



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrives at Parliament House to present the budget 2020-21 in New Delhi. Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur is also seen and on right Prime Minister Narendra Modi briefing the media ahead of the budget session of the Parliament in New Delhi. With the PM are Minister of State for External Affairs Muralleedharan and PMO Minister Jitendra Singh.

Bonafide NRIs will not be taxed

NEW DELHI: The government has clarified that the proposed tax on NRIs will not apply on bonafide Indians working in tax-free foreign countries and is intended to tax only those seeking to escape tax by exploiting their non-resident status.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget for 2020-21 had proposed to tax NRIs who do not pay taxes in any foreign country. This provision raised anxiety in minds of those working in the Gulf region where countries don't tax income earned by individuals.

First Nirmala clarified that only Indian income of NRIs is proposed to be taxed under the new provision, but later the tax department issued a statement to say that "the new provision is not intended to include in tax net those Indian citizens who are bonafide workers in other countries".

The Union budget had tightened the screws on those seeking to escape tax by exploiting their non-resident status. While earlier it

Tightening the residency provisions, the budget also proposed to reduce the period of stay in India to 120 days from 182 days earlier for persons of Indian origin to be categorised as NRIs. In other words, one has to be out of India for 245 days to become an NRI.

was possible to be classified as a non-resident by staying out of the country for 183 days or about six months in a year, this has now been, in effect, enhanced to 245 days.

Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the new rule was "an anti-abuse provision planned to plug loopholes in the system and not intended to tax income earned by those working overseas". He said the wording in the budget document may have created confusion and so a clarification has been issued now.

"What we are doing now is that the income of an NRI generated in India will be taxed here. If he's earning something in a jurisdiction where there is no tax, why will I include that into mine that has been generated

there," Nirmala told reporters.

She said Indian earnings of NRIs such as rental income from property in the country is what was intended to be taxed by way of the new provision. "Whereas if you have a property here and you have rent out of it, but because you are living there, you carry this rent into your income there and pay no tax there, pay no tax here ... since the property is in India, I have got a sovereign right to tax," she said in a post-budget interaction with media.

Not aimed at Gulf workers

"I am not taxing what you're earning in Dubai but that property which is giving you rent here, you may be an NRI, you may be living there but that is revenue

being generated here for you. So, that's the issue."

Pandey said Indians working in the MidEast, as well as those in Merchant Navy, will not be taxed using the new provision. "Somebody who is a citizen of India and sitting in a tax haven and not paying taxes then he has to pay tax," he said. "By issuing clarification, we have kept them (workers in the Gulf) out. Same for merchant navy because their income is also not arising out of India."

Asked if raising the duration of overseas stay to qualify for NRI status would not deter Indians from making visits home, he said: "These are anti-abuse provisions. If someone faces any difficulty because of this, we will see what can be done. The policy that you make, you have to see that a larger section of people is benefited because of this. If he is a non-resident, he has to live substantially out of India. Now, substantially out of India means what? Earlier it was 50:50.

Now (Contd. on page 2)

New definition of NRIs will harm Kerala: CM

KOCHI: Kerala has come out against the Union government's proposed amendment to section-6 of the Income Tax Act, saying it would affect its economy which is supported largely by remittances from NRIs in the Gulf.

In a statement here, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state's economy, which is substantially supported by remittances, especially from those in the Gulf countries, would be affected by this amendment.

In the Finance Bill presented along with the Union budget 2020, the Centre has proposed to amend section-6 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 which stipulates conditions for determining residential status for tax purposes in India. Presently, Indian citizens or people of Indian origin are treated as residents if they stay for 182 days or more in India. The amendment proposes to reduce this to 120 days with effect from April. For a resident, his or her global income is subject to tax in India. (Contd. on page 2)

Salaried NRIs will not be affected by 120-day rule

NEW DELHI: Salary earning NRIs will not be impacted by the new tax proposals in the latest budget.

This is because of their residency status in the country they are working in, and the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) which India has with most of these countries. "If an individual lives in the UAE for more than 180 days, he is automatically a resident of UAE," said Dixit Jain, Director, The Tax Experts DMCC.

