

INDIA MATTERS

PUBLICATION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA IN DUBAI

Volume 05 | Issue 01 | 2021

Awareness campaign and training
on combating Human Trafficking

India - UAE Trade at a Glance

International Day of Yoga:
Celebrating Health and Wellness

Passport Sewa Diwas

Upskilling of Workers using
Uberization of Educational
Institution Model



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

Wellness celebrated across the world

INDIA MATTERS

Volume 05 | Issue 01 | 2021

Editor:

Press, Information & Culture Wing
Consulate General of India
Al Hamriya Diplomatic Enclave
P.O. Box No: 737, Dubai, UAE

For Feedback:

info.dubai@mea.gov.in

India Matters is published digitally in English by the Consulate General of India, Dubai. This magazine is published once in a month.

The digital version of India Matters is published by the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Dubai. All rights reserved. The writing, artwork and/ or photography contained herein may be used or reproduced with an acknowledgment to India Matters. The views expressed by guest authors in news bites are their own and not of the CGI.

Helpline Number for Indian Diaspora

Call the 24/7 toll-free helpline at [800-46342 \(800-India\)](tel:800-46342) or you can email the grievance center at pbsk.dubai@mea.gov.in

Follow us on:

<https://twitter.com/cgidubai>

<https://www.facebook.com/IndianConsulate.Dubai>

https://www.instagram.com/india_in_dubai/



CONTENTS

Cover Story

- 04 International Day of Yoga : Celebrating Health and Wellness
- 06 Yoga in the modern Era

Community

- 08 Passport Sewa Divas
- 10 Breakfast with the "CG"
- 11 Upskilling of Workers using Uberization of Educational Institution Model
- 13 Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra & Regulations for the workers in the UAE
- 14 Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)
- 17 Awareness campaign and training on combating Human Trafficking

Administration

- 19 The Consulate General of India, Dubai

Business & Economy

- 20 Toys are us
- 22 Infrastructure – A new narrative unfolding in India
- 24 India – UAE Trade at a Glance

Travel & Tourism

- 25 The world's most affordable city for a 5-Star hotel stay is in India
- 26 Govt to provide free visas to 5 lakh tourists visiting India

Quiz

- 27 INDIQTIME

FOREWARD



From Consul General's Desk
Dr. Aman Puri

Dear Reader,

I take pride in announcing that the Consulate General of India, Dubai is launching the digital version of the monthly magazine '**India Matters**' for the Indian community residing in Dubai and the Northern Emirates. We decided that as our lives slowly recover from the pandemic, we must reminisce upon various work done by the Consulate and bring it to you all every month. The monthly magazine will cover matters related to activities of the Consulate in that month, India-UAE bilateral relations, general news on the Indian economy, trade and development, culture, literature, cinema, science and technology, the Indian diaspora, and travel and tourism.

The 7th International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 19, 2021, across the UAE, with functions at both the Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate in Dubai. The event in Dubai was attended by senior officials & diplomats based in the UAE, which is covered in this issue of the magazine. You will also find an article on Yoga in the modern era particularly useful for office goers and those with desk-based jobs.

Having the largest working diaspora in the UAE, it is natural that the Indian Consulate will always be interested in understanding the well-being of its workers and equip them with skill sets that can enhance their employability and productivity. Therefore, starting from January 2021, Consulate had initiated monthly meetings with our blue-collar brethren over breakfast to discuss their well-being and stay here in the UAE. Simultaneously, an upskilling center was also launched in the month of January 2021, at Delhi Private School, Dubai using a public-private partnership model, where we create value for blue-collar workers by efficiently utilizing existing educational infrastructure and generating a win-win situation for all stakeholders through the concept of "**Uberization of Educational Infrastructure**." A second upskilling center was launched in June 2021 at Skyline University, Sharjah, which we have covered in this issue.

The Consulate has also launched a '**How to prevent sunstroke**' information campaign this month with the aim of promoting knowledge regarding heat-related ailments. The campaign coincides with the UAE Labour Ministry's annual announcement of its midday break rule from June 15, 2021, which puts a halt on outdoor work for labourers from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Posters and leaflets, prepared in collaboration with VPS Healthcare are being distributed to various contracting companies and employers of Indian labour. Any individual or organization keen on distributing these posters and pamphlets is welcome to contact the labour section of the Consulate.

This issue also throws light upon the guidelines on Overseas citizens of India, various awareness programmes conducted by the Consulate in June 2021, about being vocal for local toy products from India, and several travel and tourism related facts about India.

Friends, India Matters digital magazine is envisaged as yet another channel to communicate with the strong and vibrant Indian community in the UAE. We invite your comments and opinions on this magazine.

Happy reading!



7th International Day of Yoga 2021 was organized by the Consulate General of India, Dubai on June 19, 2021 in collaboration with Ismaili Centre, Dubai.

International Day of Yoga: Celebrating Health and Wellness



International Day of Yoga (IDY) is celebrated annually on June 21 since its inception at the United Nations General Assembly in 2014, this year the Consulate General of India in Dubai celebrated the 7th International Day Of Yoga by organizing series of events in Hybrid mode (both physical and online) in which people from all age groups participated. This year Government of India has also initiated a two year extended celebration of India@75 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Yoga being an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition to the world, we celebrated this year with 'Jan-Bhagidari' (people participation) as a Jan-Utsav, (celebration of the people) by engaging public in collective practice of Yoga through various events and online webinars.

The Indian consulate started its celebration of IDY 2021 by organizing various Yoga sessions for the blue-collar workers at their camp sites, Yoga sessions for workers were customized keeping in mind the postures which will help them get rid of day's fatigue and help them build immunity. Apart from this various online yoga sessions and competitions on themes like, "Yoga for Wellness", Yoga for "Building Inner strength and Immunity" and

“Yoga for All” were organized in collaboration with Yoga schools based in Dubai.

In a first-of-its-kind gathering since the start of the pandemic, the Indian Consulate hosted International Day of Yoga celebrations on a bright Saturday Morning on June 19, 2021 at the Ismaili Centre in Oud Metha, Dubai, it offered a serene and rejuvenating environment for Yoga session. The event was attended by senior officials from the UAE local authorities, members of diplomatic community in Dubai and members of Indian Community in Dubai, with Covid restrictions in place. The event was open to only those who were fully vaccinated.

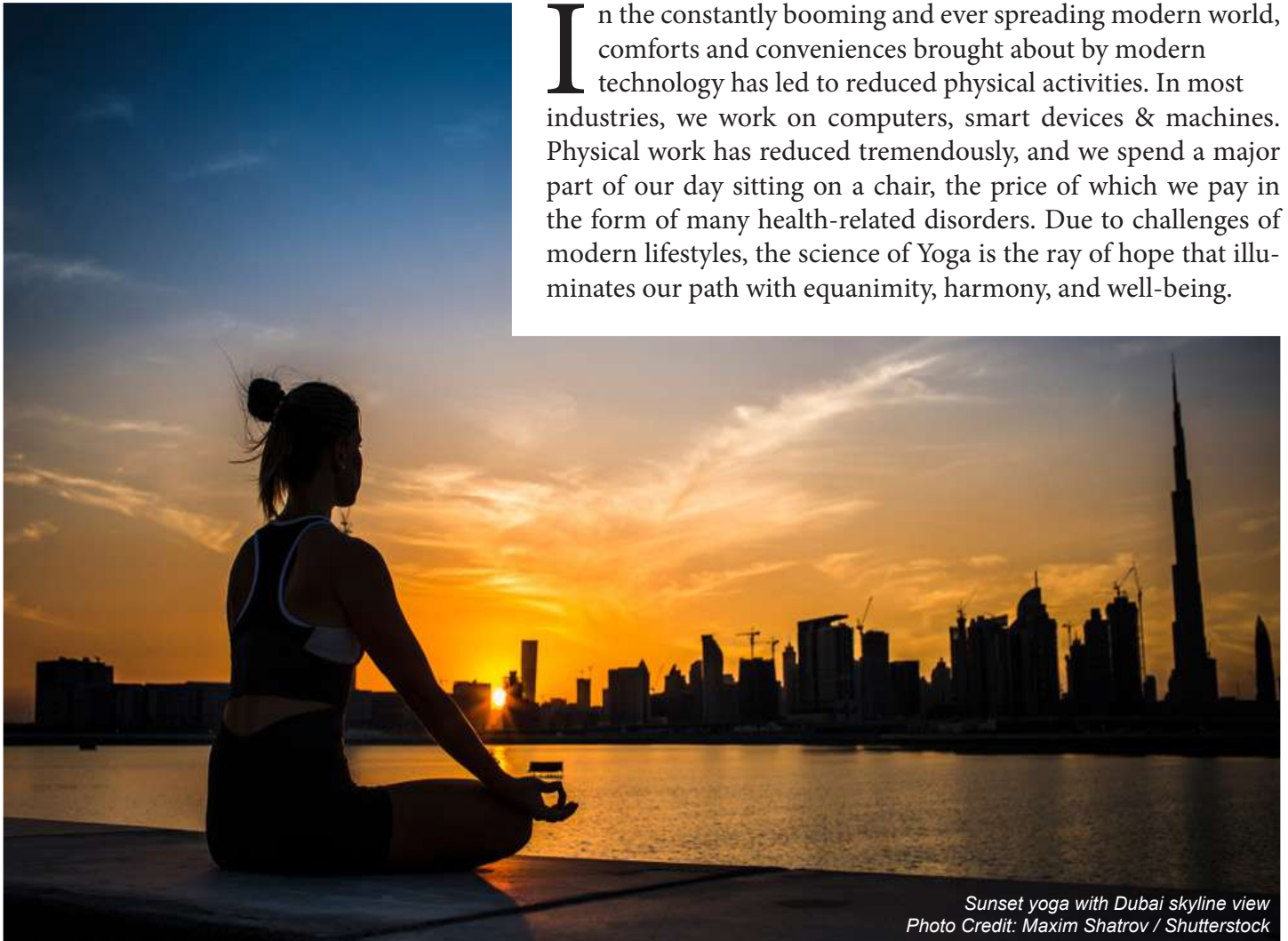
The event commenced with the welcome address by Consul General of India, Dr. Aman Puri, who said that by celebrating Yoga Day we celebrate our common hu-



