



OVERSEAS NEWS AND EMPLOYMENT

PASSPORT TO GLOBAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES



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IPEPCIL urges govt to waive GST on emigrants seeking overseas employment through MEA-approved recruitment agencies

MUMBAI: The Indian Personnel Export Promotion Council (IPEPCIL) has requested Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman to reconsider on an urgent basis the imposition of GST on job seekers aspiring to work abroad for better employment opportunities .

Levying GST from the emigrants proceeding abroad for employment for the services provided by the MEA-approved overseas recruitment agencies is causing significant financial strain on aspirants and deserves immediate reconsideration. These job seekers, often from economically weaker sections, strive to earn a livelihood and uplift the socio-economic status of their families. By working abroad, they not only ease domestic unemployment pressures, but also act as a key contributor to the national economy in multiple critical ways, says IPEPCIL President VS Abdulkareem in his letter addressed to the finance minister.

Foreign exchange earnings Indianoverseas workers send home are substantial remittances, which now represent one of the largest source of foreign exchange inflow for the country. These funds are vital for India’s macroeconomic stability and national development goals.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER:

Skill transfer, advanced skills, industry knowledge and familiarity with cutting-edge technologies, especially in infrastructureare upon returning, many of these Individuals bring with them.

MANUFACTURING AND OTHER CORE SECTORS:

This transfer of know-how significantly contribute to India’s growth and competitiveness.

OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT, A MULTIPLIER EFFECT:

An average of six to seven family members depend on the earnings of a single overseas worker. Their income supports household welfare, health-care and education, fostering a long-term human capital development cycle in the country.

SUPPORT TO NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS:

Many of these workers specialise in handling advanced equipment and technologies, which proves invaluable to India’s infrastructure and industrial development upon their return.

Mr Abdulkareem pointed out that levying GST on services

provided by the authorisedrecruitment agencies unfairly burdens job seekers at the very beginning of their employment journey. This policy disproportionately affects those who are already stretching their limited resources to seek a better future and contribute back to the nation in substantial ways.

In light of the above, “we respectfully urge the government to reconsider and exempt GST on overseas recruitment services offered to Indian job seekers through licensed agencies”, Mr Abdulkareem stressed.

He urged the government to recognise their services as a part of the national employment support ecosystem.Treat inward remittance earners of overseas Indian workers as a key development partners in India’s growth trajectory.

“We are confident that the government will take a sympathetic and pragmatic view of this matter in the national interest and act favorably”, hoped the IPEPCIL president.

INDIA AFFECTED BY BAN

Saudi imposes temporary visa ban on 14 nations

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has imposed a temporary visa ban affecting 14 countries ahead of the Haj season.

The suspension applies to Umrah, business, and family visas, with restrictions expected to end by mid-June, according to diplomatic sources.

Officials confirm that individuals holding Umrah visas can still enter Saudi Arabia until April 13. The affected countries include Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Jordan, Algeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Yemen.

Saudi officials have identified several factors behind the decision of the temporary visa ban. The primary concern is unauthorised Haj participation. In the past, many visitors entered the country on multiple-entry visas but during Haj season and stayed illegally to perform Haj, leading to overcrowding and safety risks.

Another major factor is illegal employment. Travellers using business and family visas reportedly engaged in unauthorised work, violating visa rules and causing labour market disruptions.

The Saudi ministry of

(Cont. on page-2)

Oil prices tumble further

LONDON: Oil prices extended losses on Monday, falling more than three per cent as escalating trade tensions between the US and China stoked fears of a recession that would reduce demand for crude while OPEC+ readies a supply increase.

The Brent and WTI benchmarks both dropped to their lowest since April 2021.Brent futures lost \$2.23 or 3.4pc to \$63.35 a barrel by 0903 GMT and US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down \$2.22 or 3.58pc at \$59.77.

Oil hadplunged by seven per cent on Friday as China ramped up tariffs on US goods, escalating a trade war that has led investors to price in a

higher probability of recession. Last week Brent and WTI lost 10.9pc and 10.6pc. v“The uncertainty around tariff policy; that’s still very present. You have a number of Wall Street banks slash

ing economic prospects and calling out much greater probabilities of recession,” said Harry Tchilinguirian at Onyx Capital Group. “That’s really what’s driving sentiment.”

Stock prices crash

MUMBAI: Stock market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty crashed over five per cent on Monday, in tandem with massive sell-offs across the board, as US President Trump’s tariff hikes and retaliation from China fuelled investors’ jitters amid fears that a full-blown trade war will impact economic growth across the globe.