"And balance days, if he is living in any other country taking the total to more than 240 days outside India, only his Indian income will be taxable and he will (still) be considered as NRI."

Earlier, if an Indian citizen who stayed out of India for 182 days would become non-resident. Now, the law is being changed and it now requires one to remain outside India for 240 days or more to be a non-resident (for tax purposes).

"While most salary earners will automatically fulfil the requirement of 240 days outside India to keep their NRI status, businessmen have the option to get a tax residency certificate from respective government authorities where they are resident," said Jain. Tax consultants have clarified that while an Indian citizen is required to remain a total of 240 days a year out of the country to maintain non-resident status for tax purposes, he/she is not required to reside in any one country or territory. Instead, he or she needs to fulfil the minimum tax residency requirement of the respective countries.

Indian business owners in the UAE have expressed concern over the new rules for residency status and its potential tax implications. They will not be impacted by the proposed changes in income tax rules if they stay less than 120 days in India, and/or able to prove their tax residency in the coun-

tries their businesses are located. "The number of days an NRI can spend in India to get the tax exemption is reduced from 182 days to 120 days --- this will have significant impact on businessmen having significant investments in India," said Dr. Azad Moopen, Chairman, Aster DM Healthcare.

"Our India-listed company has 13 hospitals in India invested through the FDI route, whereas we have only 12 hospitals in GCC. Out of our 20,000 employees, majority are in India. This naturally requires us to spend significant time in India. Even in the case of others like the offshore company workers who get one-month off after one-year of work, this will be a great disadvantage.

Clearly, the new proposals have created panic among expats across all categories. "Most of them are panicking about possible taxation of their income in the UAE (Contd. on page 2)

NRIs can take shelter under double taxation treaty

MUMBAI: "You are a resident of UAE under the India-UAE Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) and holding a residence visa of the UAE. Therefore, you will not be covered by the law proposed in the budget. It may be recalled that the Double Tax Treaty UAE-India was signed in 1993," says a tax expert.

Krishnan Ramachandran, CEO, Barjeel Geojit Securities, said: "With the UAE-India DTAA in place, an NRI holding a valid residence visa will not be taxed in India with respect to his income in the UAE. This can be validated by furnishing a Tax Residency Certificate to the income tax authorities." Endorsing a similar view, Dixit Jain, managing director, The Tax Experts DMCC, said: "Amid a lot of confusion and outrage by NRIs around the world, the simple clarification came stating that only those individuals who are staying outside India just for the purpose of main-

taining 182 days in order to claim NRI status to avail the benefits will no longer be able to do that. It means individual who cannot prove his residency of one particular country and is not a tax resident of one particular country will be assumed to be a tax resident of India and his worldwide income will be taxed in India. However, a person holding a valid residence visa with economic relevance to that country need not worry on that. He will have to pay tax only on the income earned in India and no tax on his global income."

The ambiguity over the tax structure received a lot of flak. Naveen Sharma, head accounting, Audit & Advisory Services Focus Group, said: "A lot of Gulf-based Indians start or expand their business and it is usual that they spend a lot of time in their new business but now they will have one more headache: Worry about their NRI status because if they lose that

status, their entire global income will be taxable."

Moreover, Indians working in Gulf countries visit India frequently to take care of their families and stay on for four to six months. Now, they have to worry about NRI status, experts said. "These are backward-looking budget proposals and will create a lot of anxiety among the hardworking Indian population in the Gulf region. This is one of the worst budget proposals in the last 30 years and the government should immediately withdraw this as it is against the interest of the hardworking Indian expats who remit billions of dollars every year to India," Sharma added.

Expressing his disappointment, Ashish Mehta, managing partner, Ashish Mehta & Associates, said: "Union budget 2020 may discourage investments from NRIs whether in businesses or personal investments as it has dented the confidence of the NRIs.



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Britain exits EU amid night of parties, protests

LONDON: Amid pro-Brexit celebrations and anti-Brexit protests, the United Kingdom officially left the European Union at 23:00 GMT on Friday more than three years after it voted to do so in a referendum, marking the end of a 47-year chapter in its history.