manity, he encouraged the gathering and called on all to, “... unite our breaths, let us combine our strengths, and pray for a safer, happier, healthier world...”. Thereafter, the yoga session opened with a warm up session and breathing by Hasya/laughter Yoga Instructor Shri Ranghanath Subromoney, followed by the Common Yoga Protocol by the Yoga practitioners from the Art of Living, Dubai and was concluded with guided meditation by Sister Jyotika from Raja Yoga Center, Dubai. The event was very successful and appreciated by all. It emphasized on the idea of ‘Pursuit of Wellness’, through the practice of Yoga. Thus, we bid farewell to the festival of global health, well-being and unity and await its arrival next year, with a hope that the Covid-19 pandemic would be behind us.

Yoga in the modern Era

In the constantly booming and ever spreading modern world, comforts and conveniences brought about by modern technology has led to reduced physical activities. In most industries, we work on computers, smart devices & machines. Physical work has reduced tremendously, and we spend a major part of our day sitting on a chair, the price of which we pay in the form of many health-related disorders. Due to challenges of modern lifestyles, the science of Yoga is the ray of hope that illuminates our path with equanimity, harmony, and well-being.



Sunset yoga with Dubai skyline view
Photo Credit: Maxim Shatrov / Shutterstock

Time management is the biggest concern; and even though people want to exercise, they are unable to do so regularly, so Yoga also needs a tailor-made approach. With a mixture of Ashtanga Yoga, Hatha Yoga, and by using various tools like, Chair, towel, wall, stress balls, balloons, Yoga can be practiced anytime and anywhere. The new concept of “Sit fit Yoga” which comprises more than 100 adaptive techniques, can be effortlessly practiced sitting on a chair or standing with its support. They are easy and can be done in office, home or even while traveling.

While living a modern life, our brain is constantly engaged in endless thoughts and never rests in tranquillity. As a result, one lacks focus, skill, and vitality. Various forms of Yoga like mediation, pranayama, balancing postures calm the brain and enhance its vital functioning. Besides the physical and medical benefits of practicing Yoga, the most important change that comes in people's life is the development of Self Belief.

People start taking care of their lifestyle and gradually they feel a huge positive change in their emotional wellbeing. One develops happiness within and their approach becomes more positive, clear, and honest and that is the real goal of practicing Yoga. This makes it the most effective and important practice to adopt in modern times.

Let the science of Yoga be our true companion in our modern life directing us towards absolute bliss and well-being. For our readers, I would like you to practice these two basic postures, which is very beneficial for all, who are sitting and working on chairs for hours together. Follow these simple stretches at your workplace or anywhere to get an instant relief from back strain or to simply relax your back muscles.

For more information Contact:

Dr Vishwas Chhabra

Sit fit Guru (050-4835546)

www.sitfityoga.com



FORWARD BENDING :

Level-A



PROCEDURE:

Sit comfortably on the chair with an upright spine.

Slowly lift both hands up, near to the head.

Slowly breathing out bend forward and try to touch the hand to the floor

- The entire body should be set loose & relaxed and continue normal breathing while holding the position for a count of ten.
- Repeat this process 3-5 times.

BACKWARD BENDING (ARM STREACH) :

BASIC LEVEL



PROCEDURE:

Sit in the middle of the chair with straight spine and a comfortable gap between the feet.

Now place both the hands in between the hip and the backrest of the chair or hold the sides of the chair.

Slowly curve the shoulders outside i.e. stretching the chest forward and making the curve with upper shoulders.

- Now slowly push the neck, backside and stomach (trunk of the body) forward (as shown in picture).
- Hold this posture for a while and then relax.

Pictures Credit: Live Yoga Life Pvt. Ltd.



Members of the Passport team at the Consulate General of India, Dubai.

Passport Sewa Divas

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, celebrated Passport Seva Divas on June 24, 2021, to commemorate the enactment of the Passports Act on the same day in 1967. A special event was organized by MEA to mark this occasion which was attended by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar and Hon'ble Minister of State (MOS) for External Affairs Shri V. Muraleedharan. In his keynote address, EAM noted that there had been a complete transformation of the passport delivery system during the last six years and he commended the dedication and determination of all Passport Offices in rendering the passport and passport-related services, even in the face of adversity. More than 1.22 crore passports were issued during 2019 by the Passport Issuing Authorities (PIA) in India and abroad. The total number of Passport Kendras functioning in the country is 555, including 36 Passport Offices, 93 Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) and 426 Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK). He further noted that the

Ministry has extended its global outreach and integrated 174 Indian Missions and Posts abroad into the Passport Seva Programme enabling a centralized passport issuance system for citizens in India and Diaspora abroad. He reiterated that efforts must continue to further simplify the rules and processes of issuing passports and to take steps to leverage the use of modern technologies. The production of e-Passports would be another important step in this regard. He noted that initiatives such as mPassport Police and mPassport Seva Apps have led to improvements in systems and customer satisfaction. In his address, MOS highlighted the efforts of all the PIAs in India and abroad for working to ensure transparent and efficient passport delivery systems for the benefit of our citizens. He also noted that the Ministry has a robust grievance redressal mechanism, including on Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), PSP portal and social media, which has helped to improve delivery of services.

Passport Sewa at the Indian Consulate in Dubai

Passport & other miscellaneous services for Indian Citizens residing in Dubai & Northern Emirates are facilitated by the Consulate through an outsourced agency- M/s BLS International Services Limited (<https://www.blsindiavisa-uae.com/passport/passport-requirement-cgi.php>).

The Consulate ensures efficient governance and timely, effective, assured, transparent and accountable passport and other miscellaneous service delivery through 13 BLS centers located across Dubai & Northern Emirates.

Since January 1 - June 30, 2021, Consulate has served...

• Normal passports	1,02,793
• Emergency Certificates (EC)/ Outpass	993
• Registratiaon of birth & issue of passport to newly born child	5,402
• Police Clearance Certificate	1,540
• Miscellaneous Certificates.	2,293

Step by Step process of Passport renewal services

01

- Registration (<https://portal5.passportindia.gov.in/>) and/or LOGIN.
- Fill passport application online and take a print out of the application.

02

- Affix photo at the designated place.
- Fixing an appointment for submission of application at near by BLS centers.

03

- Submit Application along with supporting document at the BLS.
- Choose the optional value added services, if required.
- Payment of fee.

04

- Processing at the Consulate.
- Applicant can track the status-<https://www.blsindiavisa-uae.com/passport/passport-track-your-passport.php>
- Passport dielivery by BLS as per applicant's choice of mode.

