



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



MUMBAI: FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER, 2026 • VOL. NO. 3 • Issue No. 66 • DIV. OF FLYCREATIVE ONLINE LIMITED (A unit of Creative Group) • 7 PAGES

Kerala tourism poised for a new era of global growth

KTM brings the tourism marketplace together as Kerala strengthens its position as a year-round global destination



By
VS Abdulkareem
CMD-FlyCreative
Online Limited

KOCHI: Kerala is entering a promising new phase in tourism, with significant opportunities to multiply its international and domestic tourism footprint. The convergence of a large number of buyers, sellers, tour operators, hoteliers, destination management companies and other industry

stakeholders at the Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) once again demonstrates the immense confidence and potential that the destination commands in the global tourism marketplace.

For FlyCreative Online Limited, a tour operator and Kerala-based Destination Management Company (DMC) for Kerala Tourism, the opportunities ahead are particularly encouraging. Kerala possesses an exceptional



combination of natural geography, climate, wellness traditions, culture, hospitality and modern infrastructure that can support a much stronger year-round tourism economy.

The vision of the Government of Kerala to strengthen tourism provides an im-
(Cont. on page - 2)

No airfare cap for festive season

NEW DELHI: The government is not planning to impose a cap on airfares during the upcoming festive season, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammo- han Naidu said. Instead, the Centre will continue to engage with airlines and advise them to keep ticket prices at reasonable levels during periods of high travel demand.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the signing of agreements for the next phase of the regional connectivity scheme UDAN, Naidu revealed that the government had previously addressed concerns over high airfares during festivals and major events through discussions with airlines.

"The government main-

tains regular communication with airlines and will again take up the issue ahead of the festive travel period. The objective is to ensure that passengers travelling during important occasions are not faced with unreasonable ticket prices," he said. Responding to a question on whether the government would introduce a formal airfare ceiling, Naidu said there was currently no plan

(Cont. on page - 2)

Delhi airport beats Dubai in global connectivity

NEW DELHI: Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is emerging as a more important international connecting hub, with its global connectivity ranking improving sharply as IndiGo's expanding domestic network feeds into a growing international network.

Delhi climbed 11 places to rank 28th among the world's most connected international airport hubs in aviation data provider OAG's Megahubs 2026 report. It was ranked 39th in 2025. Dubai International Airport, meanwhile, fell from 15th to 31st, al-

though disruption in West Asia also affected the rankings this year.

The OAG ranking is not based simply on passenger traffic, number of flights or destinations. It measures the number of possible international connections that can be made between arriving and departing flights within a six-hour window, taking into account factors such as minimum connection times and destinations served.

The improvement therefore points to a change in the role of Delhi airport, from being primarily an or-
(Cont. on page - 7)

Medical examination hardships and expanded skill verification requirements are adding cost, plus EC delays and uncertainty for Indian emigrant workers

GCC workforce mobility under strain: IPEPCIL seeks immediate diplomatic intervention

By Our Bureau

MUMBAI: The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region has traditionally remained one of the most important and proven destinations for Indian expatriate workforce mobility, providing employment opportunities across a wide spectrum of sectors and supporting millions of Indian families through overseas employment and remittances. However, the overseas recruitment

concerned that a combination of long-pending issues in pre-employment medical examinations randomisation of EC (Emigration Clearance) distribution among the POEs and the introduction of additional compliance requirements is making the migration process increasingly difficult, costly and time-consuming for prospective emigrant workers. The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) has ex-
(Cont. on page - 7)

India warns nationals against seeking jobs in Malaysia through visa-free entry

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Commission of India in Kuala Lumpur has issued an advisory cautioning Indian nationals against the misuse of Malaysia's 30-day visa-free entry facility for travelling to the country in search of employment.

In its advisory, the High Commission warned that

such attempts could lead to overstay, illegal immigration status, exploitation, detention and legal action.

"There is a noticeable increase in Indian nationals arriving in Malaysia using the 30-day visa-free facility, to seek employment. The High Commission of

(Cont. on page - 6)

Saudi Arabia celebrates 96th National Day



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia celebrated its 96th National Day on Sept 23 with colourful events across the Kingdom, marking the anniversary of the unification of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of King Abdulaziz in 1932.