The 30-share BSE

benchmark Sensex crashed 3,939.68 points or 5.22pc to 71,425.01 in early trade. The NSE Nifty tumbled 1,160.8 points or 5.06pc to 21,743.65.

During the afternoon trade, the BSE benchmark quoted 3,205.31 points or 4.25 per cent lower at 72,159.38, and the Nifty traded with a cut of 1,038.95 points or 4.54 per cent at 21,865.50.

No seizure of personal jewellery, harassment of passengers at airports, orders Delhi High Court

NEW DELHI: Have you ever been stopped at an Indian airport for wearing your own gold bangles or even Mangalsutra (Thali) asked to show a receipt for jewellery passed down from your grandmother?

In a much-needed relief for NRIs, especially those returning home for weddings and festivals from the Gulf, the Delhi High Court has ruled that personal or inherited jewellery worn by passengers should not be seized or detained by customs officials and that



travellers should not be harassed at any cost.

This ruling came after the court reviewed over 30 petitions, highlight-

ing how many passengers — particularly NRIs — were being questioned about their jewellery, including cherished family

heirlooms, upon arrival in India.

The High Court acknowledged the outdated nature of the rules, especially with the rise in gold prices since they were last reviewed. It directed the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to either amend the rules or issue a standard operating procedure (SOP) by May 19.

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Rajneesh Kumar Gupta said that unless there is a specific reason, customs officials should not stop

passengers from carrying jewellery intended for personal use. They also directed authorities to conduct sensitivity workshops for airport staff to prevent harassment.

This decision is especially reassuring for Indian expats in the UAE, many of whom return home during wedding seasons or festivals with ancestral jewellery. Many have reported being held up at Indian airports despite wearing or carrying ornaments they've had for years.

Saudi Aramco cuts oil prices

RIYADH: Saudi Aramco has cut its crude oil prices for Asian buyers in May to their lowest in four months.

This is the second consecutive month Aramco has lowered its prices. The company also lowered April prices for other

grades it sells to Asia by \$2.30 per barrel. Prior to the news, Arab Light price for Asia had been expected to fall by \$1.80 to \$2 in a Reuters survey, tracking the steep declines in benchmark prices in March.

Saudi Aramco's crude oil is classified into five grades based on density: Super Light (greater than 40), Arab Extra Light (36-40), Arab Light (32-36), Arab Medium (29-32), and Arab Heavy (below 29). These price changes influence the cost of approximately nine million barrels per day of crude oil shipped to Asia, setting price benchmarks for other major oil producers such as Iran, Kuwait and Iraq.

أرامكو السعودية
saudi aramco



er grades it sells to Asia by \$2.30 per barrel.

Aramco cut the May official selling price for flagship Arab Light crude by \$2.30 to \$1.20 a barrel above the average of Oman and Dubai prices, a pricing document from the producer showed. The company also lowered April prices for other grades it sells to Asia by \$2.30 per barrel. Eight OPEC+ countries unexpectedly agreed on Thursday to advance their plan to

Saudi imposes...

(Cont. from page-1)

foreign affairs stated that the temporary visa ban would help streamline travel regulations and improve safety measures during the Haj season. Authorities urge affected travellers to comply with the new rules to avoid penalties. Additionally, sources indicate that individuals staying

illegally in Saudi Arabia despite the ban may face a five-year restriction on future entries.

The latest policy highlights Saudi Arabia's immigration control strategy, ensuring better management of pilgrims and visitors. Officials reaffirm that normal visa processes are expected to resume after mid-June.

ARABIAN TRAVEL MART TO BE HELD IN DUBAI India's outbound tourism to reach 55b by 2034

DUBAI: India's tourism industry is experiencing notable growth, fuelled by rising disposable incomes, a widening middle class and improved global connectivity. Reflecting the country's growing influence in international travel and hospitality, India's inbound and outbound offerings will be in focus during the forthcoming edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM), which takes place from April 28 to May 1 at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

According to Future Market Insights, India's



outbound tourism market is projected to reach \$55 billion by 2034, expanding at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 11.4pc over the next decade.

This growth is primarily driven by increasing demand for international travel, particularly among millennials seeking diverse experiences abroad. Furthermore,

research from STR suggests that India has increasingly become one of the most targeted source markets globally, with many destinations intensifying their efforts to attract Indian travellers. In 2024, Dubai welcomed 3.14 million overnight visitors from South Asia, with India factoring predominantly, significantly contributing to the overall 18.72 million international visitors who made a trip to the city, representing a nine per cent year-on-year increase.

STR's findings also re-

(Cont. on page-7)

NEW PAMBAN BRIDGE OPENED



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pamban Bridge over the sea at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.