Breakfast with the “CG”



Inauguration by Consul General Dr. Aman Puri of Robotic Shampoo Unit at M/s Naturelle LLC

‘Breakfast with the CG’, an outreach initiative by the Consulate General of India, Dubai provides platform for an informal interaction between the Consul General and the Indian blue collar workers based in Dubai and the Northern Emirates. The fourth edition of ‘Breakfast with the CG’ was organized at M/s. Naturelle LLC campus (subsidiary of Dabur International, owned by Dabur India), Ras Al Khaimah on 11 June 2021. Consul General Dr. Aman Puri joined the workers for breakfast and encouraged them to learn new skills and mentioned about the Consulate’s ongoing upskilling initiative, an endeavour to increase employability of Indian workers.

The CG also reiterated that the Consulate is dedicated to the service of the workers 24x7, through Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra, which can be approached through walk-ins, Whatsapp, Email, Mobile App and Toll-free line (80046342). The Consul General had a brief tour of the factory unit of M/s. Naturelle LLC campus and inaugurated a robotic machine in the shampoo production unit. A Yoga session by Dr. Vishwas was also conducted to mark the celebration of International Day of Yoga. A financial literacy session was held by officials from Bank of Baroda. Cultural programmes and raffle draws were also organised.



Consul General Dr. Aman Puri with staff and workers of M/s Naturelle LLC RAK

Health Awareness Campaign at M/S DulSCO campus at Al Quoz, Dubai



Consulate arranged free Consultation by Ayurveda Doctors at DulSCO Camp

As part of its regular outreach programme, the Consulate organised a Health Awareness camp at M/S DulSCO campus at Al Quoz, Dubai on 28 May 2021. A Yoga session was held by Yoga Instructor, Mr. K.S.N. Kumar from Datta Yoga Centre, and a 9-members Ayurvedic Doctors team led by Dr. Shyam V Pillai from Emirates Ayurveda Graduates Association, Dubai Chapter and Science India Forum gave talks on the benefits of Ayurveda and provided free consultation services and medicines for the workers. Ms. Tadu Mamu, Consul (Labour) briefed them about consular and welfare services rendered by the Indian Consulate and upskilling initiative for workers. Around 200 Indian workers participated in the programme.

Upskilling of Workers using Uberization of Educational Institution Model

The idea for upskilling of the Indian blue-collar workers in the UAE was discussed during the session titled 'Skill sets of the future for Indian workers in the Gulf', as part of celebrations of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in December 2020. As a follow up to this session, the Consulate organized a brain-storming meeting in January 2021 which was attended by representatives of leading Universities, School principals, HR managers of leading recruiters & companies, social workers and representatives of various associations in the UAE. During this session, the model of "Uberization of Educational Infrastructure" was proposed where schools and colleges in the UAE can provide infrastructure for training purposes, the associations and workers can specify the skills required as per the demand of the employers and training schools and NGOs' can provide the required trainers for upskilling and re-skilling blue collar workers. The idea was to form a public-private partnership model by efficiently utilizing existing educational infrastructures, and leverage that to improve the quality of human resources from India in terms of employability, productivity and cost competitiveness to ensure that Indian workforce are always in demand by enhancing their hard skills, soft skills and technical skills. With these developments in mind, the Consulate launched the first Upskilling & Training Center in the UAE, which was inaugurated by Hon'ble MoS Shri V. Muraleedharan during



Members of the non-teaching staff & caretakers for kindergarten attending upskilling session at Skyline University, Sharjah.

his visit in January 2021 at Delhi Private School (DPS), Dubai. The courses in this upskilling session included basic Arabic & English language and Computer/IT skills. The idea was extended to other educational institutions and a second Upskilling center was launched by the Consulate in collaboration with Skyline University College (SUC) and Indian Association Sharjah in June 2021 where 245 employees of Sharjah Indian School, mainly drivers and Aayas (caretakers), took upskilling session on ways to improve attitude and behavior to ensure effectiveness on the job, and learnt about techniques to improve their relationships, particularly at the workplace. The Skyline University College announced that they will grant 100% scholarships to two blue-collar employees each academic year.



Consul General Dr. Aman Puri delivering keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Upskilling and Retraining programme at Skyline Uni. Sharjah



Consulate General of India,
Dubai

Beat the Heat Beware of heat stroke

How to prevent sunstroke

Symptoms to look out for

- Exhaustion
- Body ache
- Profuse sweating
- Extreme thirst
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness
- Convulsions or fits



Do's



- Take rest during midday hours under shade
- Drink frequently plenty of water with salt
- Drink fruit juice twice a day if available
- Wear loose-fitting and light weight clothes
- Inform supervisor in case any of these symptoms occur to you or to your colleagues



Don'ts



- Avoid working during midday hours
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight and humid conditions
- Avoid drinking tea, coffee, carbonated drinks, alcohol and drugs which cause dehydration
- Avoid drinking large quantities of plain water
- Avoid smoking

Here are some information about Coronavirus Disease

What are the symptoms?



Cough



Shortness of breath



Fever



Sore throat



headache



**GET
VACCINATED**

Ways to prevent the disease



Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness.



Wash hands often with soap and water



Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



Cover coughs & sneezes with tissues.

Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK)



MoS Shri V Muraleedharan with team members of Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra

Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK), is a welfare initiative of Government of India to provide support to Indian Diaspora including Blue Collar Workers, who are in need of assistance. It is a one-stop solution to all problems/issues faced by any Indian in the UAE.

All the services provided by the PBSK are free of cost including legal, financial counseling, verification of job offers, etc. PBSK, Dubai started its operations from 23 November 2010, initially from JLT and then from the Consulate premises since Nov 1, 2020. In addition, PBSK Mobile App was recently launched to enable Indians to get services from the Consulate from their mobile. Indian workers facing issues due to Non-Payment of Salaries, Delay in Payment, Not Getting the Agreed Salary, Refusal of Leave Applications, Withholding of Passports, Delay in Visa Stamping and For Matters in the Court and End of Service Benefits are advised to approach PBSK along with the following documents:

1. **Passport Copy.**
2. **Visa Copy.**
3. **Employment Contract.**
4. **Offer Letter issued by the Company.**
5. **Contact Details of the Company.**
6. **License Copy if Available.**

Regulations for the workers in the UAE

Do's

- Do know the laws of UAE specially UAE Labour Law to be aware about Rights and Bounds.
- Do keep yourself updated with important contact numbers: Police , Fire, Ambulance , hospitals, contact details of Indian Embassy and Consulate, Indian associations etc
- Do report any physical abuse, domestic violence to the Police immediately
- Do report any work-related grievance in Ministry of Human Resource of Labour (MOHRE) of UAE within a year of work permit cancellation date. Beyond this period MOHRE might not register the grievance as it would be time barred as per Article 6 of UAE Labour Law
- Do keep your medical records, latest passport copy, visa copy, updated work contract with Ministry and company, financial record, company information , residence address handy and share the same with trustworthy family member so the same could be retrieved when required.



Construction workers take a break at the Dubai Financial Center
Photo credit: Rastislav Sedlak SK / Shutterstock

- Do use appropriate and legal remittance scheme while receiving or sending money .
- Do start a pension scheme from the beginning of working life to have a sufficient corpus at the time of retirement.
- Do know the details of product and agent while investing money
- Always be vigilant to prevent Identity theft: Protection of SIM Card, Passport and Emirates id Card, Email Account, Awareness about common frauds is essential to safeguard against identity theft
- Do have appropriate Life, Medical Insurance Cover in UAE and India including critical illness.
- Do maintain appropriate life style as per Job Profile. Do exercise, Yoga etc on a regular basis.
- Do keep a 'WILL' acceptable in the UAE court.

Dont's

- Do not post your views in social media about religious matters which could hurt others. Do not violate practiced Traditions, Conventions or Heritage in any form
- Do not take pictures of restricted places. Do not take picture /Video, post pictures of individual in social media or without consent.
- DO not share OTP, PASSWORDS, ATM PIN to anybody as Bank or related entity would not ask for the same in any communication mode.
- Do not consume alcohol in Public. Consumption of Alcohol is permissible in specified places with appropriate license
- Don't run away or abscond from sponsor, rather report to MOHRE (80060) and Indian Embassy.

Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI)

Indian Diaspora is the largest in the world. Migration due to trade, colonial rule, employment etc. at various intervals of time in the history has led to the spread of Indian Diaspora in more than 200+ countries. Over the years, the number of Indians working abroad or migrating to other countries has increased. In-fact the latest UNO data states that India has the largest share of International migrant stock.