Cities across the country were decorated with Saudi flags and green lights, while national parades, cultural programmes, traditional performances, air and naval shows

and fireworks added to the celebrations. In Al-Ahsa, a grand parade featured folk performances, equestrian displays and classic cars, while Makkah hosted a range of cultural, entertainment and sporting activities.

This year's celebrations were held under the theme "Our Pride is in Our Nature" (EzznaBetab'na), highlighting national identity, heritage and pride in the Kingdom's achievements.



Gulf tourists throng Kerala

Foreign tourist in-flow to Kerala has come a full circle. According to the latest information given by Tourism Minister PC Vishnunadh, Gulf tourists are overtaking Europeans as key visitors. “If the air connectivity improves, then there is more improvement in our tourism sector,” says he as the state pushes for stronger links with Gulf markets. Kerala now is witnessing the Gulf emerge as an increasingly important source of international tourists, with Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE among its largest overseas markets as the state looks to rebuild foreign arrivals.

The Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries collectively accounted for about 1.36 lakh foreign tourist visits to Kerala in 2025, up from about 1.08 lakh in 2024, an increase of around 26pc. Oman was the standout market, with 65,132 arrivals, up nearly 70pc from 38,387 in 2024. Saudi Arabia followed with 31,593 visitors and the UAE with 26,255. The state recorded 821,999 foreign tourist visits in 2025, up 11.33pc from 738,374 in 2024.



Taken together, the six GCC markets — Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar — generated more visitors than France and Germany combined in 2025.

The shift is significant for a destination that has traditionally relied heavily on European markets. “Oman becomes a surprise,” says Vishnunadh, as the Gulf state emerges as Kerala’s third-largest foreign tourism market. Historically, the minister said, the US ranked first among Kerala’s foreign tourist markets, followed by the UK and Germany. The latest data show Oman has moved ahead of Germany and France, while Saudi Arabia and the UAE have also become major source markets. Oman ranked third overall among Kerala’s foreign tourist markets in 2025, behind the UK and US. Germany ranked fourth and France fifth. Saudi ranked ninth and the UAE 10th.

The state’s data show that Oman’s 65,132 visitors represented 7.92 pc of Kerala’s total foreign tourist visits in 2025, compared with 5.98pc for Germany and 5.72pc for France. Saudi Arabia accounted for 3.84pc and the UAE 3.19pc.

For Gulf travellers, Kerala is also a relatively short-haul destination. State tourism material describes the UAE-Kerala journey as roughly a four-hour flight, making the destination suitable for family holidays and shorter breaks.

“What was earlier considered an off season, now the monsoon has become a tourism product,” the minister said. That is particularly relevant to Gulf travellers, he said, because many Arab visitors come to Kerala during the monsoon.

The state is positioning Kerala’s greenery, cooler weather, nature and wellness experiences as an alternative to the intense summer conditions in the Gulf. Kerala’s tourism publications specifically identifies the Gulf summer holiday period as an opportunity to promote the state’s monsoon as a “green, cool and refreshing escape” and highlights family travel, Ayurveda and wellness as attractions for GCC visitors. “Wellness everywhere you can get — wellness, spa, massage, all those things. But authentic Ayurveda, if you want to experience, you have to come to Kerala,” the minister said. But the tourism revenue needs to grow further. Kerala recorded estimated total travel receipts of Rs 50,702 crore in 2025, including domestic and foreign tourist visits, up 12.54pc from 2024. Foreign tourist receipts were estimated at Rs7,382 crore. All these points will come up for discussion at the Kerala Travel Mart event being held in Kochi.

LIPSYNCH

“The traveller sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see.” -- GK Chesterton

Kerala tourism poised for...

(Cont. from page - 1)

portant platform to convert these inherent advantages into sustainable economic opportunities. With changing weather patterns and the possibility of experiencing tropical conditions for much of the year, Kerala can increasingly position itself not merely as a seasonal destination but as a year-round tourism proposition. Kerala’s greatest strength is the extraordinary diversity contained within a relatively compact geographical area. The Western Ghats, high-range mountains, forests, plantations, rivers, dams, backwaters and coastline create a remarkable variety of experiences. The destination offers visitors the opportunity to move from the mountains to the backwaters and from the backwaters to the coast within a relatively short travel distance.

