



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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Maharashtra govt brings bill to regulate private job agencies

MUMBAI: It is a known fact that unscrupulous, illegal placement agencies are fleecing hapless job seekers in our country. Though on and off, some of these unregistered agencies are caught and let off, no concrete action has been taken against them as the existing laws are not adequate to strictly deal with them.

In this context, the Maharashtra government's groundbreaking bill to regulate private placement agencies engaged in the business of recruitment activities for job-seekers and thereby ensure transparency, safeguard the interests of the job-seekers and protect them from exploitation and fraudulent practices is a welcome measure. The Act is called Maharashtra Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2025. It is introduced

in the state legislature and after debates it may be passed. The bill in no way is against legally functioning recruitment agencies, but against unlicensed agencies which hoodwink job seekers.

IPEPCIL hails move, offers tie-up with govt

MUMBAI: The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL), the association of MEA-recognised recruitment agencies, has welcomed the Maharashtra govt's move to regulate private placement agencies. The proposed law will ban the functioning of illegal job agencies, which fleece job seekers.

According to IPEPCIL president VS Abdulkareem, IPEPCIL has always stood against unlicensed job agencies which bring

bad name to professional recruitment agencies .

IPEPCIL proposes to extend its full support to the Govt of Maharashtra for a collaborative move in the Overseas Placements Recruitment sector for the safe, secured and legal migration of skilled job seekers and also to have MOUs with the skill development initiatives of the Govt's approved centres, so as to generate more job opportunities abroad for the intended emigrants of Maharashtra.

The bill has been tabled considering the enhanced participation of private placement agencies in the recruitment of job-seekers especially when the private agencies have long complemented the traditional employment market and are considered as a catalyst for new forms of HR management services which can be contributors to better job opportunity conditions.

The bill proposes to prohibit private placement agencies from conducting recruitment activities without a valid registration certificate and provide for cancellation or suspension of registration certificate on the grounds of misrepresentation or suppression of material facts and violation of provisions of the law. Further, the bill aims to provide for appeals against the order of the Registering Authority,

provide for the State Controlling and Monitoring Authority to supervise the implementation of the law and provide for facilitation for identification and mobilisation of job-seekers.

The bill proposes the organisation of job fairs, career guidance, counselling workshops and seminars jointly with registered private placement agencies to facilitate placement and to bring better collaboration and synergy between government agencies, job seekers and job providers leading to the matching of skills and providing employments.

This bill is basically to regulate domestic recruitment agencies. In the case of overseas recruitment agencies, already there exist proper checks and balances. Offices of Protector General of Emigrants and Pro-

(Cont. on page-7)

New insurance offers safety net for Indian workers in UAE

ABU DHABI: A comprehensive insurance scheme launched to provide a safety net to millions of Indian blue-collar workers living in the UAE has been expanded. The group Life Protection Insurance plan – introduced by the consulate of India last year – has won the support of two more companies, Dubai National Insurance and Nexus Insurance Brokers.

The coverage provides life insurance, disability benefits and repatriation services. The Indian Consulate urged companies with large numbers of blue collar workers to look at insurance options that would benefit

labourers in case of natural death or disability in the UAE and overseas when they were not at their work place.