PIO & OCI:

The Constitution of India does not permit dual citizenship in India. In an effort to recognize people of Indian origin, Persons of Indian Origin (PIO Card) came into effect on March 30, 1999. This was meant for overseas Indians who or whose forefathers have migrated to another country prior to Indian Independence and was valid for a period of 15 years. On the recommendations of a High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, the Government of India decided to register Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) as Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cardholders by a Constitutional amendment in 2003. On January 09, 2015, the Government of India discontinued the PIO card and merged it with OCI card. In other words, those who held a PIO card by that time were deemed to have OCI card.

Eligibility and Benefits:



An Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) is a person who is technically a citizen of another country (except Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals/ origins) of Indian origin or is married to a person of Indian origin. Foreign Military/ Police Personnel either serving or retired are not registered as OCI Cardholder. However, their children/ spouse may be considered for registration as OCI cardholder. Multiple benefits have been extended to OCI Card holders which include the following:

- Multiple entry lifetime Visa to visit India
- No need to register with Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) or Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) for any length of stay;
- Except for acquisition of agricultural and plantation properties, OCI card holders have similar facilities that are extended to NRIs in economic, financial and educational fields.
- Parity with NRIs in respect to Inter-country adoption of Indian children, entry fees for national monuments, practice of professions like doctors, dentists, nurses, advocates, architects, Chartered Accountants & Pharmacists
- Parity with Indian citizens in matters of traffic in airfares in Indian domestic sectors.
- Same entry fee as for Indians for entry into India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- OCI booklet can be used as identification to avail services. An affidavit can be attached with local address as residential proof.

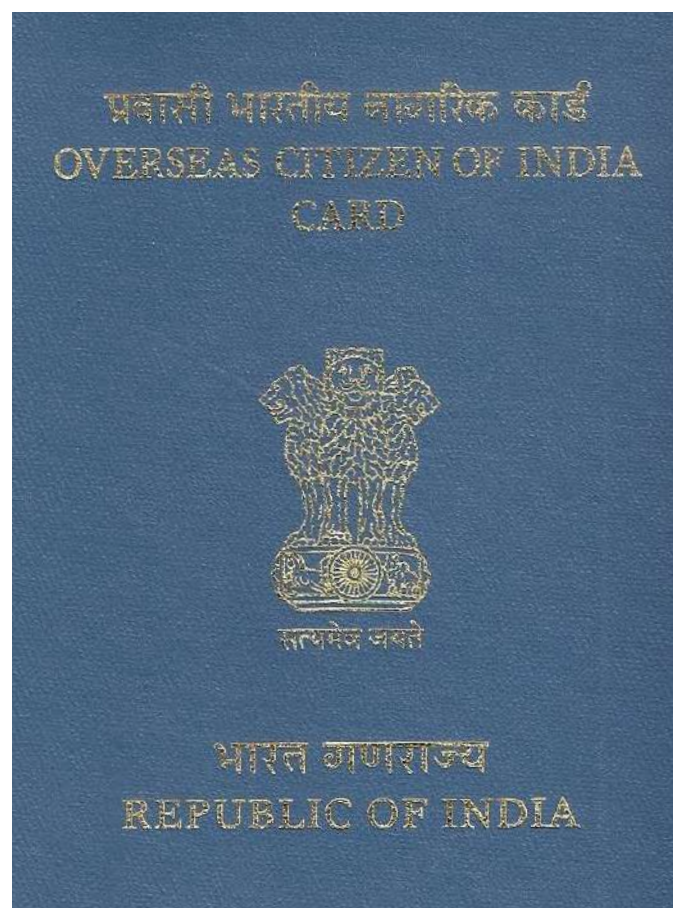
The OCI cardholder is required to obtain a special permission or a Special Permit to undertake research or any Missionary or Tabligh or Mountaineering or Journalistic activities. They also need special permit to undertake internship in any foreign Diplomatic Missions or foreign Government organizations in India or to take up employment in any foreign Diplomatic Missions in India. Without special permit, they cannot visit any place which falls within the Protected or Restricted or prohibited areas as notified by the Central Government or competent authority.

Procedure:

OCI application can be made online by eligible persons by uploading proof of their present nationality, resident status, nativity and relationship evidence in the form of marriage and birth certificates. The website meant for this application is www.ociservices.gov.in.

Indian citizenship to OCI Cardholder:

As per the provisions of section 5(1) (g) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, a person who is registered as an OCI for 5 years and is residing in India for 1 year out of the above 5 years, is eligible to apply for Indian Citizenship.

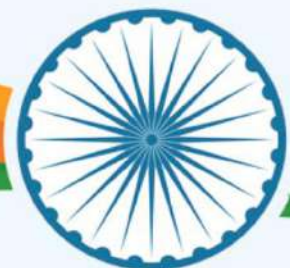


Revised Guidelines on Re-issue of OCI Card:

There is no requirement of re-issuance of an OCI card each time a new passport is issued to a foreigner upto 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. OCI registration certificate have got to be re-issued only once when a new passport is issued after completion of 20 years of age. OCI Cardholder is required to upload Online a copy of the new passport and latest photo each time a new passport is issued upto 20 years of age and once after completing 50 years of age. The uploading of these documents may be done within three months of receipt of the new passport. The service will be provided on Gratis basis (without any fee). Foreign Spouse of an Indian Citizen or spouse of foreign origin of an OCI Cardholder are required to upload a copy of the new passport and also a latest photo Online each time a new passport is issued along with a declaration on subsisting of marriage, copy of the Indian passport of the Indian spouse/ passport & OCI card of the OCI Cardholder spouse.



PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAHAYATA KENDRA (PBSK)

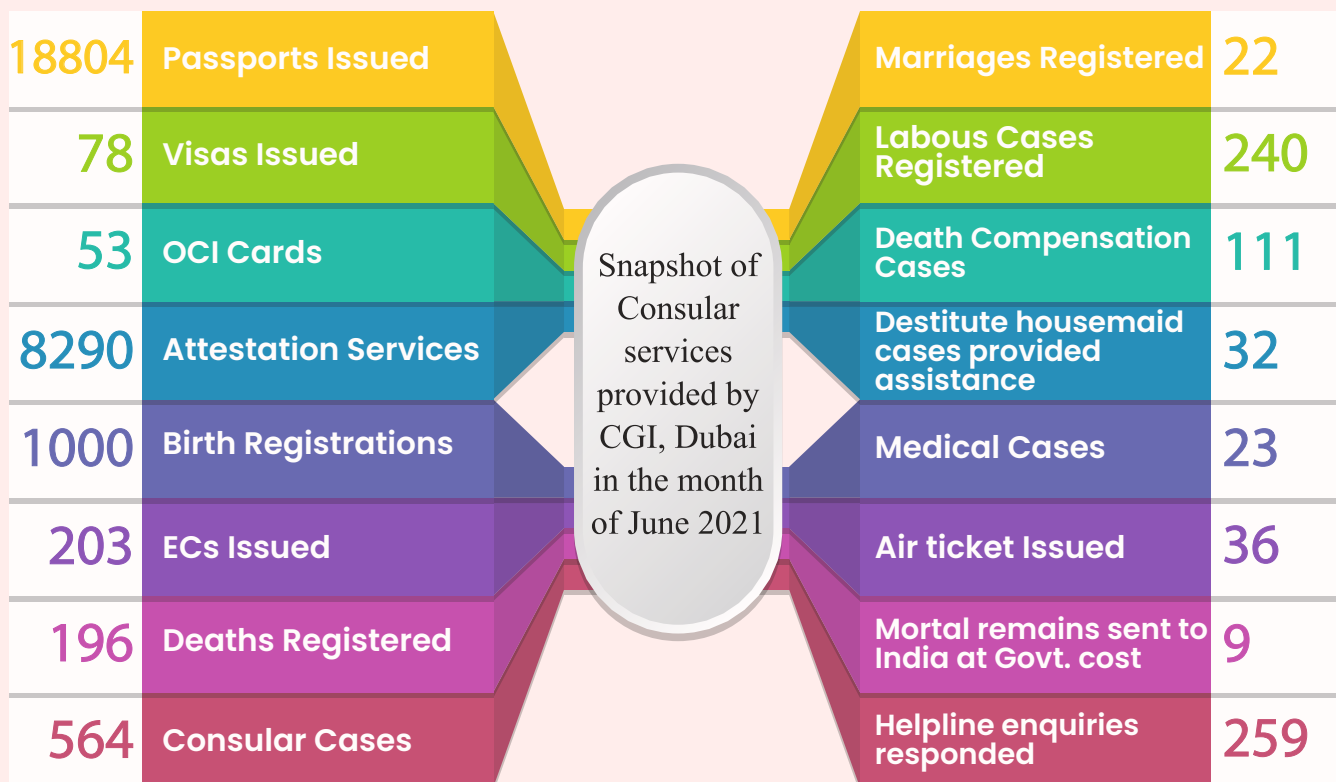


Call
800 46342
(800INDIA) Toll Free

PBSK is an initiative of Government of India which provides support to the Indian community in UAE in the following areas:

- >> 24 x 7 Help line
- >> Experts - Legal, Financial & Psychological
- >> Walk-in Counters
- >> Receive, Register & Monitor Grievance petitions
- >> Verification of Job Offers
- >> Awareness campaigns & Counselling Sessions

CONSULAR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2021



Awareness campaign and training on combating Human Trafficking



Consul General Dr. Aman Puri and Ms. Shaikha Al Mansoori ACG with the women volunteer on the final session of training Program.

Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) in association with Indian Consulate organized special awareness campaign and training programme on “Human Trafficking” of all kinds of workers, mainly female & child workers. The training programme was conducted over three sessions for Indian Consulate staff members and volunteers from various Indian social & cultural groups in the UAE. The final session on June 16, 2021 was attended by Consul General, Dr. Aman Puri and Ms. Shaikha Al Mansoori, Acting Director General (ACG) of DFWAC.

Consul General said “Human Trafficking is the third largest organized crime industry in the world. The Indian Consulate is privileged to collaborate with DFWAC to deal with and raise awareness about such issues.” Additionally, he urged the participants to spread awareness among the community.

DFWAC was established in 2007 to offer immediate protection and support services for women and children in the UAE against domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking. It is the first licensed non-profit shelter in the UAE that runs specifically for the care of women and children.



Consul General Dr. Aman Puri felicitated with token of Appreciation to Ms Shaika Al Mansoori, ACG Dubai Foundation for collaboration with Indian Consulate.

Assistance in transfer of mortal remains to India

Consulate General of India, Dubai extends every possible assistance, including financial assistance, in transportation of mortal remains to India or cremation/ burial locally in death cases of Indian nationals in Dubai and other Northern Emirates. Sometimes, there are cases which need extra efforts of the Consulate. One such case was brought to the notice of the Consulate by Kalba Police Station, Kalba(UAE) in March this year about an unclaimed body of an Indian national lying in the police mortuary for a long time. Consulate immediately swung into action and approached the local authorities for details of the case. On enquiry, it was found to be a suicide case and no one had claimed the body. No other information was provided about the family/ friend/ relative or sponsor of the deceased except photocopy of the passport. On the basis of the address provided in the passport, Consulate approached District Administration and Police authorities of North 24 Parganas District, West Bengal for their assistance in locating the family of the deceased and also sought help of MEA's Branch Secretariat in Kolkata. After rigorous

follow up with the various authorities in West Bengal and special efforts of our Branch Secretariat, the family of the deceased was located. They were shocked to receive the sad news and queries were raised on the reasons of the death. Naturally, they were also anxious to know the details of the death and reasons thereof. On Consulate's request, UAE authorities provided the forensic report and the same was sent to the family. Satisfied with the report, family authorized the Consulate to send the mortal remains to India and also requested to bear the expenses involved owing to their poor financial condition.

After a series of communications with different authorities and completing the required documents, the mortal remains of the deceased were finally sent to India on June 7, 2021. ISCC, Kalba provided field support to the Consulate. This was one of the many other heart wrenching stories, the Consular section in the Indian consulate comes across on daily basis and our constant endeavour is to help each and every Indian national in distress.

Repatriation of critically ill patient

Consulate General of India, Dubai is happy to assist Mr. TM, a partially blind and paralyzed Indian national in his 60s, in his repatriation to India. He had been living in Dubai since 2014 and was having an electronics trading business. But his business collapsed and he got two cheque cases and a rental case against him. He suffered a stroke and seizures that left him with limited mobility. The Consulate started working on his case and tried to contact the concerned authorities to come to an amicable solution. However, desired results were not being received, the rental dispute case was the prime hurdle and finally another miracle happened, Head of Case Management Department in Rashid Hospital, Dubai, made personal efforts to approach the landlord of Mr. TM, who was kind indeed and agreed to remove the rental case without any condition. This came as a big sigh of relief which opened the doors for him to reach to India to meet his family. Thereafter, the requisite steps were followed and travel documents were issued and financial assistance was provided for his travel to India along with an escort. Thus with the joint efforts of everyone,



Repatriation of Mr. TM, a long awaited reunion with family.

Mr. TM could unite with his family back in India. Mr. TM said, "I am just happy to finally go home and grateful to all the people who helped me."



Chancery building of the Consulate General of India, Dubai

The Consulate General of India, Dubai

The Consulate General of India, Dubai is situated in the Al-Hamaria, Diplomatic Enclave, Bur Dubai, Dubai. The building was initially constructed in 1991 on a plot of land of 35800 square feet and is owned by the Government of India. With the expansion of its activities and to provide better services to Indian diaspora, the premises were fully renovated in 2012-13. The Consulate has several Wings & Sections which deals with matters related to Administration, Protocol, Visa, Passport & Attestation, Consular, Labour, Press, Information & Culture (PIC), Economic, Trade & Commerce, Education etc. There are 91 India-based and locally recruited staff working at the Consulate and is amongst the largest Indian Consulate worldwide providing services to nearly 2.6 million strong Indian diaspora living in Dubai and other Northern Emirates.

In November 2020, the Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra (PBSK) was also shifted to Chancery premises. With the shifting of PBSK, the Consulate is able to enhance its services as all its PBSK related activities and the support required for distressed Indians have been streamlined at one service center.

The residence of the Consul General of India is Government of India owned property and is situated at Emirates Hills, Dubai.

The property was purchased in Feb. 2010 and is spread over a plot of land measuring 19051 square feet. Dr. Aman Puri is the 16th Consul General of India to Dubai & Northern Emirates. He assumed the charge as Consul General in July 2020. Shri S.P.R. Bhatia (1973-1977) was the first Consul General of India to Dubai.



Toys are us

India seeks to claim pole position in the global toy industry. It helps that the country is becoming as adept at technologically cutting-edge toys as it is in making traditional ones.

By – Hindole Sengupta, Views are personal. The author is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.



Photo Credit: Pexels.com

An element of playfulness has always been part of Indian culture and therefore it is little wonder that the country has a long and varied history of toys. Each region of India has its own distinct toys—from paper cards to papier mâché dolls. On paper, leather, wood, and cloth, and even porcelain, there is barely a surface that has not lent itself to the making of Indian toys. Just to give a sense of the unique richness of toys in the country, they stretch these days from the traditional terracotta bobble-head, the Thanjavur doll, to Mattel's special Barbie doll based on Indian para-badminton champion Manasi Joshi. At around \$1 billion a year, the toy industry in the country is now on the threshold of great change. With new incentives, innovative start-

ups, and toy clusters coming up in several states, it is renaissance time in the world of Indian toys. India has several strategic advantages in this field, from ample availability of raw materials (the country is the second-largest producer of polyester in the world) to wide availability of high quality, affordable labour.

From Tamil Nadu to Maharashtra, therefore, toy manufacturing clusters are coming up which aim to make the country a global destination for toy making, and a great toy market with its young population and increasing purchasing power. Indian skilled labour in the sector is often 20%-40% cheaper than the nearest competitors in other countries. Major toy manufacturing clusters are coming up in Koppal in Karnataka, Ranipet in Tamil Nadu, and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, among other locations. To facilitate existing and new players in the toy sector, state governments have established, or are establishing, toys clusters with plug and play facilities, easy access to raw materials and adequate testing laboratories, and access to ports. The potential of the industry has been celebrated in a 17-point National Action Plan for Toys, in consultation with 14 Union ministries, with detailed suggested interventions for the development of toy manufacturing in tandem with 13 identified handi-crafts toy clusters.

The action plan also includes the public procurement of indigenous toys, the vigorous promotion of Make in India in toy manufacturing and indigenous toy clusters, consumer awareness campaigns, implementation of quality control, and fostering of investments in the industry.