For the international traveller, this geographical diversity can translate into multiple experiences within a single holiday — nature and adventure, leisure and relaxation, beaches and backwaters, wildlife and hill stations, culture and heritage, wellness and rejuvenation, cuisine and responsible tourism.

Ayurveda and wellness remain among Kerala’s most distinctive global tourism assets. Traditional Ayurveda, rejuvenation therapies, wellness retreats and specialised health and wellness centres have created a unique identity for Kerala in international markets. At the same time, the state’s modern healthcare infrastructure and high-quality hospitals open another significant avenue for developing medical and health tourism, particularly when combined with hospitality, post-treatment recovery and wellness experiences.

Kerala’s connectivity is another major advantage. Its international airports, proximity to major aviation gateways, seaports, cruise infrastructure and emerg-

ing cruise and seaplane opportunities can help create new tourism circuits and improve accessibility to destinations across the state. Better integration between air, road, rail, cruise and water-based mobility could further enhance the visitor experience.

The tourism product is also enriched by Kerala’s culinary traditions, performing arts, festivals, cultural experiences and living heritage. For today’s traveller, a destination is no longer simply a place to visit; it is an experience to be lived, remembered and shared. Kerala has all the ingredients to deliver that experience.

From a tour operator’s perspective, one of Kerala’s strongest assets is the ability to create customised itineraries for different segments — families, couples, senior travellers, MICE groups, wellness seekers, adventure travellers, luxury travellers, cruise passengers and experiential tourists. The growing demand for meaningful, immersive and sustainable travel creates further opportunities for Kerala’s tourism industry. The role of the tourism trade therefore becomes increasingly important. Tour operators, DMCs, hotels, airlines, cruise operators, transport providers, guides and experience creators form the bridge between Kerala’s tourism potential and the international traveller. Their market knowledge, destination expertise and global networks can help transform

the state’s attractions into commercially viable and professionally delivered tourism experiences.

KTM plays a vital role in creating this ecosystem. By bringing buyers and sellers together from India and overseas, it provides a platform for business relationships, destination promotion, product innovation and new market development. The real value of such a marketplace lies not only in the business generated during the event, but also in the long-term partnerships and destination visibility created thereafter.

Kerala’s tourism story has already earned it the enduring identity of “God’s Own Country.” The next chapter should be about transforming that powerful brand into a larger, more diversified and sustainable global tourism economy.

With its natural wealth, wellness heritage, cultural richness, connectivity, hospitality infrastructure and the collective strength of its tourism fraternity, Kerala has the potential to emerge as a leading year-round tourism hub in the Asian region.

The opportunity before Kerala is therefore not simply to attract more tourists, but to create more reasons for the world to visit, stay longer, experience deeper and return again.

For Kerala’s tourism industry, the prospects are indeed multifold — and the journey towards the next generation of global tourism growth has already begun said, Abdulkareem.

No airfare cap for festive...

(Cont. from page - 1)

to impose such a cap. Instead, airlines would be encouraged to maintain fares at reasonable levels. Naidu also linked the pressure on airfares to the ongoing crisis in West Asia, which has pushed up the cost of aviation turbine fuel (ATF).

“The current increase in operating costs is not necessarily linked to the festive season, but is also a result

of the wider geopolitical situation,” he said. “ATF accounts for around 40-43pc of airfare, making ticket prices particularly sensitive to movements in fuel costs,” he added. With the festive season expected to generate stronger passenger demand, the government is relying on engagement with airlines rather than a regulatory price cap to address concerns over rising airfares.

EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF DIGITALISED ADVERTISEMENTS WITH ONE E-NEWSPAPER

TAP ON THE YELLOW BANNER BELOW THE REQUIREMENT ADVT TO CONNECT WITH THE RECRUITMENT AGENCY

FOREX RATES

As on 24th September 2026 (In rupees)