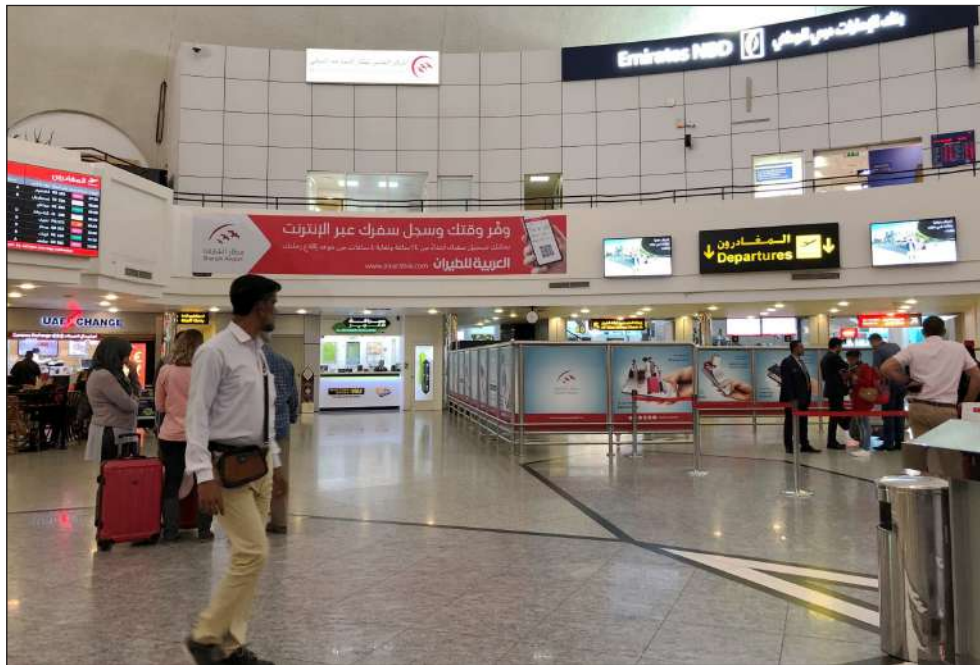
The insurance product can be purchased by businesses in the UAE on behalf of their employees. Satish Kumar Sivan, Consul General of India in Dubai, said it was vital to provide support to families when their sole earning relative died overseas. "This gives very critical support to families of labourers who unfortunately pass away in cases of natural death," he said. "It covers deaths which happen not just in UAE, not just while they are at work, but also wherever they

are in the world. It also covers partial and full disabilities, covers repatriation of mortal remains, which is a very critical element for families for a nominal fee.

"That's important as the family is suffering, the bread winner has gone, so that's a huge category of people that are not covered."

All full-time Indian employees registered to work by authorities in the UAE are eligible for support. A minimum of 10 workers is required for the group coverage. Indian citizens aged 18 to 69 can be covered, with the insurance plan running for 12 months.

(Cont. on page-2)



Report three hours before flight, Sharjah airport tells flyers

DUBAI: As the Eid Al Fitr holiday draws closer, Sharjah Airport has announced its full operational readiness to efficiently manage the anticipated surge in air traffic.

The airport is expected to receive over five lakh passengers and operate 3,344 flights between

March 27 and April 6. The Sharjah Airport Authority (SAA) advises all passengers to arrive at the airport at least three hours before their scheduled departure time to complete travel procedures with ease.

The authority has urged travellers to check-in on-

(Cont. on page-2)



Stocks under pressure

Indian equities have of late come under pressure amid waning domestic consumption, raising questions over the outlook for local shares after a nine-year rally. According to reports, global investors are deserting India's stock market, selling shares at a record pace to buy Chinese stocks instead, in a dramatic reversal of fortunes for the Asian giants over the last six months. A hit to earnings from high inflation and interest rates have chipped 13pc off Indian stocks from September's record high, while China's promise of stimulative policies lures investor interest. "When China gets flows, India doesn't," said Jitania Kandhari, deputy chief investment officer of the solutions and multi-asset group at Morgan Stanley Investment Management.

Foreigners have pulled nearly \$29b out of Indian stocks since Oct, the most in any six-month period, as they turn their backs on a market most investors had embraced for a couple of years. That money has fled to China, where Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng Index, home to many major Chinese companies, is up 36pc since late Sept, drawn by bets on artificial intelligence spurred by Chinese startup DeepSeek.

Global fund managers are in no rush to load up on Indian stocks even after an unprecedented losing streak has lowered equity valuations. That's because the market is still grappling with challenges posed by an economic slowdown, profit downgrades and potential US tariffs. Traders looking for bargains within Asia are gravitating toward still-cheap Chinese equities, which are in the middle of a bull run.

Overseas investors have pulled almost \$15b from Indian shares so far this year (2025), putting outflows on track to surpass the record \$17b registered in 2022, according to a Bloomberg report. The sell-off has wiped out \$1.3 trillion from India's market value.

For the first time in two years, China has a larger weight than India in the portfolio of Britain's Aubrey Capital Management, which focuses on consumer companies. While asset managers such as Morgan Stanley and Fidelity International remain overweight on India, they have trimmed exposure over the last few months to add to bets in China.