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FOREX RATES

As on 7th April, 2025 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	85.22	86.33
British Pound	109.71	111.23
Euro	92.95	94.93
Japanese Yen	0.583	0.592
Swiss Franc (CHF)	99.1	101.23
Canadian Dollar	59.56	60.89
Australian Dollar	51.11	52.22
Norwegian Krone	7.72	7.96
Swedish Krona	8.32	8.57
New Zealand Dollar	47.25	48.29
Hong Kong Dollar	10.83	11.16
Kuwaiti Dinar	282.61	272.90
Singapore Dollar	63.05	64.44
Saudi Arabian Riyal	22.42	23.12
United Arab Emirates	22.96	23.61

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PAN card holders should update Aadhaar

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax Department has issued an important notification, requiring PAN card holders who obtained their PAN using an Aadhaar Enrolment ID to update it with their original Aadhaar number by Dec 31, 2025. This directive follows changes introduced in the Union budget 2025, which ended the provision allowing Aadhaar Enrolment IDs to be used in place of Aadhaar numbers from Oct 1, 2024.

The Central Board of

Direct Taxes (CBDT) announced the rule under Section 139AA(2A) of the Income-tax Act, 1961. Failure to update the PAN with the correct Aadhaar number could result in difficulties while filing income tax returns or conducting high-value financial transactions linked to your PAN.

The Permanent Account Number (PAN) is a unique 10-digit alphanumeric identifier issued by the Income Tax Department. It's essential for

filing tax returns, making significant financial transactions, and linking investments.

Aadhaar, on the other hand, is a 12-digit identification number issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). It serves as proof of identity and address and is required for accessing various government and financial services.

If your PAN was issued using an Aadhaar Enrolment ID before October 1, 2024, you must update.



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GULF FAQs

Boss stealing credit for my work; what to do?

Credit for others' work and reacts badly to feedback. Could he be a narcissist and how do I handle them without risking my sanity or career?

Have you ever found yourself working alongside someone who seems convinced the office was created solely for their benefit? Welcome to the world of workplace narcissism. While dealing with these colleagues isn't always fun, there's good news: understanding what drives different people can seriously enhance your influence at work. Over the years, I've learned that understanding different personality styles and approaches can be a lifesaver — it can significantly enhance your ability to in-

fluence effectively and work harmoniously.

Research (O'Reilly et al., California Management Review) highlights that narcissists frequently rise rapidly to leadership due to charisma and apparent confidence. Yet, unlike genuine transformational leaders who aim for collective good, narcissists prioritise personal acclaim.

TIPS TO MANAGER NARCISSISTS AT WORK:

1. Understand their motivations: Narcissists thrive on admiration, dread criticism and seek control. Tailor your interactions to these motivations to navigate conversations more effectively.

2. Frame your proposals strategically: When

seeking their support, align your proposals clearly with their goals. For example, "Your leadership could drive meaningful change here and showcase your expertise." This authentic alignment facilitates genuine collaboration.

3. Set clear boundaries: Harsh remarks from narcissists typically reflect their insecurities, not your abilities. Keep interactions professional and emotionally neutral, documenting key agreements to prevent misunderstandings.

4. Adapt your communication style: Avoid public confrontations. Opt instead for collaborative dialogue: "I'd greatly appreciate your insights on this matter."

Reinforce co-operative behaviours positively to encourage repetition.

5. Build a strong support network: Establish robust relationships across your organisation. Allies can provide invaluable perspective, reinforce your credibility and support appropriate interventions involving HR or senior leaders if necessary.

6. Prioritise Your well-being and career growth: Remember, their behaviour reflects their inner challenges, not your worth. Engage regularly in stress-relief activities like mindfulness, journaling or exercise. If the environment becomes persistently toxic, exploring alternative roles or opportunities can lead

to a healthier professional experience.

A moderate degree of narcissism can sometimes foster ambition and achievement. However, as Jeffrey Kluger wisely observes in *The Narcissist Next Door*, "A little narcissism can be a good thing in many jobs; a lot of narcissism is a bad thing in almost all jobs." While you can't transform a narcissist, you do have complete control over how you respond. By strategically navigating their motivations, setting clear boundaries and prioritising your well-being, you're more likely to excel professionally, turning workplace challenges into opportunities for growth.

How networking can help you get a job?

How can an employee build a strong professional network in the UAE, and why does it matter?

Whether you're job hunting, growing your business or just staying ahead, the right network can make all the difference. Let's talk about how to build one that works for you.

