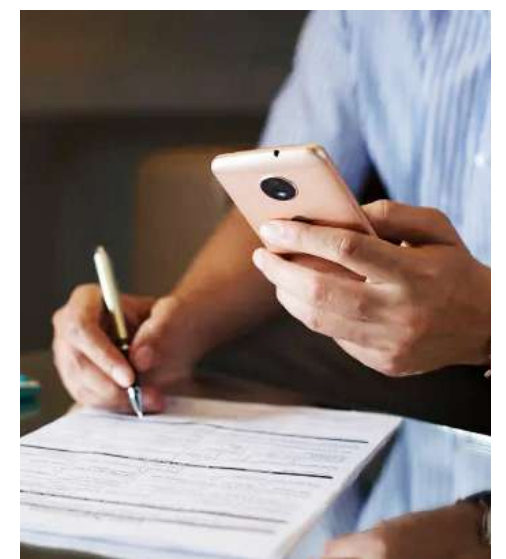
After the passing away of my mother, I am entitled to her fixed deposits with banks as I am the only legal heir. I want to know how I should go about claiming what is due to me. Are there any guide-

lines in this regard?

Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines which are binding on banks to be applied when a survivor or heir of a deceased customer claims the funds lying in bank accounts/deposits. The guidelines provide that while making payment of the account balance or fixed deposit amount to a nominee or survivor of the depositor, the bank should not insist on production of legal documents such as succession certificate, probate of Will or seek bond of indemnity from the survivor irrespective of the amount standing to the credit of the deceased account holder. In case of accounts that do not have nominee, banks can settle the total amount upto Rs.1.5 million by taking from the claimant a declaration in a RBI mandated form. The death certificate of the depositor will also have to be submitted by the claimant and the bank will be required to verify the claimant's identity.

Where the claims are above the aforesaid lim-

it, a succession certificate alongwith the documents mentioned above would need to be obtained by the bank. Further, the claimant would be required to give a bond of indemnity and legal heir certificate. In cases involving disputes among legal heirs and/or beneficiaries named in the Will of the deceased depositor, banks are re-



quired to settle claims only on the basis of a probate certificate of the Will or letter of administration or succession certificate issued by a competent Court. Banks have been permitted by RBI to allow premature termination of term deposits without any penal charge even if there is a lock-in period applicable to such deposits.

## High H-1B visa fees will harm US also

**The hefty fee of US\$ 100,000 which is proposed to be imposed by the US government on H-1B visas will impact Indian engineers more than those of other countries. Will this also not affect US-based companies which will now have to pay more for attracting foreign talent?**

Around 141,000 new H-1B visas were issued in 2024. The proposal to hike the visa fee to US\$ 100,000 will apply to new applicants from a date which is yet to be announced; it will not apply to existing visa holders. Some companies in the US have welcomed the higher fees as the new scheme will eliminate the present lottery system and benefit

high value jobs which are offered by large US corporations. However, medium sized companies and smaller companies will be virtually starved of the talent pool of engineers available in India and elsewhere. Analysts believe that this proposal of fixing a high H-1B visa fee will in fact benefit India as more and more multinationals will be incentivised to set up Global Capability Centres in India where Indian engineers and research workers will find jobs.

These Centres offer cost efficient services which are availed of not only by global manufacturing companies but also by Wall Street bankers.

The tech hubs of India like Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Guru-

gram which presently employ more than two million technocrats will benefit the most in view of the prevailing infrastructure already established at these centres. GCCs command a \$ 64 billion market currently and are growing at 9.8 pc annually. By 2030, the market value is expected to touch \$110 billion.

Experts are of the view that the new visa regime will decimate the heart of the US tech ecosystem and adversely affect most of the startups in America which rely to a great extent on Indian software engineers and AI specialists.

These startups will now shift to India, benefiting both the country and the growing pool of Indian professionals.

Saudi imposes SR20,000 fine on erring employers

# Employers banned from charging fees for hiring, work permit, transfer of service from workers

**RIYADH:** Employers are banned from charging any fees from their domestic workers, including the fees for recruitment, work permit, transfer of service and change of profession.

Employers who violate the regulations will be slapped with fines amounting to a maximum SR20,000 and a ban on recruitment of domestic workers for a period of three years. These provisions are included in the Guide to the Rights and Obligations of Domes-

tic Workers. It consists of comprehensive package of legislation regulating the relationship between employers and employees. The regulations include a package of rights that guarantee the domestic worker a decent life and a stable work environment.