China's stock market has proved an unlikely sanctuary from the trade war unleashed by US President Trump, as it is relatively cheap and seen poised on the cusp of an economic recovery. Before the steep selloff in Indian stocks over the past six months, investors had scrambling to keep up with the strong performance that carried its valuation to eye-watering levels. India's benchmark NSE Nifty 50 Index is trading at 18 times forward earnings, compared with 21 times in Sept. But despite the drop, the market's multiple remains higher than that of all its emerging Asian peers.

Latest government figures show India's economy will expand at a four-year low of 6.5pc in the current fiscal year. Some analysts expect growth in the coming years to remain well below the nearly nine per cent average seen in the past three years.

Corporate profits have also taken a hit in this environment. To be sure, not everyone is giving up on India. "India has one of the best economic backdrops of the major markets, with plenty of economic drivers as well as stock market support," according to Ryan Dimas, portfolio specialist for William Blair's global equity strategies.

LIPSYNCH

"Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow."
 ---Mahatma Gandhi

Air India top officials to travel in economy class

MUMBAI: starting April 1, all Air India staff, including the top management, will be mandated to travel in economy.

This comes at a time when the airline is facing massive backlash over flight delays and aims to improve its image. The move will further free up seats for the customers who are willing to pay. "With this, we want to ensure that our premium seats... for which we are seeing huge demand -- are available for booking to our customers first, demonstrating a culture of customer-centricity in the new Air India, said a spokesman.

The announcement comes days after former Australian cricketer David Warner slammed the airline for being forced to board the flight without pilots, which caused hours of delay.

Taking to X, Warner wrote: "We've boarded an aircraft without any pilots and have been waiting for hours. Given that you don't have any pilots for the aircraft, why would you still board passengers?"

Warner's issue was

not the only incident. On March 22, NCP leader Supriya Sule also slammed the airline for the delay. Sule urged the Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu to intervene to enforce stricter regulations.

Recent government data shows that India ranks among the world's fastest-growing aviation markets, with domestic air passenger numbers increasing at an annual rate of 10 to 12pc over the past 10 years.

Kerala campaign to scale up domestic tourist footfalls



KOCHI: As the summer holiday season is fast approaching, we will be unfolding new products before the domestic visitors by targeting school holidays and family audiences, said Kerala tourism minister PA Mohamed Riyas.

This time round, the campaign will be particularly focusing on north Kerala, especially Wayanad, Bekal, Kannur and Kozhikode, besides lesser-known des-

tinations with vastly improved infrastructure, the minister said.

"Tourists from within the country have always played a paramount role in making Kerala's tourism a throbbing enterprise. This has been the (Cont. on page-7)

New insurance offers...

(Cont. from page-1)

The insurance covers death by any cause and permanent disability (up to a sum of Dh35,000) and repatriation costs following a death, up to Dh12,000 for a nominal annual sum of Dh32.

The Indian Consulate established the dedicated insurance plan to help plug gaps in access to support for its citizens. It was found that while companies insured their employees who were covered under health and workmen's compensation for work-related injuries and deaths, there was no mandatory insurance coverage for natural death, so families did not receive compensation.

SpiceJet to launch new flights

MUMBAI: SpiceJet will commence operations on Pune-Varanasi and Pune-Chennai routes in a phased manner from March 30 with bookings now open. These flights will be part of the launch of 24 new domestic flights announced on Wednesday.

"With new connections like Pune-Varanasi, our flights ensure seamless connectivity to some of India's most sought-after destinations," said Debojo Maharshi, Chief Business Officer at SpiceJet.

Report three hours before ...

(Cont. from page-1)

line for a seamless experience and to ensure the process remains quick. The authority confirmed that all operational and logistical preparations have been completed to ensure smooth operations and deliver an exceptional travel experience. It has developed a comprehensive plan to enhance operations during peak travel periods. This includes deploying sufficient staff across all work areas, focussing on customer service teams which can provide immediate support and assis-

tance to passengers.

All facilities and supporting services have also been fully prepared to ensure a smooth and seamless experience that reflects the airport's position as a leading aviation hub. As part of its commitment to inclusive services, the SAA has also placed special emphasis on providing dedicated facilities and supportive services for senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities, ensuring their comfort and meeting their unique travel requirements.