The power of networking: Here, relationships fuel careers. A friend once sent out over 100 job applications with no response—until a former colleague referred them. Instant interview. I once needed a consultant and, instead of searching online, I reached out to my circle. A trusted recommendation landed me the perfect person.

Beyond job leads, networking keeps you informed. A former colleague pivoted into a booming sector just by attending industry events and spotting a trend early. Those insights can change your career trajectory.

How to build your network in?

1. Show up at industry events: A book I'm reading highlights the "mere exposure effect" — the more you see people, the more likable and approachable they become. Regular interactions build trust and familiarity, making industry events key to networking success. The UAE is packed with high-impact conferences — GITEX for tech pros, Arab Health for healthcare experts. Face-to-face meetings make connections stick.

2. Be active on LinkedIn: With over eight million users in the UAE, LinkedIn is a must. Don't just collect connections—engage. Comment, share insights, and join discussions to stay on people's radar.

3. Join professional groups: Groups like the Dubai Business Women Council or British Business Group offer more than networking—they create communities.

When I moved from London, my CIPD network helped me settle in, meet peers and even find work. I've recommended jobs, received referrals, and benefited from the credibility of professional registration.

4. Give before you take: Networking isn't about keeping score—it's about relationships. "Never Eat Alone" by Keith Ferrazzi

a hustle. It's a skill and an art. It's about authenticity, not transactions. Understand boundaries, build real trust, and focus on long-term value, not quick wins.

Your personal brand matters: Your network is only as strong as your reputation. Whether through thought leadership, industry engagement or a strong online

20pc from networking, and 10pc from formal education.

Make networking work for you: Think of networking like the way Simba builds alliances in "The Lion King"—he doesn't just reclaim the throne alone, but with the help of those he's built trust with over time. Networking is about the people who show up for you when it counts, the ones who remember your name long after the handshake. It's about relationships, not transactions and those genuine connections can open doors you never even knew existed.

Relationships take time to grow, but the more you invest, the greater the rewards. Some connections will pay off instantly, while others will surprise you years down the line. So get out there, meet people, and build relationships that matter. Who knows? The next conversation you have might just change your future.



and Tahl Raz reminds us that true networking isn't using people but investing in them. Helping others—whether through mentoring, referrals, or just making an introduction—creates opportunities that naturally come back to you.

And here's the thing: genuine networking isn't

presence, how you present yourself matters. Be someone others trust and want to connect with.

The 70-20-10 rule: Success isn't just about who you know — it's about what you do with those connections. The 70-20-10 model says 70pc of growth comes from hands-on experience,

With rupee getting stronger, expats should wait to send money home

DUBAI: The Indian rupee has firmed up again --- this time, to its highest point since the start of 2025. It is trading at 23.14 to a dirham (or 85 to the dollar), against 23.33 levels. For Indian expats in the UAE thinking of sending money home, they will need to give serious thought whether they should do it now or wait for market trends to cool off.

This comes after the dollar index - which gives the relative strength of the dollar - dropped further as the global market fallout continues after President Trump announced a swathe of new - and high - tariffs on US bound goods.

"Everyone knew the Trump tariffs were coming on April 2," said an FX analyst. "But that it will hurt the dollar is something of a surprise, which is why multiple currencies, including the Indian rupee, is regaining some of their lost strength."

The dollar index has slipped further to 101.67 -- and way below the 110.18 of Jan 8, 2025, which was its highest point so far this year. It's not just the Indian rupee that's gaining in comparison, with the euro and the pound also pulling up strongly against the dollar. "The last time the rupee was at 23.14 levels was on Dec 20, 2024," said Neelesh Gopalan, senior FX analyst. "If this trend of more dollar weakness continues, no one will be surprised if

the rupee goes all the way back to 22 levels against the dirham.

"No one could have forecast such an erosion in the dollar, even if the trend might be short-lived."

For many expats in the UAE, the period from Nov, when Trump won the election, to early March was an exceptional phase. With the dollar riding high, they found they were getting more on their remittances from the UAE. It's the dollar party that's ending now.

At least for the moment.

According to Stephen Innes, Managing Partner at SPI Asset Management: "The dollar's taking it on the chin again as FX markets ramp up pricing for a deeper US recession and a forced Fed pivot."

"Without credible fiscal stimulus or a policy anchor, the dollar's losing its safe-haven luster - starting to look more like the emperor with no clothes, stripped down and exposed to the macro storm..."

International air travel soars

NEW DELHI: The skies were busier than ever this Feb, according to the latest IATA report - but not all markets are flying high. Global air travel demand climbed 2.6pc compared with last year, with international routes leading the charge at a healthy 5.6pc growth. Airlines squeezed in more travellers too, pushing the worldwide load factor to 81.1pc - that's four extra butts in seats for every 100 compared with 2024.