A National Toy Fair held in February - March 2021 was also part of the plans. The use of toys and games as an integral part of the learning process has also been promoted as a key idea in India's New Educa-

From Tamil Nadu to Maharashtra, therefore, toy manufacturing clusters are coming up which aim to make the country a global destination for toy making, and a great toy market with its young population and increasing purchasing power. Indian skilled labour in the sector is often 20%-40% cheaper than the nearest competitors in other countries. Major toy manufacturing clusters are coming up in Koppal in Karnataka, Ranipet in Tamil Nadu, and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh, among other locations. To facilitate existing and new players in the toy sector, state governments have established, or are establishing, toys clusters with plug and play facilities, easy access to raw materials and adequate testing laboratories, and access to ports.

tion Policy. There are around 4,000 toy manufacturers in India, 75% of whom are micro units and 22% are small and medium enterprises. The sprawling diversity of manufacturing skills is another source of strength in the Indian toy making sector. With the various manufacturing hubs, allied sectors in the toy industry have also got into action. India's many startups at the cutting-edge of technology like artificial intelligence, robotics, and machine learning have also helped build capacity and inter-connections between various sub-industries in toy manufacturing. The market share in the toy market is led by states like Maharashtra (32.6%) and others like Uttar Pradesh (19.3%) and Karnataka (13.6%). Hot on their tails are states like Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Tel-

angana, and Andhra Pradesh. What is happening, importantly, with all this action is that the country is becoming as adept at technologically cutting-edge toys as it is in making traditional toys. Many state governments are offering up to 30% in capital investment subsidy, which is a strong incentive from many producers. One great example of this kind of collaboration is the success of Funkskool which is based in Chennai where it runs three manufacturing units. The company draws both from the traditional strengths in toy making in the state and the ample amounts of hi-tech skills available there. The Indian toy manufacturing industry is therefore reaching a most interesting pivot, one that might help it make a global mark in the toy universe.

This article first appeared in Fortune India magazine

Toycathon 2021



Photo Credit: toycathon.mic.gov.in

Toycathon 2021, started in January, crowd-sourced innovative ideas for games and toys from youth all across India. This was a joint effort from the Indian ministry of education, WCD ministry, Textile Industry, MSME ministry, I&B ministry, DPIIT, and AICTE. 1.2lakh participants submitted their unique toy and game ideas, and 1,567 ideas were selected for the grand finale held from 22nd-24th June 2021. Prime minister – Shri Narendra Modi addressed the finale highlighting the importance of the Indian toy sector. He urged to spread awareness about the local art forms and divert attention to preserve this part of the country's heritage. He mentioned that toys are essential elements in nurturing children, saying – “If

families are children's first school, then toys are their first books”. He also acknowledged the unfamiliarity of the foreign world

with the worthy culture represented via Indian toys and games. He greatly appreciated the aim underlying Toycathon and supported the participation of the youth in the prospective digital gaming world with alternative ideas that are inclusive of safe and educational means. Indigenously crafted Toys become a medium of imparting cultural pride. The many ideas touched on aspects of Vedic math, yoga, and Indian heritage to promote Indianness.



Infrastructure – A new narrative unfolding in India

By – Remya Lakshmanan, Strategic Investment Research Unit

India is ushering in an era of accelerated growth with a renewed sense of national purpose. The infrastructure sector, too, is telling a new story. In the last few years, the Indian government has prioritised the country's infrastructure development, which is crucial to its economic growth and a key indicator of the economy's competitiveness. As a start, it has allocated a higher share of budget 2020-21 to the capital expenditure than it has for over a decade, to accelerate investments in infrastructure. Around 15.91 per cent was allocated compared to 13.55 per cent last year. The government has expanded the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) to include 7,400 projects under a budget outlay of USD 1.4 Trillion with 217 projects worth USD 15 Billion completed so far.

Critical areas such as energy, roads, railways and urban development constitute 71 percent of the projected infrastructure investments, where centre and state have an almost equal share followed by the private sector. Increased transparency in governance and the use of auction to allocate projects have made investing in infrastructure more attractive to foreign investors.



INVEST INDIA
NATIONAL INVESTMENT PROMOTION
& FACILITATION AGENCY



Gurgaon, India. Photo Credit: Photographer Incognito / Shutterstock

The construction and infrastructure activities combined recorded a cumulative FDI of USD 51 Million in the last ten years. Furthermore, the government is addressing some of the liquidity challenges and making financing readily available for large infrastructure projects. Creating the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has attracted considerable interest from global institutional investors, including Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), TEMASEK from Singapore and Caisse de Depot et Placement du Quebec (CDPQ) from Canada, to name a few. These potential investors will now

be able to choose from a portfolio of growth-focused funds in India, and selectively co-invest into a wide range of investment opportunities. The focus of NIIF is across various sectors, including green energy, social infrastructure, middle income and affordable housing, consumer services, financial services, technology and others. Large investors (LPs), including Sequoia, KKR, Edelweiss, etc., are moving quickly, making diverse bets beginning with energy, transport and real estate and are foraying on the back of their successes into more diverse projects in start-ups, healthcare and logistics.

India is at a breakneck speed in developing robust transport infrastructure. The government's budgetary commitment towards building an efficient road network is accompanied by contributions from private investments. NHAI's infrastructure Investment Trust (InVIT), the national asset monetisation program and Development Finance Institutions (DFI) with a capital base of USD 2.5 Billion with a lending portfolio of USD 67 Billion in three years will augment infrastructure funding. The Indian government has also announced a long-term plan to invest USD 82 Billion in port infrastructure, pointing to the possibilities for foreign and private investors. Realising the significance of India's vast coastline of 7,500 kilometres, the government has initiated several projects, such as the expansion of Sagarmala project, which aims at connecting major ports with minor ports through a road and rail network. Under this project, two greenfield ports – Vadhavan and Paradip have been proposed. Additionally, the Jalmarg Vikas Project has been initiated to augment the development of an integrated inland water transportation system.

India's power sector, too, is turning a corner. Strong on solar, India is paving its way forward in non-conventional energy production by increasing the share of installed capacity of non-fossil fuels to 40 per cent



*The Bandra-Worli Sea Link, Mumbai.
Photo Credit: Joe Ravi / Shutterstock*



Gurgaon, India. Photo Credit: Vikas Kumar / Shutterstock

and reducing emissions by 30-35 per cent. To meet its ambitious target of 450 GW of clean energy capacity by the end of the decade, AIndia will have to usher in investments of USD 500 Billion in developing wind and solar projects along with grid stabilising technologies, building battery energy storage and other transmission and distribution initiatives. Private equity groups, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, oil and gas majors, development banks, state-owned entities and energy industry leaders could all play a critical role in accelerating India's renewable energy growth.

Revitalising health, education, and other facets of human development and improving social infrastructure is equally critical in government agenda. The pandemic, if anything, has further stressed the need to strengthen the country's health infrastructure. The healthcare sector aims to unlock an economic value of USD 200 Billion in the coming years. Foreign investment permitted under 100 per cent route could scale up the existing 'National Health Mission' by developing capacities of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems.

Capitalising infrastructure will help achieve comprehensive sustainable development in the country, and joining forces with the rest of the world will create a more equitable future. The government's vision is to build an efficient road network, double the energy capacity, privatise more airports, increase share in freight traffic and improve digital infrastructure, which leads to building specific investable opportunities for all types of investors and making a compelling case to invest in India.

India – UAE Trade at a Glance

India-UAE bilateral trade for the last five years

Value in US\$ Million

S. No.	Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1	EXPORT	33,028.08	30,290.01	31,175.50	28,145.64	30,126.34	28,853.47
2	%Growth		-8.29	2.92	-9.72	7.04	-4.23
3	IMPORT	26,139.91	19,445.68	21,509.83	21,739.96	29,783.04	30,256.64
4	%Growth		-25.61	10.61	1.07	37.00	1.58
5	TOTAL TRADE	59,167.99	49,735.69	52,685.33	49,885.60	59,909.38	59,110.10
6	%Growth		-15.94	5.93	-5.31	20.09	-1.34
7	TRADE BALANCE	6,888.17	10,844.33	9,665.67	6,405.69	343.30	-1,403.17

Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata

at US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, is today at US\$ 60 billion making UAE, India's third largest trading partner for the year 2019-20 after China and US. Moreover, UAE is the second largest export destination of India (after US) with an amount of nearly US\$ 29 billion for the year 2019-20. For UAE, India is the second largest trading partner for the year 2019 with an amount of around US\$ 41.43 billion (non-oil trade). India's major export items to the UAE include petroleum products, precious metals, stones, gems & jewellery, minerals, food items such as cereals, sugar, fruits & vegetables, tea, meat, seafood, textiles which include garments, apparel, synthetic fibre, cotton, yarn, etc., engineering & machinery products and chemicals. India's major import items from the UAE consist of petroleum and petroleum products, pearls, precious metals, stones, gems & jewellery, plastic articles, minerals such as Copper, Iron, Steel, chemicals. Crude oil is the topmost import item and India also imported 21.83 MMT of crude oil from UAE in 2019-20. The trade ties between India and the UAE are on an upswing in the last few years with the potential to grow further. The leaders of the two countries hold regular discussions to strengthen bilateral relations, especially in the post Covid-19 era, with special focus on the economic front.