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FOREX RATES
As on 27th March 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	86.31	86.49
British Pound	111.51	111.73
Euro	93.44	93.63
Japanese Yen	0.57	0.58
Swiss Franc (CHF)	98.26	98.45
Canadian Dollar	60.8	60.92
Australian Dollar	54.75	54.86
Norwegian Krone	8.23	8.25
Swedish Krona	8.64	8.66
New Zealand Dollar	49.71	49.81
Hong Kong Dollar	11.15	11.17
Kuwaiti Dinar	278.73	282.95
Singapore Dollar	23.12	23.17
Saudi Arabian Riyal	23.61	23.65
United Arab Emirates	23.62	23.67

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 Avoid dealing with unregistered agents or brokers to prevent fraud.

India has 284 billionaires

NEW DELHI: India's billionaire count has grown to 284, with their combined wealth reaching an astounding Rs 98-lakh-crore.

The "Hurun Global Rich List for 2025" shows that the country's wealthiest individuals have seen a 10pc rise in their total fortune over the past year. Mumbai alone has 90 billionaires.

The Hurun report also highlights that 175 Indian billionaires have seen their wealth increase, while 109 either experienced a decline or no change in their fortunes.

The average wealth of an Indian billionaire now stands at Rs 34,514 crore.

Additionally, India is home to seven billionaires under the age of 40, primarily from the cities of Bengaluru and Mumbai.



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01

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Chidambaram | Palani | Rameswaram |
Kanyakumari | Coimbatore Isha Centre



02

PONDICHERY :

Paradise Beach | Aurobindo Ashram |
Auroville | White Promenade Beach |
Serenity Beach | Manakula Vinayagar
Temple | Chunnambar Boat House |
Basilica of Sacred Heart Jesus |
Botanical Garden Bharathi Park



03

KERALA :

Munnar | Thekkady | Vagamon | Kottayam
Alleppey | Kochi | Kollam | Varkala |
Trivandrum | Kovalam | Poovar Island |
Palakkad | Wayanad | Kozhikode | Kannur
Kasargod

04

ANDHRA PRADESH :

Tirupathi | Visakhapatnam | Araku
Valley | Srisaillam Papikondalu | Ahobilam
Vijayawada | Mantralayam Srikalahasthi |
Amaravathi, Etc...



05

KARNATAKA :

Bangalore | Mysore | Bandipur National
Park | Nagarhole National Park |
Sakleshpur | Dandeli | Sringeri | Coorg |
Chikmagalur | Hampi | Murudeshwar |
Gokarna | Udupi | Kukke | Manglore



GULF FAQs

Leaving UAE for good? cancel credit cards, visa, rental contract etc

After a fruitful career and a satisfied life in Dubai, I am planning to retire next month and go back to native country India. Can you please tell me the aspects I need to take care of before leaving the country for good — for instance, cancelling visas of my family members, credit cards, tenancy etc ?

If an individual is leaving the UAE and has no intention of coming back to the country on residency, it is advised to close all bank account(s) as laid down in Article 9(b) of the UAE Central Bank Regulation No. 29/2011 dated Feb 23, 2011, on Regulations Regarding Bank Loans & Other Services Offered to Individual Customers. The law states: “Commercial banks may open all types of accounts for their retail customers, but in such cases, they must abide by the standard agreement mentioned under Article (12) of these regulations. In case a customer requests the closing of the ac-

count and termination of the business relationship with the bank, the bank should do that without imposing a penalty if the account opening date goes back more than one year. In all cases, an account must be closed and an appropriate certificate must be issued within, maximum seven d submission of the application.”

Furthermore, for cancellation of the family member’s visa, you can either visit the Amer Service Centre or complete the process online by submitting the required documents and paying the applicable fees for the service. An individual sponsoring his/her spouse, children and other dependents must cancel the dependents’ visas before he/she cancels his/her own visa.

The Dubai Land Law does not specifically address the early termination of tenancy agreements. Therefore, you may notify your landlord in writing at least 90 days prior to the expiration of



the agreement, indicating your intention not to renew the lease and your decision to vacate the property. In case you intend to vacate the property before 90 days, you may inform your landlord about the same and mutually agree with your landlord to do so. In case there is no mutual agreement on the said issue, you may reach out to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority to resolve the matter.