Asia-Pacific, where

demand skyrocketed 9.5pc with planes flying nearly full at 85.7pc capacity. Europe kept pace with 5.7pc growth, while the MidEast saw more modest 3.1pc gains. But it wasn't all smooth flying - North America's traffic dropped 1.5pc with the US domestic market taking a 4.2pc nosedive.

India's aviation market, however, is on a tear - domestic traffic surged 13.2pc with planes hitting 90.3pc full. That's a stark contrast to China's 3.2pc domestic slump, though the Lunar New Year calendar shift likely played spoiler.

IATA's Willie Walsh sounded the alarm on two fronts: North America's shrinking numbers and the EU's proposed passenger compensation reforms. "Airlines shouldn't foot the bill alone when airports or air traffic control cause delays," he argued.

India's outbound tourism...

(Cont. from page-2)

veal that hotel supply in India has increased by a CAGR of just over three per cent in the past decade, with 1.14 lakh new rooms added since 2014. Developer interest remains high, with hotel occupancy rates increasing in eight of the last 10 years, reflecting sustained demand.

This will be underscored by the country's participation at ATM this year, which is expected to grow 41pc year on year, driven by a strong presence from exhibitors such as the India Ministry of Tourism, airline carriers Air India and Air India Express and an expanding representation from the regional tourism boards of Goa, Karnataka, MP and UP.

India will be under the spotlight during the ATM conference.

Israel expects surge in Indian tourists

NEW DELHI: The data from the Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT) reveals that 9,600 Indian tourists visited Israel in 2024, with 50pc of them travelling for pilgrimage--most of them from Kerala. According to an IMOT spokesperson, in the current scenario, Israel expects more pilgrim tourists from Kerala. "We are expecting around 70,000 tourists travelling to Israel from India this year and of this, 48pc are pilgrims," Amruta Bangera, director of marketing, IMOT-India told a TV channel.

All the tourist attractions are completely safe, and the safety of tourists is the ministry's top priority, she added. "None of the tourists were harmed even in the difficult situations," Bangera said. Ben Gurion Airport is fully operational and most of the

cities, such as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea and Galilee, are active, Bangera said.

Air India resumed flight services between Delhi and Tel Aviv in March, and many international carriers are operational, including FlyDubai, Ethiopian, Etihad, Azerbaijan Air and more, she added. In 2018, Israel welcomed 70,800 Indian tourists, and due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the numbers declined. However, the responses now indicate the numbers would come up like in 2018, said Bangera. In terms of the visitor mix, pilgrimage remains the dominant segment, followed by leisure travellers, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions), FIT (Foreign Independent Travel), and VFR (Visiting Friends and Relatives), Bangera added.

The IMOT has launched an e-visa system for Indian travellers, effective 1 January 2025. In a step towards making Israel more accessible, the e-visa service is especially designed for families, multi-generational holidayers and FITs, Bangera said.

The IMOT held a seminar at Pastoral Orientation Centre (POC) in Kochi in the wake of the Jubilee Year of 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope".

Israel is a land steeped in sacred sites and deep religious significance. These revered locations hold great importance in the Christian faith, offering pilgrims an opportunity for prayer, reflection and spiritual enrichment, according to the Church. Multiple travel agents in India have scheduled trips to Israel with tourist groups as large as 25 to 30 people.

ISA Tourism takes global marketing for Dharm Resort Varanasi

VARANASI: ISA Tourism Pvt Ltd has been appointed as the Global Sales & Marketing (GS&M) representative for Dharm Resort Varanasi, a newly launched boutique luxury retreat on the banks of the Ganges.

Located on the riverfront, Dharm Resort Varanasi is the only lux-

ury property with both vehicle access and an option for a scenic boat arrival. The resort offers 22 spacious rooms and suites, multi-cuisine dining, a yoga pavilion, a riverfront cafe and curated cultural experiences, making it a top choice for upscale travellers seeking comfort and heritage in In-

dia's spiritual capital.

"Our partnership with Dharm Resort Varanasi aims to elevate luxury stays in this mystical city," said Manas Sinha, Director of ISA Tourism. "We are already witnessing high demand, especially with the upcoming Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh (April 16-21, 2025)--a

world-renowned classical music festival featuring top artists."

The resort also offers exclusive experiences, including private riverside candlelight dining, personalised boat rides for the mesmerising Ganga Aarti and guided tours to Sarnath and the grand Kashi Vishwanath Temple.