Candlelit vigils were held in Scotland, which voted to stay in the EU, while Brexiteers partied in London's Parliament Square. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson released a message on social media an hour before the UK's departure, vowing to lead the nation forward.

"For many people this is an astonishing moment of hope, a moment they thought would never come. And there are many of course who feel a sense of anxiety and loss. And then, of course, there is a third group ---- perhaps the biggest-- - who had started to worry that the whole political wrangle would never come to an end. I understand all those feelings and our job as the government -- my job- - is to bring this country together now and take us forward," Johnson said.

Ireland's Indian-origin PM Leo Varadkar described the moment of exit as "bittersweet". "There will always be a seat for the UK at the European table. The next step is to negotiate future relationships, including a free trade agreement, between the EU including Ireland and the UK," Varadkar said.

Some symbolic moments to mark the historic occasion included: The Union flag being removed from the European Union institutions in Brussels. The cabinet meeting in Sunderland, the first city to declare in favour of Brexit when the 2016 results were announced. A light show illuminating 10 Downing Street and Union flags lining The Mall. A 50p coin to mark the occasion entering circulation British Members of the European Parliament exiting the building for the last time.

For British and EU citizens alike, there will be no measurable changes seen for at least 11 months as both bodies move into a transition period while they hope to negotiate a new free trade agreement, co-operation on security, and new arrangements for fishing among other vital policies.

Britain joined what was then the European Economic Community on Jan 1, 1973, at the third try and an overwhelming majority voted to stay in a referendum two years later.

Prem Parameswaran joins US presidential advisory commission on Asian Americans

WASHINGTON: Prem Parameswaran (50), global chief financial officer of Eros International PLC and president of Eros International PLC's North America operations, was sworn by Vice President Mike Pence, as a member of President Donald Trump's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPPI).

Parameswaran is the only Indian American among the 13 members to be appointed to the Commission that provides inputs to the White House and government agencies to help empower these AAPPI communities and assist in alleviating their priority issues and areas of concern. Trump also designated his Asian American Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao, the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to be Co-Chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

In his remarks that followed his administering the oath of office to Parameswaran and the other members of the Commission, Pence lauded the AAPPI com-

munity and their contributions to the US and their achieving of the "American Dream."

He noted, "The American economy is soaring and Asian

American economy is booming," Pence said, and added that the Asian American community that "is the fastest growing," has a household income that "is now 40pc

in pursuit of the American dream, I am honoured by this appointment," and pledged, "I will undertake this responsibility very seriously and look forward to working with

In an interview, Parameswaran said, "I am grateful to President Trump for selecting me to serve as a member of his Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which has given me an opportunity to interact with his senior officials such as Secretary Chao, Secretary Ross, who will both serve as co-chairs and also to associating with fellow members, including those who are elected US lawmakers and governors."

"As the only Indian American (in the commission), I will therefore have the responsibility to represent their interests," he added.

Parameswaran also said he owes a deep debt of gratitude for his success to his parents --- Ven Parameswaran (89) and Priscilla Parameswaran (82) --- both staunch Republicans from Westchester County, New York, who have headed several Asian American Republican organisations over the years and also served as both elected and delegates-at-large at Republican national conventions for the past few decades.



Prem Parameswaran with President Trump in the Oval Office in Washington.

Americans are driving capital investment and growth and job creation in cities and towns all across the land," and declared it "an incredible record of success." "Asian Americans are prospering like never before and the

higher than the national average and rising fast."

The New York-born and raised Parameswaran said: "As an Indian American from New York and the son of Indian immigrants who came to this country as students

co-Chair Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation, as well as my fellow-members of the President's Advisory Commission to improve the health, education and economic status of AAPPI communities in the US."

Khalsa varsity to be set up in US

WASHINGTON: The United States will soon be the host nation of the first Khalsa University campus outside India. A group of NRIs has donated nearly 125 acres in Bellingham, Washington state, and are working to start teaching proposed courses in about a year or so.