These include not charging from domestic workers any fees related to recruitment, change of professions, transfer of services, residency permit (iqama) and work permits.

It is also stipulated that domestic workers shall be disbursed with their wages according to the unified contract signed with the employer. The regulations emphasised the worker's right to a weekly rest day agreed upon in the contract. Daily rest hours of no less than eight continuous hours, in addition to a full month's leave after completing two years of continuous work if the worker wishes to renew the work contract.

The ministry emphasised that regulating the domestic worker sector stems from the Kingdom's commitment to protecting the rights of all parties and ensuring a work environment based on justice and human dignity.

The guide specifies a list of professions permitted by law in the domestic worker sector, and these include domestic worker, private driver and specialised professions such as home nurse, cook, tailor, butler, supervisor, and house manager, as well as home guard, personal assistant,

farmer, physical therapist, and home coffee maker. The guide allows the addition of any other professions that may fall under the duties of domestic workers.

The rights of the domestic worker include obtaining a travel ticket to his/her country every two years at the employer's expense, an end-of-service gratuity equivalent to one month's salary upon completing four consecutive years and sick leave of up to 30 days per year when needed, based on an approved medical report.

## H-1B visa fee: US eases rules, Indians to benefit

**WASHINGTON:** In a major relief for foreign workers, particularly to Indians, on H-1B visas, the US Department of Homeland Security has issued new guidance on the \$1 lakh application fee, providing a series of exemptions and carveouts.

According to the new guidelines, workers who switch to H-1B visa status from other visa categories such as F-1 student status won't be subjected to the \$1 lakh fee. H-1B workers

applying for an amendment, change of status or extension of stay within the US won't be subjected to the hefty payment. Moreover, all the current H-1B visa holders won't be prevented from entering or leaving the US.

The proclamation only applies to new visa petitions who are outside the US and do not have a valid H-1B visa. It also provided an online payment link for new applications.

India-born workers received over 70pc of the total approved H1-B visas in 2024, primarily due to a huge backlog in approvals and high number of skilled immigrants from India.

The clarification comes

just two days after US Chamber of Commerce, country's largest business organisation, sued the Trump administration over the new rules, calling it "unlawful." In a lawsuit filed in the district court in Washington, the plaintiff argued that the visa fee, if implemented, will "inflict significant harm on American businesses" and force them to "either dramatically increase their labour costs or hire fewer highly skilled employees for whom domestic replacements are not readily available." It added that Trump's Sept 19 proclamation was "plainly unlawful" and a "boon to America's economic rivals."

**Airport agencies should sensitise their officers in prevailing laws: SC**

**NEW DELHI:** There is an imminent need for jurisdictional agencies, handling affairs at international airports, to sensitise their officers in the prevailing laws before taking the drastic step of detention and arrest of an international traveller, the Supreme Court has said.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta made the observations while quashing the arrest and criminal proceedings against NRI Rocky Abraham, an Indian citizen settled in Italy for over two decades.

## From Oct 26, IndiGo will operate flights from Delhi airport's all three terminals



**NEW DELHI:** IndiGo will have flights from all three terminals of the Delhi airport from Oct 26. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the na-

tional capital has three terminals -- T1, T2 and T3 -- and the revamped T2 will be operational from Oct 26.

All international flights



## SpiceJet launches special flights to Najaf in Iraq

**MUMBAI:** SpiceJet has announced the launch of special non-stop flights connecting Mumbai and Najaf in Iraq. With the launch of these flights, SpiceJet will be the only Indian airline to run flights

to Najaf, proving a "seamless travel experience, the company said.

"For millions of devout Indians, Najaf is a pilgrimage of a lifetime. SpiceJet is proud to be the only Indian airline to offer direct connectivity to this revered city. By providing these non-stop flights, we are not just offering a service; we are honouring a sacred journey and making it accessible with unmatched ease and comfort. SpiceJet has always believed in opening new horizons for our passengers.

This special service to Najaf is another step in that direction and a testament to our commitment to serving the travel needs of our diverse communities," said Debojo Maharshi, chief business officer, SpiceJet.

are operated from T3. In a release, the airline said it will operate "flights numbered 6E 2000 - 6E 2999 to/from Terminal 2, and flights numbered 6E 5000 - 6E 5999, along with all international departures, to/from Terminal 3, All other domestic flights will continue to operate to/from Terminal 1". IndiGo will be operating around 1,700 weekly flights from IGIA. It operates over 2,200 flights daily.

# Glimpses of "India Days in Turkiye"