“Article 14 of the Law No. 33 of 2008 Amending Law No. 26 of 2007 Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants in the Emirate of Dubai: Unless oth-

erwise agreed by the parties to a rent contract, where either party wishes to amend any of its terms pursuant to Article (13) of this Law, that party must notify the other party of this intent no less than 90 days before the date on which the rent contract expires.”

It is advisable to clear all the credit card dues before leaving the UAE. In case, you have defaulted in making any payment, the lender may approach the relevant court which has jurisdiction if the outstanding amount is more than Dh10,000 and request the imposition of a travel ban on you in accordance with provisions

of Article 324 and Article 325 of the Federal Decree Law no. 42 of 2022 on Civil Procedures Law.

Additionally, the lender may file a payment order case or a civil case against you in court to recover the outstanding debt. If the final judgment is not in your favour, the lender may proceed to file execution proceedings against you and that may include a request to impose a travel ban and issue an arrest warrant against you.

In conclusion, before retiring and leaving the UAE, it is essential to address key aspects such as closing your bank accounts, cancelling family visas, managing your tenancy agreement and handing over possession and keys of the rented property while you are vacating with acknowledgement from the landlord. Compliance with all the above will avoid any legal complications. You may consult the relevant authorities or legal professionals for further guidance if needed.

Can employees be forced to stick to annual leave plans?

I work in a mainland company and the employer asked me to share my annual leave plan for 2025. He told me that I had to stick to this leave plan. Is it legal for employers in UAE to ask employees to give a leave plan in advance and force them to follow it?

It is assumed that the company you are employed with employs more than 50 people. In the UAE, an employer can determine the annual leave dates of its employees based on its operational requirements or mutually in agreement with an employee.

An employer must inform an employee of his or her annual leave dates (start date and end date) at least one month in advance before the commencement of the said annual leave. This is by Article 29 (4) of Federal Decree Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Employment Relations which states: “The employee shall use his leave in the year of entitlement. The employer may fix the dates of leave according to the work requirements and in agreement with the employee, or rotate leaves among employees for the smooth progress

of work, and shall notify the employee of the date of his leave at least (1) one month before the same.”

Furthermore, an employer should have its own internal employees’ handbook or HR policy related to rules and regulations of employment if it employs more than 50 employees. This is by Article 13(3) of the UAE Employment Law, which states: “The employer shall put in place internal work regulations, including work instructions, sanctions, promotions, benefits and other bylaws and internal regulations under the

controls set by the executive regulations of this decree-law.”

However, these may not be mandatory for entities with less than 50 employees. However, any entity with more than 50 employees should have its own internal work regulations or HR Policy. Based on the aforementioned provisions of law, your employer may request that you provide an annual leave plan, as your employer may have the discretion to determine the dates of your annual leave, and they may choose to do so on a rotation basis to meet the needs of the business

and ensure smooth operations.

Furthermore, your HR policy may also mention notifying the employer prior to applying for the leave. However, it is advisable that you discuss this matter directly with your employer to mutually agree on your annual leave dates. While the employer may request adherence to the plan, they may not force you to follow it rigidly. You could propose to notify your employer before submitting your leave contact your employer to ensure compliance with labour regulations during the month of Ramadan.

Airbus' annual sourcing from India to touch \$2b before 2030

PARIS: Aircraft maker Airbus' annual sourcing of components and services from India will be ramped up significantly to touch \$2 billion before 2030, its CEO Guillaume Faury has said as he emphasised that the country should play on its strengths rather than replicate what others have done in the past.

For Airbus, currently the sourcing of components and services annually is to the tune of \$1.4 billion from India, which is also one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets. Describing India as one of the most important markets for Airbus in



terms of growth, Faury said the challenge for the aircraft maker is to support the speed of the growth of the aviation industry in India.

The Airbus order book has more than 1,300 aircraft to be delivered to Indian carriers and IndiGo alone has more than 900 planes on order, including wide body A350s. Among them, there are firm orders for 50 A350s

from Air India and 30 from IndiGo.

Airbus expects jet deliveries to increase seven per cent to around 820 in 2025. Tata Group-owned Air India places an order with Airbus for 100 planes. Currently, there are around 700 Airbus planes in operation in India, which is also one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets.