US-based Manjit Singh Dhaliwal, who along with other US-based Sikh families donated the land, said work began in Aug last year. "We have purchased two buildings of a government college with the help of members of the community to run the courses. We have got licenses from the education board and the local government," he said. "We will approach Sikhs across the world to seek cooperation to develop the campus."

Dhaliwal, who originally hails from Chowkiman village in Ludhiana district, was felicitated by the highest

religious body of the Sikh community, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in Amritsar, for his contribution to the upcoming varsity. SGPC se-

replica of the Golden Temple and memorial coins and religious books. The university is planning to offer courses in engineering, medicine, law, languages, account-

nam Singh, former head of the Gurmat Sangeet department of Punjabi University, Patiala, is also involved in the project and stated that classes have started at a



SGPC senior vice president Rajinder Singh Mehta presented the organisers a "siropa" (robe of honour), a replica of the Golden Temple and memorial coins and religious books.

nior vice president Rajinder Singh Mehta presented him a "siropa" (robe of honour), a

tancy etc besides Gurbani research, Sikh history and gurmat sangeet. Prof Gur-

temporary campus using digitised material from Punjabi University.

US-Indian Arvind Krishna new CEO of IBM

● **Nadella, Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga, PepsiCo's former CEO Indra Nooyi and Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen are all Indians.**

NEW YORK: Indian-origin technology executive Arvind Krishna has been elected Chief Executive Officer of American IT giant IBM after a "world-class succession process", succeeding Virginia Rometty, who described him as the "right CEO for the next era at IBM" and "well-positioned" to lead the company into the cloud and cognitive era.

The IBM board elected Krishna as company CEO and member of the board of directors effective April 6. Krishna is currently IBM Senior Vice President for Cloud and Cognitive Software and will succeed Rometty (62) who will retire after almost 40 years with the company at the end of the year. Krishna (57) had joined IBM in 1990 and has an undergraduate degree from the IIT, Kan-

pur, and a PhD in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "I am thrilled and humbled to be elected as the next CEO of IBM, and appreciate the confidence that Ginni and the board have placed in me," Krishna said.

Krishna said: "IBM has such talented people and technology that we can bring together to help our clients solve their toughest problems. I am looking forward to working with IBMers, Red Hatters and clients around the world at this unique time of fast-paced change in the IT industry. We have great opportunities ahead to help our clients advance the transformation of their business while also remaining the global leader in the trusted stewardship of tech-

nology," Krishna said.

Krishna's appointment



Arvind Krishna

as head of the global IT giant adds to the growing list of Indian-origin executives at the helm of some of the biggest multinational companies.

Rometty, who had been IBM's Chairman, President and CEO, will continue as Executive Chairman of the Board and serve through the end of the year, when she will retire. She described Krishna as the "right CEO for the next era at IBM" who is "well-positioned to lead IBM and its clients into the cloud and cognitive era."

New definition of NRIs will harm Kerala...

(Contd. from page 1)

Though the Explanatory Memorandum to the Finance Bill states that this is a provision to check tax abuse, it needs to be pointed out that a large number of persons who do not fall even remotely in the category of tax evaders, would be put to great hardship due to this proposed amendment, the statement quoted Vijayan as saying. Most of the people working in the Middle East were from Kerala and they have houses and families in the state and they visit and stay in their home state to look after domestic affairs.

"Tax evasion is not their intention and they do not fall in the category of persons who shift their bases to avoid taxes," he said. Persons from Kerala working in the Mid-East and doing medium-scale businesses there have the responsibility of taking care of their families who are here. Such persons would be "hard hit" by the amendment, the statement said.

Bonafide NRIs will not be...

(Contd. from page 1)

we have made 2/3rd: 1/3rd." He said the new provision was brought in because people were taking advantage of the existing one. "These are the anti-abuse provisions, and not to inconvenience any genuine persons."

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in a statement said the new provision is not intended to include those Indian citizens in the taxation net, who are bonafide workers in other countries.