Currency	Bill Buy	Bill Sell
US Dollar	95.23	96.48
British Pound	126.04	127.81
Euro	108.01	110.32
Japanese Yen	60.27	61.22
Swiss Franc (CHF)	114.98	117.58
Canadian Dollar	67.22	68.73
Australian Dollar	66.73	68.18
Norwegian Krone	9.91	10.2
Swedish Krona	9.49	9.77
New Zealand Dollar	53.74	54.93
Hong Kong Dollar	11.99	12.36
Kuwaiti Dinar	316.9663	301.0123
Singapore Dollar	74.08	75.73
Saudi Arabian Riyal	25.03	25.82
U A E Dirham	25.66	26.39

one

CALL:
022 22077954
022 22077959
TO BOOK
ADVERTISEMENT
IN THIS PAGE

flyCreative
Online LIMITED

KERALA
AYURVEDA TOUR

KOVALAM
14 Days / 28 Days

KOLLAM
07 Days / 14 Days
21 Days

GOKARNA
07 Days / 14 Days
21 Days

MARARIKKULAM
07 Days / 14 Days
21 Days

THIRUVANTHAPURAM
07 Days / 14 Days
21 Days

Authentic
Ayurveda Therapies

Luxury Wellness
Retreats

Personalized
Healing Experiences

Contact : 8828800805 | 022-22077955/56/57 | south@flycreative.in
www.flycreative.in

www.flycreative.in

flyCreative
Online LIMITED

TOURIST
VISA
Services

EXPLORE THE WORLD,
WE'LL HANDLE THE VISA!

VACATION MADE EASY,
MEMORIES THAT LAST

VISIT NEW PLACES,
EXPERIENCE NEW CULTURES

QUICK & HASSLE-FREE
VISA PROCESS

TRUSTED GUIDANCE
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

86577 43449
86579 31714

visa@flycreative.in
junaid.shaikh@flycreative.in

www.flycreative.in

www.flycreative.in

MUMBAI: Mumbai airport's phased Terminal 1 redevelopment is set to put pressure on available capacity, with Adani Airports beginning the shutdown of sections of the terminal from January.

Airlines will have the flexibility to shift operations to Mumbai Airport T2 if there is availability, Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) or other airports during the redevelopment.

Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airport Holdings, said the operator cannot delay the redevelopment as the existing terminal needs to be demolished and rebuilt. "From the beginning of January, one-third of T1 will be shut down. Two-thirds a little later and, further ahead, the entire T1 will be shut down and redeveloped," Bansal said.

The phased closure will

Mumbai airport capacity to come under pressure as T1 shutdown for redevelopment

require airlines to accommodate their operations elsewhere. Bansal said carriers could move to NMIA or other airports depending on their operational requirements. "They have a choice to go anywhere or stop operations. When the NOTAM is over, when the terminal is back, they can start," he said.

The airport operator will not dictate where airlines move their operations, Bansal said. "We can never tell airlines. Airlines have to make their own decisions based on their business logic," he said.

Adani Airports has given airlines advance notice to plan for the shutdown. "We have to tell them in advance. So, they have



around six months of planning," Bansal said.

He also ruled out delaying the demolition in response to airline requests. "They say, can you delay the T1 demolition? We say, sorry, cannot," he said.

Bansal said the redevelopment is necessary given the condition of the existing terminal and the need to create modern capacity at Mumbai airport. The operator has also told airlines

that they can move to Navi Mumbai whenever they want, while feedback from carriers on infrastructure is being addressed.

"We have told airlines that they can move to Navi Mumbai whenever they want," Bansal said.

MIAL has planned the first phase of T1 demolition for January 15, 2027, with traffic to be redistributed to T2 and NMIA ahead of the shutdown.

The capacity pressure will coincide with changes to Mumbai airport's cargo operations. Adani Airports expects all freighter operations to move to NMIA before Oct 15, however sources tell FE that this will see dealys. The existing cargo terminal at Mumbai airport will also need to be rebuilt, with the redevelopment expected to take around three years.

"We need to tear down cargo. We have to make a new cargo terminal, which will take three years," Bansal said, adding that the existing facility is in poor condition. "The existing cargo terminal is in poor condition and we could never give an alternative to airlines," he said.



flyCreative
Global Holidays
Your Trusted Travel Company Since 1978

Incredible India

B2B Portal : www.flycreative.in
Email : support@flycreative.in

IATA
Accredited Agent

X in
f o

www.flycreative.in



A Destination Management Division of FlyCreative Online Limited.