The pharmaceutical industry has been a long-standing key sector for the UAE, even prior to the coronavirus pandemic. The UAE's pharmaceutical market is worth about US\$ 4 billion. At present, India's market share in this sector is less than 5%. Given India's strong potential in this sector, there is immense untapped potential for Indian pharmaceutical companies to expand their presence in the UAE.



Another sector with an increasing prospects for imports from India is the agricultural sector. UAE imports 85-90% of its food requirements. India's market share in UAE's agricultural & food market is about 11%. Given UAE's strong focus on food security, there is enormous potential to increase India's agricultural and food exports. Moreover, due to the presence of 3.3 million Indian expats in the UAE, there is ready market for Indian agriculture and food

products. Following the current Covid-19 pandemic, as the UAE and India come closer and collaborate than ever before. UAE has positioned itself as an attractive investment destination through a series of investor-friendly measures. India's growing manufacturing capabilities in diversified fields has led to increased trade between two countries. In this background, the trade with UAE has enormous scope to flourish in future.



The Central Railway station from the colonial era in the evening. Crowd of pedestrians and vehicles.
Photo Credit: AjayTvm / Shutterstock

Chennai: The world's most affordable city for a 5-Star hotel stay is in India

Chennai is the least expensive city for a five star stay in the world, the results declared, with the starting price of an upscale hotel room at GBP34/Rs3,530 per night. The city has some terrific business hotels, with several top-voted hotel restaurants at the Top Restaurant Awards. There's lots to sightsee, and if you have more time on your hands, Chennai also has many sweet deals from farmstays to quick getaways.

Travellers hankering to splurge after months of pandemic shut-in have reason to cheer.

Seven of the world's 10 cities with the least expensive five-star hotels are in India, according to a new survey by LuxuryHotel.com. The hotel curation platform compared cities on Euromonitor's 2019 Top 100 City Destinations (ranked by the most tourist arrivals) for the number of five-star hotels and nightly cost per room, using data from Booking.com. While Chennai offers the world's most affordable five-star hotel rooms, Jaipur is the eighth least expensive Indian city in the top 10.

To top it all, seven Indian cities feature in the top 50 cities with the highest percentage of five-star hotels. Abu Dhabi ranks first with 32% luxury hotels (47 of 146 properties are five-star stays; the average night's stay is GBP137/Rs14,190). At #17 is Agra (7%, with 15 five-star hotels among 214), followed by Jaipur at #26, Mumbai at #30, Chennai at #35, Bengaluru at #38, Kolkata at #47 and Delhi at #50 (3.13%, with 53 five-star hotels among 1,693).

The World's Best Cities for Five Star Luxury

City, Country	Five star hotels	Total hotels	Five star hotels as % of total	Average price of one night stay
1 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	47	146	32.19%	£137
2 Shenzhen, China	72	305	23.61%	£132
3 Beijing, China	121	553	21.88%	£132
4 Shanghai, China	160	758	21.11%	£124
5 Zhuhai, China	13	63	20.63%	£130
6 Mecca, Saudi Arabia	34	166	20.48%	£98
7 Singapore, Singapore	82	516	15.89%	£218
8 Guangzhou, China	68	521	13.05%	£119
9 Guilin, China	10	80	12.50%	£78
10 Vancouver, Canada	18	145	12.41%	£118
11 Ha Long, Vietnam	56	519	10.79%	£142
12 Hurghada, Egypt	77	772	9.97%	£88
13 Hong Kong, Hong Kong	57	574	9.93%	£146
14 New York City, US	52	592	8.78%	£290
15 Las Vegas, US	26	359	7.24%	£193
16 Cancun, Mexico	65	927	7.01%	£230
17 Agra, India	15	214	7.01%	£42
18 London, United Kingdom	347	5,057	6.86%	£244
19 Taipei, Taiwan	40	616	6.49%	£104
20 Dubai, United Arab Emirates	188	2,960	6.35%	£206
21 Phuket, Thailand	20	317	6.31%	£57
22 Auckland, New Zealand	50	795	6.29%	£162
23 Sydney, Australia	81	1,289	6.28%	£201
24 Bangkok, Thailand	133	2,142	6.21%	£64
25 Cairo, Egypt	50	810	6.17%	£78
26 Jaipur, India	40	792	5.05%	£56
27 Melbourne, Australia	58	1,172	4.95%	£206
28 Istanbul, Turkey	149	3,077	4.84%	£83
29 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	29	604	4.80%	£206
30 Mumbai, India	39	833	4.68%	£52
31 Johor Bahru, Malaysia	29	671	4.32%	£41
32 Seoul, South Korea	34	789	4.31%	£228
33 Kyoto, Japan	87	2,048	4.25%	£260
34 Miami, US	23	546	4.21%	£338
35 Chennai, India	33	784	4.21%	£34
36 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	69	1,646	4.19%	£64
37 Dublin, Ireland	15	370	4.05%	£276
38 Bangalore, India	46	1,187	3.88%	£41
39 Paris, France	149	4,039	3.69%	£470

Photo Credit: Luxury Hotel.com



Photo Credit: Harish Thangarajan / EyeEm / Getty

Agra comes in at #4, at GBP42/Rs4,360 per night. With the Taj Mahal in the neighbourhood, it's a popular choice for a destination wedding of course though there's plenty else to do too including restored Mughal gardens.

Kolkata follows at GBP50/Rs5,200 per night, the same as Delhi at #6. Here's a quick comparative hotel guide, plus the most recent entry from CNT's annual Hot List in Kolkata and in West Bengal, top-notch restaurants and some beautiful weekend escapes from Kolkata.

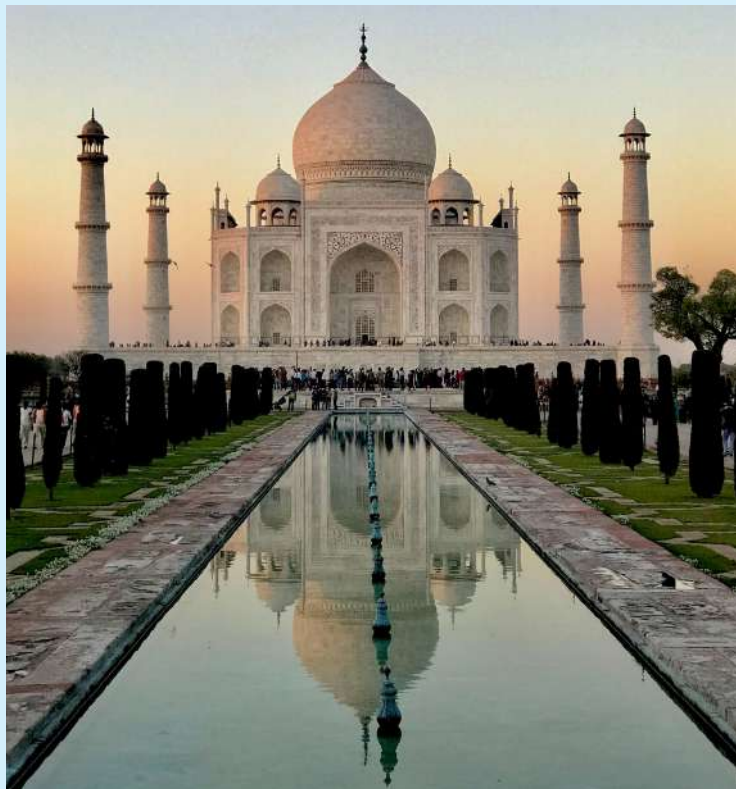
Delhi has stellar hotel deals not to mention star restaurants and ample getaways: here's a big fat hotel guide to road trips from the capital.

Mumbai comes in at #7 at GBP52/Rs5,400 per night. Visitors to India's cultural capital are spoiled for choice when it comes to city hotels, superb restaurants and beautiful weekend resorts.