An "Indian citizen shall be deemed to be resident in India if he is not liable to be taxed in any country or jurisdiction. This is an anti-abuse provision since it is noticed that some Indian citizens shift their stay in low or no tax jurisdictions to avoid payment of tax in India," it said. "The new provision is not intended to include in tax net those Indian citizens who are bonafide workers in other countries," it said.

It stated that it was not

correct to say that those Indians who are bonafide workers in other countries, including in the MidEast, and who are not liable to tax in these countries will be taxed in India on the income that they have earned there.

"In order to avoid any misinterpretation, it is clarified that in case of an Indian citizen who becomes deemed resident of India under this proposed provision, income earned outside India by him shall not be taxed in India unless it is derived from an Indian business or profession. Necessary clarification, if re-

quired, shall be incorporated in the relevant provision of the law," it added.

At present, if an Indian or a person of Indian origin managed his stay in India such that he remained a non-resident in perpetuity, he was not liable to pay tax on his global income in India. The Union budget has proposed to introduce a deemed provision that every Indian citizen who is not liable to tax in any other country, by virtue of his domicile or residence, shall be deemed as a resident of India. Consequently, his global income would be taxable in India.

Salaried NRIs...

(Contd. from page 1)

and India, including interest income on NRE deposits," said Anish Mehta, chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Dubai. "The Government should have given better explanations about the proposals to avoid panic among expats in the MidEast." The concept of non-resident status lies at the heart of the expat India's tax status. The latest India budget proposed some fundamental changes in the provisions related to NRI status. A change in income tax law now makes it difficult for individuals to prove themselves not a tax resident of India.

Air India evacuates 324 Indians from coronavirus-hit Wuhan

NEW DELHI: An Air India jumbo B747 plane landed in New Delhi at around 7.30 am local time on Saturday morning. On board were 324 Indian nationals, evacuated from the novel coronavirus-hit Wuhan in China.

Also on board were five doctors from Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital and one paramedical staff. The rescue mission was led by Capt Amitabh Singh, Director (Operations), Air India and the aircraft also had five cockpit crew members and 15 cabin crew members on board.

Army officials have said that the procedure of screening and quarantining of those evacuated from China will be done in two stages: first at the Indira Gandhi International airport, and then a detailed screening at the quarantine facility set up at the Base Hospital Delhi Cantonment (BHDC)

in Manesar. Anyone showing signs of fever, cough or respiratory distress will be directly transferred to BHDC.

Prior to evacuation, the government had taken an undertaking from the evacuees that they would agree to be quarantined for 14 days after their arrival. As per reports, the quarantine facility in Manesar consists of accommodation barracks, administrative areas and medical facility area. These have been divided into sectors in order to prevent a mass outbreak of the coronavirus and each will house a maximum of 50 people. Additionally, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has also set up a 600-bed facility in southwest Delhi's Chhawla area to quarantine and provide basic medical care to anyone suspected to be infected.



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- HEAVY DRIVER (GCC License)
- GRAPHIC DESIGNER (Corel Draw, Photoshop)
- MARBLE AND GRANITE MASON
- FINISHING CARPENTER (Kitchen Cabinet)
- AUTO DENTER

VERY ATTRACTIVE SALARY PACKAGE

Vacancy in Large Nos.

Contact personally with Passport & CV's or send CV's to Email:

manpower@cosmosintl.co.in

COSMOS INTERNATIONAL
Shop No.12, Haroon Manzil, I. R. Road, Bhendi Bazar, Mumbai - 03. Contact: 022 23741786 - 9920525436
Regn. No. B-0721/MUM/PER/1000+/5/343/1984

Client Interview Mumbai & Hyderabad 9th & 10th Feb for OMAN

- COUNTER SALES EXECUTIVE:**
 - (FEMALE - Jewellery & Retail Exp.)
 - Age: 22 To 30 Years.
 - English, Hindi Or Arabic - Communication Must.
 - Qualification: 12th Or Any Degree Holder