DISCOVER

Russia

Where Stories and Culture Interwine

Experience the perfect blend
of culture, luxury, and
adventure in Russia

HIGHLIGHT



A Journey Through
**Grandeur & History –
Mocow**



Discover **Saint
Petersburg**, Russia's
City of Elegance



**Husky Safari – Chase
the Snow**, Follow the
Adventure



**Teriberka – The
Edge of the Arctic**



BOOK NOW



98333 96453
93230 27987



tours@flycreative.in
ankita.chauhan@flycreative.in



www.flycreativeglobal.com

GULF FAQs

Could a salary cut reduce your UAE gratuity?

I did not sign any contract or form agreeing to the salary reduction (but my employer has reduced my salary) and my offer letter and employment contract still show my original salary. Will my gratuity be based on my old or reduced salary?

In the UAE, an employer cannot unilaterally reduce an employee's basic salary without written agreement and such a reduction can affect the calculation of end-of-service gratuity if the lower wage is legally recognised.

A salary cut can affect more than your monthly income, it could also have an impact on the end-of-service gratuity you receive when you leave your job. But if your employer reduced your salary without your written agreement, does the lower amount automatically become the basis for your gratuity?

Salam Pappinissery, CEO of YAB Legal Services, said an employer cannot simply rewrite an employee's contractual salary without agreement and documentation. Under UAE Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021, the basic wage is the wage specified in the employment contract and that amount must be stated in the contract itself. For a mainland UAE private-sector employee, a lawful salary reduction generally needs to be agreed and documented, such as through a signed addendum, a revised MOHRE-registered contract or other clear written consent from the employee.

"General financial pressure, a downturn or conflict-related disruption to the business is not, on its own, a recognised ground under the law for cutting a contractual wage. The permitted grounds for deductions from wages are set out narrowly in the legislation and do not extend to a general pay cut of this kind," Pappinissery said.

Continuing to work and accepting the reduced sala-

ry for a period could later be used by an employer to argue that the employee implicitly accepted the change. Pappinissery advised employees who have not agreed to the reduction to record their objection in writing before re-signing. Could a salary cut reduce your UAE gratuity? For an eligible full-time private-sector employee, end-of-service gratuity is calculated using the last basic wage. The calculation is 21 days' basic wage for each of the first five years of service and 30 days' basic wage for each year thereafter, subject to the statutory cap.

This means the basic wage used at the time of leaving can have a direct impact on the gratuity amount. However, where the employment contract and offer letter still show the original, higher salary and the employee never signed an agreement accepting the reduction, there may be grounds to argue that the original basic wage remained the legally applicable amount. "Where your contract and offer letter still record the original, higher salary and you never signed anything accepting the reduction, you have a reasonable basis to argue that the original basic wage

remained the legally applicable one and that your gratuity should be calculated on that figure rather than on the reduced amount," Pappinissery said.

If the employee did sign a variation or amended MOHRE-registered contract reflecting the lower salary, however, that reduced fig-



ure could properly be used. Where your contract and offer letter still record the original, higher salary and you never signed anything accepting the reduction, you have a reasonable basis to argue that the original basic wage remained the legally applicable one, and that your gratuity should be calculated on that figure rather than on the reduced amount. If, on the other hand, you had at some point signed a variation or an amended,

MOHRE-registered contract reflecting the lower salary, that reduced figure could properly be used.

However, where the employment contract and offer letter still show the original, higher salary and the employee never signed an agreement accepting the reduction, there may

be grounds to argue that the original basic wage remained the legally applicable amount.

Where your contract and offer letter still record the original, higher salary, and you never signed anything accepting the reduction, you have a reasonable basis to argue that the original basic wage remained the legally applicable one, and that your gratuity should be calculated on that figure rather than on the reduced amount," Papp-

inissery said. If the employee did sign a variation or amended MOHRE-registered contract reflecting the lower salary, however, that reduced figure could properly be used. If you disagree with the calculation, do not sign an unconditional release stating that all dues have been fully and finally settled. If a signature is required simply to acknowledge receipt of a cheque or transfer, Pappinissery said an employee can note that the amount has been received for review only and that they dispute the basis of the calculation.

Keep these documents if your salary was cut:

Employees should keep copies of:

- *Their original offer letter and signed employment contract.

- *The MOHRE-registered contract and associated wage records.

- *Payslips and WPS records from before and after the reduction.