Bengaluru nabs the third spot after Malaysia's Johor Bahru. The baseline for a five-star stay is the same in both cities, and about Rs1,000 more than Chennai, at GBP41/Rs4,260. India's IT hub has super business hotels of course, many top-voted restaurants. (Incidentally, ITC Windsor recently became the world's first hotel to receive the LEED Zero Carbon Certification.) Plus for those getting out of the city, there are amazing homestays, wonderfully offbeat getaways nearby, and even more great stays to consider if other South Indian cities are on your itinerary.



India gate during night at New Delhi, India.
Photo Credit: Amit kg / Shutterstock



Taj Mahal palace in India
Photo Credit: Jarno, Zarraonandia / Shutterstock

Govt to provide free visas to 5 lakh tourists visiting India

Finance Minister of India Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman recently announced that Government of India will provide free visas to 5 lakh tourists visiting India. Announcing this, the Minister said that financial support would be provided to more than 11,000 registered tourist guides, travel and tourism stakeholders.

She said once the visa issuance for international travel is restarted, the first five lakh tourists will be issued visas free of charge. The total financial implication of this measure would be ₹100 crore. The scheme would be applicable till March 31, 2022, or till 5 lakh visas are issued, whichever is earlier.

It is believed that this measure would incentivise short-term tourists visiting India. The government will also provide working capital or personal loans to people in the tourism sector to discharge liabilities or restart businesses impacted due to Covid-19.

indi@tive

KNOWING INDIA

India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage. As the largest democracy in the world, it has achieved all-round socio-economic progress since Independence. Yet, there is so much to know about Incredible India – this quiz attempts to help you discover more about our great motherland!

- As we know, the Jantar Mantar is a sundial and the instrument that is intended to measure the time of day, correct to half a second and declination of the Sun and the other heavenly bodies. Originally five Jantar Mantars were constructed in India - New Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Mathura and Varanasi of which four still exist. Which king constructed all of these astronomical observatories in the early 18th century?



- In January 2015, the planning commission of India, that was set up in 1950 was renamed as NITI Aayog, to better represent the present needs and aspirations of people of India; what does NITI in NITI Aayog stand for?
- The Government of India has established 18 of these strictly protected areas since the year 2000, and there are plans to add more, to conserve biodiversity as well as restore the traditional life of the tribals living in the vicinity. What are these special zones called?
- India has over 300,000 mosques - more mosques than in any other nation! The Madina mosque is a rare architectural marvel as it has a striking and glittering structure of glass – the four storied structure and the only glass mosque in India is located in _____
- The world aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels amid the energy transition, and major economies are now looking to ramp up their share of solar power. Two among the Top 5 largest solar power plants in the world, including the largest, are located in India. Can you name the largest Solar Power Plant in the world as of 2020?

This quiz is compiled by **Murali Krishnan Sankaran**, a Dubai resident and Senior Management Professional working for a private group, with a passion for conducting and participating in quizzes!

- Formerly known as Wheeler Island, this island off the coast of Odisha, hosts the Integrated Test Range missile testing facility. On 4 September 2015, the island was renamed to honour a late Indian president – name the person.
- Milkha Singh, 'The Flying Sikh' is the only athlete to win a gold medal in the 400 meters race at two major sporting events. Which two events are referred here?



- The Asiatic lion is surviving today only in India. Since the turn of the 20th century, its range is restricted to one national park in the Indian state of Gujarat. Historically, it inhabited much of Western Asia and the Middle East to northern India. Which is the only national park where Asiatic Lions can be seen?



- Bachpan Bachao Andolan is an NGO founded by this iconic figure to strive against child labour and to secure the rights of children. His Organisation has to date liberated over 1 lakh children from child labour, trafficking, and slavery. This child rights activist was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2014. Who are we talking about?
- This Indian industry's doyen has emerged as the biggest philanthropist globally in the last century by donating \$102 billion, as per a list of top-50 givers prepared by Hurun Report and EdelGive Foundation. As the founder of what has now become a group spanning interests from salt to software, this person is ahead of others like Bill Gates (\$74.6 billion), Warren Buffet (\$37.4 billion), George Soros (\$34.8 billion) and John D Rockefeller (\$26.8 billion) as per the list published. Who is this Indian pioneer Industrialist?

ANSWERS

- Maharaja Jai Singh II
- National Institution for Transforming India
- Biosphere Reserves, which are 'learning places for the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation.
- Shillong, Meghalaya
- Bhadla Solar Park is spread over a total area of 5,700 hectares in Bhadla, Jodhpur district, Rajasthan. The park has a total capacity of 2245 MegaWatt.
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
- Asian Games & Commonwealth Games
- Gir National park
- Shri Kailash Satyarthi
- Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata

THE INDIAN PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES, HANDLED BY BLS INTERNATIONAL SERVICES.

Their website is www.blsindiavisa-uae.com and for queries you may call **04 387 5777**

The passport and Visa Service Centres located at the premises of the Indian Associations/Indian Social Centres in the different Emirate will continue to remain functional at their existing locations.

LOCATIONS OF INDIAN PASSPORT AND VISA CENTRES

BLS CENTRES

DUBAI AL KHALEEF CENTRE

BLS Centre, Unit no 118 -119,
Al Khaleef Center, Opposite Al Ain
Centre, Mankhool Road, Bur Dubai
Tel: 04 387 5777

DUBAI (PREMIUM LOUNGE)

507, Habib Bank AG Zurich, Al
Jawahar Building, Bank Street,
Next to ADCB Bank, Bur Dubai.
Tel: 04 387 5777

DUBAI DEIRA CENTRE

Shop No# 13, Ground Floor, Shop
No# 13, Ground Floor, Opp. to
Deira City Centre P3 Parking,
Deira, Dubai. Tel: 04 387 5777

ABU DHABI

BLS Centre, Shams Boutik (The
Mall), Level 1, Shop No 32, Al
Rayfah St, Al Reem Island, Abu
Dhabi. Tel: 04 387 5667

ABU DHABI (PREMIUM LOUNGE)

M02, Bldg No 14,15 (Al Muhairi
bldg), Cute Baby Boutique Build-
ing, Besides Huff&Puff Burger
Rest., Al Nahyan camp, Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI (MUSSAFFAH)

Cubes Park Block – 4, Entrance - D,
Mezzanine Floor (M-10), Mussaffah
Industrial Area (M 25), Mussaffah,
Abu Dhabi. Tel: 04 387 5667

BLS SHARJAH

BLS Centre, Office No.11, Mezza-
nine Floor, Abdul Aziz Majid Build-
ing, King Faisal Street, HSBC Bank
Bldg, Sharjah. Tel: 04 387 5777

BLS RAS AL KHAIMAH

BLS Centre, Behind Specialist
Medical Centre, IT Computer
Cross, Dahan Road, Ras Al
Khaimah. Tel: 04 387 5777

UMM AL QUWAIN

Shop No: 14, Al Abdul Lathif Al Za-
rooni Building, King Faizal Road,
Umm Al Quwain.
Tel: 04 387 5777

BLS OFFICES IN INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS

SHARJAH INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Indian Association Sharjah (I.A.S),
Near Mega Mall Round About, Al
Manakh Area, Sharjah.
Tel: 04 387 5777

AJMAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Indian Association Ajman (I.A.A),
Behind Fazaa Store, Al Jurf Indus-
trial area – 3, Ajman
Tel: 04 387 5777

AL AIN ISC

India Social Centre, Villa No 127,
Street No.1, Near Alain Chess
Club, Khabisi District, Al Ain UAE.
Tel: 04 387 5777

RAS AL KHAIMAH IRC

Indian Relief Committee
(I.A.R.A.K), Next to Indian School
RAK, Muntazar Road, Nakheel, Ras
Al Khaimah. Tel: 04 387 5777

FUJAIRAH

Indian Social Club Fujairah, Al
Fazil Road, Opp. Hilton Hotel,
Fazeel, Fujairah.
Tel: 04 387 5777

KALBA

Kalba Indian Social and Cultural
Club, Al Ithihad club Road, Kalba
Tel: 04 387 5777

KHORFAKKAN ISC

Indian Social Club, Behind Indian
School, Kabba, Khorfakkan.
Tel: 04 387 5777

DUBAI (NAIF STREET, SABKHA)

Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre, Al
Shirawi Building, Near Sabkha Bus
Station, Deira, Dubai
Tel: 04 387 5777

SCAN ME



www.blsinternational.com