Dairy Farm & Plant Experience Mandatory OMAN

- SUPPERSOUR:** (Dairy Farm Maintenance, Milking, Herd, Yard Maintenance, Young Stock, Feeding, Feed Mixing, Milking Parlour, Shift)
- TECHNICIAN:** (Milking Parlour, Cow Cooling, Mechanical)
- VETERINARY SURGEON, VETS ASSISTANT, CALF REARER, STOCK MAN, LEAD MILKERS, SAND BLASTER, AIRLESS PAINTER**

CLIENT INTERVIEW ON 09-02-2020 DUBAI
(ALUMINIUM FACTORY EXPERIENCE HOLDER)

- ALUMINIUM FABRICATOR
- ALUMINIUM INSTALLER / FITTER
- GLASS CUTTER CUM FACTORY WORKER
- GLASS POLISHER
- PROJECT ENGINEER
- GYPSPUM / POP WORKER
- SALES MARKETING ENGINEER
- AUTO-CAD DRAFTSMAN CUM PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

SAUDI

- DRIVER/ OPERATOR** (Light, Heavy, Trailer, Heavy, Loader, JCB, Excavator, Roller- Saudi Lic. Holder)
- CIVIL/ FACTORY LABOUR, MASON**
- HVAC/ CHILLER TECHNICIAN**

Mail id : cvgplacement2018@gmail.com
globalhyd3@gmail.com
Contact: 9324485205 / 9321017783

GLOBAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
303, Wellington Business Park - 2, Hasan Pada Road, Near Marol Metro Station, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059
Lic. No. B-0159/MUM/PART/1000+/5/8748/2011

REQUIRED FOR REPUTED COS. IN SAUDI ARABIA
Attractive Salary + Free Food / Allowance + Free Accommodation

VISA READY - IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE

- QUALITY TECHNICIAN:** Dip. in Mechanical / Plastic Min. 1 year exp. in plastic Manufacturing Cos.
- MACHINE OPERATOR:** Pipes-extruder, Speaking English.
- COOK FOR CHAIRMAN:** Exp. in Continental Arabic & Western foods.
- DUCTING FABRICATION & INSTALLATION:** 3 years exp. in fabrication of HVAC GI Sheet Metal Ducts, Installation & duct Aluminum Cladding, Fabrication & installation of pipe cladding.
- HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR**
- STRUCTURAL FABRICATOR:** 3 years exp. in Gulf.
- TECHNICIANS - MECHANICAL / ELECTRICAL:** Exp. in plastic blown Film Industry.
- PATHOLOGIST SPECIALIST:** MBBS / Masters / Post graduate Diploma for two years in Clinical Pathology. Min 3 years exp. in Gulf.
- BELL BOY**
- HR - ASSISTANT:** Min. 3 years exp. in human resources processes. Fluent in English.
- BOB CAT OPERATOR**
- CLEANING LABOUR**
- API INSPECTOR:** Degree Mech. Shutdown Experience in Welding Certificate (CSWP or AWS-CWI) API 570 or API 510 Certificate
- WELDING INSPECTOR:** Degree Mech. Shutdown Experience Welding Certificate (CSWP or AWS-CWI) API 570 or API 510 Certificate

QATAR - EDGEWATER - KAHRAMAA PROJECT REQD
CLIENT INTERVIEW ON 7th OF FEBRUARY, 2020

- Supervisors (Valve/ Pumps Operation) - 50 Nos
- AutoCAD Design Draftsman - 10 Nos
- Water Balance & Leak Detection Supervisor - 50 Nos
- Water Balance & Leak Detection Inspector - 50 Nos
- Water Balance & Leak Detection Technician - 100 Nos
- Water Sampler - 20 Nos
- Pump/ Valve Optors. - 200 Nos
- Elevator Techs. - 5 Nos
- Physiotherapist (Lady) - 1 Nos
- Electrician-cum-Plumber - 3 Nos
- House Driver for Chairman - 1 Nos

FREE RECRUITMENT

All the above categories must have Dip. / ITI / Certificate in their respective discipline with 5/10 years experience in their respective trades with Qatari/GCC Driving License preferred.