- *Any email, circular or message announcing the salary cut.

- *Their written objection and any response from the employer

- *Their resignation letter, proof it was delivered and final settlement statement.

What if the employer refuses to recalculate the gratuity? If the employer does not correct the calculation after a written demand, employees can file an individual labour complaint with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE). MOHRE will typically attempt to resolve the matter amicably first. If the dispute remains unresolved, it can be referred to the labour court, Pappinissery said. Employees should also act promptly. Labour claims are subject to limitation periods under UAE law and the applicable deadline can depend on the circumstances of the case. For this reason, employees considering a claim should raise the matter with MOHRE as soon as possible rather than waiting.

Can you waive a criminal complaint after being sentenced in UAE?

I had a fight with my neighbour's sister. We insulted and assaulted each other. They filed a criminal complaint against me and I filed a counter-complaint against them. The court sentenced each of us to three months' imprisonment and a fine. Is it possible for all parties to mutually waive their complaints at this stage, and, if so, would such waivers result in the non-execution of the judgments?

The person filing a complaint with regard to the Insult and slander of people may waive the complaint at any time before a final judgment is rendered thereon, and the criminal action shall be terminated by way of waiver. Thus, the parties should, therefore, submit the waiver to each other through the appropriate Public Prosecution or court procedure.

This is provided under Article 17 of Fed-

eral Decree-Law No. (38) of 2022, Promulgating the Criminal Procedures Law of the UAE, which states that a complainant in respect of the offences covered by Article 11 may waive the complaint at any time before a final judgment is rendered, in which case the criminal action shall be terminated by way of waiver. Insult and slander of people is one of the offences mentioned in Article 11. Article 17 provides also that where there are several victims, the waiver is legally effective only if it is made by all victims who filed the complaint. Where there are several accused persons, a waiver in respect of one accused has legal effect in respect of the other accused persons as well. Moreover, if a waiver made after the judgment has become final, the Public Prosecution shall order a stay of execution of the penalty and release the convicted person.

NEW DELHI: IndiGo continued to command the largest share of India's domestic aviation market in August, accounting for 65pc of domestic passenger traffic, even as overall air travel demand weakened during the month, according to data released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

IndiGo retains 65pc domestic market share in Aug, leads on-time performance

IndiGo carried around 7.89 million passengers in August, giving it a clear lead in the domestic market. However, its market share declined from 67.4 pc in July, while the Air India Group's share increased to 26.7pc from 24pc. Akasa Air retained a 5.5 pc share.

IndiGo also recorded a strong 91.5 pc on-time performance (OTP) at the country's 10 major airports during Aug, according to the DGCA. Akasa Air fol-

lowed with 90.5 per cent, while the Air India Group recorded 83.9pc. The performance came against a broader slowdown in domestic aviation. Indian airlines carried 12.126 million passengers in Aug, down 6.34pc from 12.947 million in Aug 2025. For the Jan-Aug period, domestic airlines carried 110.53 million passengers, marginally lower than the 110.726 million recorded during the corresponding period last year.

Despite the monthly decline in market share, IndiGo remained the dominant carrier in India's domestic aviation sector, while its

strong punctuality figures highlighted its operational performance during the month.

PhonePe to enter UAE

DUBAI: India's Digital payments platform PhonePe has said that it received in-principle approval from the UAE central bank for two licences covering retail payment services, card schemes and stored value facilities. The Walmart-backed fintech firm said the approval follows initial regulatory due diligence and that it still needs final central bank sign-off before it can begin commercial operations.

India warns nationals against seeking...

(Cont. from page - 1)

India, Kuala Lumpur alerts Indian nationals travelling to Malaysia on tourist visas against taking up employment," read the advisory.

It stated that many Indian national are misled by "unscrupulous agents with false job promises, leading to overstay, illegal status, exploitation, detention and legal action."

The High Commission noted that this is a clear violation of immigration rules, as the visa-free entry facility which permits Indian passport holders to stay in Malasia for up to 30 days is granted for tourism and social visits only. Further, Indian nationals travelling to Malaysia for tourism have been advised to carry valid and verifiable

travel documents to avoid immigration-related problems upon arrival. These include a confirmed return ticket, hotel booking as well as proof of online submission of the Malaysia Digital Arrival Card (MDAC) three days before the date of arrival. Also, travellers must ensure that their passports have a minimum validity of six months.



Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council

CIN No.: U74910MH1979NPL021368



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) on the occasion of its 47th Annual General Meeting, being held on 26th September 2026.

I extend my sincere greetings and appreciation to all our members and stakeholders for their continued support, commitment and contribution towards strengthening India's international workforce mobility ecosystem.

International workforce mobility has assumed greater significance in the present global environment. Across international forums, including the ILO, IOM, expatriate associations and Government-led platforms, there is increasing emphasis on orderly, legal, safe, secure and ethical migration, in accordance with the spirit of bilateral MoUs and international labour standards. However, the realities faced on the ground by emigrants, recruitment agencies and other

stakeholders continue to present serious challenges.

Despite repeated representations by the fraternity, several operational and regulatory difficulties remain unresolved. Excessive and repetitive compliances relating to professional competency, medical fitness, and other pre-departure requirements, together with lengthy procedures and high costs, are creating hardship for emigrants and affecting the smooth flow of manpower mobility. In several instances, compliance-related expenses are effectively being borne by workers, while international labour principles envisage that recruitment and employment-related costs should not be unfairly transferred to migrant workers. These issues merit serious review and appropriate diplomatic and institutional intervention.

IPEPCIL firmly believes that regulation must facilitate safe and ethical mobility rather than become an impediment to genuine employment opportunities.

A coordinated review of existing procedures, in consultation with the authorised recruitment fraternity and other stakeholders, is essential to eliminate unnecessary duplication, reduce hardship and strengthen transparency and accountability.

International workforce mobility is not merely a recruitment activity; it is an important contributor to India's socio-economic development. It creates employment opportunities, supports substantial inward remittances, facilitates skill development and provides economic stability to millions of families dependent upon overseas employment. The contribution of returning workers in bringing back skills, experience, technology and global exposure further adds value to the national economy.

At this important juncture, IP-EPCIL looks forward to continued support and constructive intervention from the Government of India in addressing these challenges and creating a more efficient, transparent, work-

er-centric and globally competitive framework for international workforce mobility, in keeping with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government of India.

I take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of External Affairs, INDIAN MISSIONS abroad, Diplomatic Missions in India, Protector General of Emigrants, Protector of Emigrants offices, our international partners, industry stakeholders and, most importantly, all IPEPCIL members for their continued cooperation.

Let us collectively work towards making India a trusted and responsible global source of skilled and productive human resources, while ensuring that the interests, dignity, safety and welfare of our emigrants remain at the centre of our efforts.

With warm regards,

V. S. Abdulkareem
President
Indian Personnel Export
Promotion Council
(IPEPCIL)

Delhi airport beats Dubai in global...

(Cont. from page - 1)

origin-and-destination airport for the National Capital Region to becoming a stronger transfer point for passengers traveling between domestic and international destinations.

IndiGo is central to this shift. The airline accounts for 40pc of flights at Delhi, according to OAG, giving the airport a large domestic feeder network that can connect passengers from other Indian cities to international services operating from the capital.

Delhi's strength is particularly visible in the low-cost carrier segment. It ranks ninth globally in OAG's Low-Cost Megahubs index, with low-cost carriers accounting for 57pc of capacity at the airport.

IndiGo's dominant presence gives it a substantial role in creating potential connections across the network.

Mumbai is also gaining prominence as a low-cost

connectivity hub. It ranks 11th globally in the LCC Megahubs ranking, with low-cost carriers accounting for 60pc of capacity. IndiGo operates 43pc of flights at Mumbai.

The two airports underline the growing role of India's largest aviation markets in international low-cost networks. However, the connectivity remains concentrated, with

Delhi the only Indian airport to feature in OAG's global Top 50 international Megahubs ranking.

In the Asia-Pacific region, Delhi ranks ninth, behind Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Tokyo, Singapore, Bangkok, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. Eight airports from the region feature in the global Top 25, reflecting the intense competition among Asian hubs.

AI staffer suspended at Delhi airport after three Italians skip immigration

NEW DELHI: An Air India staffer has been suspended after an investigation found the employee responsible for an immigration lapse that allowed three Italian passengers to board a Delhi-Munich flight without completing mandatory departure immigration clearance.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu confirmed the action saying the staff member had been

assigned to escort passengers through designated airport routes but failed to follow the prescribed procedures.