While noting that India is integrating itself with the global aerospace industry, he said the company is ramping up sourcing from India and the sourcing is across the board, including parts, sub-system manufacturing, airframe and highly-loaded components.

"We are growing the supply base, we are procuring \$1.2 to 1.3 billion (worth of components and services) from India today and we will be at around \$2 billion before 2030," the Airbus CEO said during an interaction with journalists on the sidelines of the Airbus Summit 2025 in Toulouse.

Airbus has a significant presence in India, with over 3,600 employees across its various sites and supports more than 15,000 jobs through its supply chain. "I see a lot of competitiveness and growth of business is on highly sophisticated systems which can be both re-engineered and optimised by engineering in India and manufactured in India. That is what we are doing with Dynamatic, Tatas and Mahindra," he said.

Last year, Airbus awarded the contract to manufacture and assemble its A220 Family aircraft doors to Bengaluru-based Dynamatic Technologies.

Odisha invites airlines to boost Rourkela air link

ROURKELA: Amid erratic flight services by Alliance Air, the transport department has invited other airlines with the offer of incentives to operate on the existing Rourkela-Kolkata and Bhubaneswar-Jharsuguda routes.

In an advertisement, the department invited interested commercial airliners to operate scheduled flights on specified existing domestic round trip routes for enhanced air connectivity. The notice comes after the state govern-

ment in October last year declared the New Destination Policy 2025 to facilitate establishment of air services to new destinations from airports in Odisha by providing viability gap funding (VGF)/incentives.

The advertisement said for enhancement of air connectivity on certain existing routes, the Commerce and Transport department invites proposals from interested commercial airlines to operate scheduled flights (maximum seven flights per week) on domestic

round trip routes. The maximum VGF/incentives provided for each route per trip would be as per the new policy.

Accordingly, the interested parties would operate from the origination destinations of Rourkela to Kolkata and Bhubaneswar to Jharsuguda.

Kerala campaign to scale up ...

(Cont. from page-2)

thrust of our pan-India promotional campaigns focusing on reinforcing the state's position as an all-season experiential tourism destination for a diverse range of visitors", Riyas pointed out.

Among the new products that would attract the tourists are heli-tourism and the sea plane initiative, which will make destinations in the state closely connected and easily accessible, said Biju K, secretary, tourism, Kerala government.

Alongside the new projects, the state's core assets like beaches, hill stations, houseboats and

L&T bags largest ever contract from QatarEnergy

MUMBAI: Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has won its largest order ever. The amount, which sources pegged at over \$4 billion, was not disclosed.

In its press note, L&T said QatarEnergy LNG has awarded the engineering entity an ultra-mega offshore contract for the North Field

backwater segment will heighten the totality of the visitors' experience, Biju added.

"I want to firmly assure that Kerala's tourism appeal not only retains its enduring charm but also keeps evolving with innovative products and initiatives, strengthening the state's reputation as a welcoming and exciting place for all seasons," said Kerala tourism director Sikha-Surendran. Scaling up Kerala's standing as an adventure tourism destination, the state is all set to host international surfing, paragliding and mountain cycling championships.



Production Sustainability Offshore Compression Project (NFPS COMP 4).

"Making it the largest single contract ever received by L&T," the note said. L&T does not disclose the exact order value but provides a range, and ultra-mega contracts refer to those above Rs15,000 crore.

L&T chairman SN Subrahmanyan said "Securing QatarEnergy LNG's ultra-mega offshore contract — the largest single order in our history — is a landmark achievement. This prestigious project strengthens our global energy portfolio while supporting Qatar's energy security objectives."

The scope of work includes the engineering, procurement, fabrication, installation and commissioning of two offshore compression complexes.

Maharashtra govt brings...

(Cont. from page-1)

tector of Emigrants are doing a great service in streamlining and regulating overseas recruitments.

The bill has proposed imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with a fine which may extend to Rs 1 lakh for the violation of the regulation of placement activities as per section-3.

Further, for non-com-

pliance, the violators will be punished with a fine which shall not be less than Rs 50,000 but which may extend to Rs 3 lakh. In the case of private placement companies if the offence is committed with the consent or connivance or due to neglect of any director, manager, secretary or other officers they would be deemed to be guilty and shall be liable to be prosecuted.