The incident occurred earlier this month when the three Italian nationals, who had travelled from Amritsar to Delhi, were able to board an international flight bound for Munich without undergoing the required immigration process at Delhi



Singapore Airlines ranks world's best in 2026

LONDON: Three years after its previous win, Singapore Airlines has returned to the top of Skytrax's

global airline ranking. The results of the 2026 World Airline Awards, announced in London, place the Singapore carrier ahead of Qatar Airways, which took the top spot in 2025 and Cathay Pacific Airways. This marks the sixth time Singapore Airlines has been named "World's Best Airline," following previous wins in 2004, 2007, 2008, 2018 and 2023.

In addition to topping the overall ranking, Singapore Airlines received several other honours at the 2026 World Airline Awards. The carrier was named the best airline in Asia, as well as the world's best airline for Economy Class.

GCC workforce mobility under strain: IPEPCIL seeks immediate diplomatic intervention

(Cont. from page - 1)

pressed serious concern over the difficulties reportedly being faced by workers undergoing mandatory medical examinations through approved panel medical centres.

According to stakeholders, emigrants are facing repeated procedures, additional expenses, uncertainty over medical fitness, due to the monopolistic behaviour of the process and concerns have also been raised about the high and varying costs associated with the process.

IPEPCIL believes that the pre-employment medical examination system requires greater transparency, accountability and reasonable standardisation, particularly when the process directly affects a worker's ability to take up an overseas employment opportunity, so it has been sought for the process should be opening up among the panel doctors.

SVP compliance for basic labour categories

The recruitment fraternity is also concerned about the increasing application of the Skill Verification Programme (SVP) to categories that traditionally involve basic or unskilled labour, including general labour positions.

While skill verification may have relevance for occupations requiring specific technical competencies, stakeholders question the practicality of imposing computer-based or skill-testing requirements on categories where such competencies are not necessarily integral to the job. IPEPCIL points out that every additional examination, certification, test or procedural requirement translates into additional financial costs, travel, waiting time and uncertainty for an emigrant worker—many of whom come from modest economic backgrounds.

The Council has, therefore, urged the authorities concerned to examine whether compliance re-

quirements are proportionate to the actual skill requirements of the occupation, while ensuring that legitimate worker-protection objectives are not compromised.

Risk to established workforce mobility

The GCC has for decades provided a stable and substantial employment corridor for Indian workers. The recruitment ecosystem—including government-approved overseas recruitment agencies, employers, foreign missions and regulatory authorities—has played an important role in facilitating this mobility.

IPEPCIL cautions that if procedural hardships continue to accumulate, prospective workers may increasingly reconsider GCC employment opportunities, while employers may also face difficulties in accessing timely manpower from India.

The Council believes that the objective should not be to weaken worker protection or regulato-

ry oversight, but to create a transparent, predictable, affordable and worker-friendly mobility system that protects emigrants while facilitating genuine employment.

IPEPCIL calls for diplomatic intervention

In view of the seriousness of the situation, IPEPCIL has urged the Government of India to initiate immediate diplomatic engagement with the concerned GCC authorities to review the practical difficulties associated with medical examinations and the implementation of skill-verification requirements.

The Council has called for a structured dialogue involving the concerned Ministries, Indian Missions in GCC countries, host-country authorities, approved medical systems, employers and government-approved Indian recruitment agencies.

IPEPCIL believes that such engagement could help identify practical solutions, eliminate unnecessary du-

plication, rationalise costs and ensure that compliance requirements remain relevant to the nature of the employment.

"India's GCC workforce mobility corridor has been built over decades. It is therefore important that emerging regulatory and procedural requirements do not unintentionally create barriers for genuine workers seeking legitimate employment abroad," the Council maintains.

IPEPCIL has emphasised that timely intervention is necessary to preserve confidence among emigrant workers and employers and to protect India's long-established position in the international workforce mobility ecosystem.

The Council has expressed its readiness to work with the Government of India and the concerned GCC authorities to develop a more efficient, transparent, affordable and mutually beneficial framework for safe, orderly and regular labour mobility.