Contact in Person or apply by email with detailed resume with copies of certificates passport details etc to: hr@melcojobs.com
Contact in Person or send your resume most urgently by email with complete details to:

MELCO MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
HR Engineering & Construction Technology
915A Sagar Tech Plaza, 9th Floor, Sakinaka, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400072
Phone: (022) 66718585 / 66718595, Email: hr@melcojobs.com
www.melcojobs.com
Regn. No. B-0037/MUM/PER/1000+/5/7361/2007

Urgently Required for DUBAI (Paper Visa)
(Gulf Experience Preferred)

Client Interview on the 14th of February (Friday)
AT ANUPTECH R-84
MIDC RABALE, NAVI MUMBAI

- CHILLED WATER TECHNICIANS
- FIRE ALARM TECHNICIANS
- HVAC (VRF) UNIT TECHNICIANS (Knowing Brazing, Installation etc.)
- DUCTMAN (Fabrication & Installation)

Vacancies in large numbers. All candidates to take trade test.

Note: Please Carry Original Passport Certificate & Photos.

Shawn Travel Agents Pvt. Ltd.
LIC NO. B-0375/MUM/COM/1000+/5/738/1984

518, Mohatta Market, 5th Floor, Palton Road, Next to Manish Market, Mumbai - 400001.
Tel: 022 22618643 / 22621429 Mob: +918454819545 Email: info@shawntravels.co.in

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR SAUDI ARABIA
FINAL INTERVIEW WITH CLIENT ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2020
ATTRACTIVE SALARY + FREE FOOD / ALLOWANCE + ACCOM.

VISA READY - IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE

- TRUCK DRIVERS: KSA lic. holder preferred (Indian/ KSA), Attractive Salary + Free Food + Trip Allowance
- AUTO ELECTRICIANS
- LABORATORY TECHNICIANS (for concrete plant)
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS: Exp. in CAT Komatsu, Bulldozer, Loader, Pocklain
- POCKLAIN DRIVERS - FORKLIFT OPERATORS
- BULLDOZERS - DRIVERS
- WELDERS
- LABOURS-GENERALS (for factory)
- LABOURS-FARMS
- COOKS (for Mess)
- DENTERS (for big vehicles)
- AUTO PAINTERS (for big vehicles)
- LIGHT DRIVERS - PERSONAL (3 Nos.)

REQUIRED IN LARGE NOS.

Please meet in person with your original PP & certificates.

A. G. ENTERPRISES
Regn. No. B-0379/MUM/PART/1000+/5/210/1984
B-8 3rd Flr., Everest Bldg., Tandoor Road, (Nr. Mumbai Central Station - West) Mumbai - 34
Tel.: +91 22 66621037 / 138 (M); 9029786036 / 969096446 / 9320069266 / 8097096501
Email: career@ag-enterprises.com website: www.ag-enterprises.com

REQUIRED FOR REPUTED COS. IN SAUDI ARABIA
FINAL INTERVIEW WITH CLIENT BY 2ND WEEK OF FEB. 2020
ATTRACTIVE SALARY + FREE FOOD / ALLOWANCE + ACCOM

- MASON - ALL ROUNDER
- MASON - PLASTER
- MASON - TILES & MARBLE
- GYPSPUM BOARD CEILING FIXER

REQUIRED IN LARGE NUMBER

Required for A Leading Group of Cos in **DOHA-QATAR**

- SALES ENGINEER:** Min. 5 years exp. in aftermarket (after sale) service sales. Preferred GCC experience.
- PUMP TECHNICIAN:** Min. 5 years exp. maintenance and service in pumps, booster sets, submersible pumps.

REQUIRED FOR REPUTED COS. IN KUWAIT

- GASOLINE & DIESEL MECHANIC:** Exp. in repair both gasoline & diesel engines like Perkins, Caterpillar, Cummins etc. Single Phase and Three Phase applications.

Please meet in person with your original PP & certificates.

A. G. ENTERPRISES
Regn. No. B-0379/MUM/PART/1000+/5/210/1984
B-8 3rd Flr., Everest Bldg., Tandoor Road, (Nr. Mumbai Central Station - West) Mumbai - 34
Tel.: +91 22 66621037 / 138 (M); 9029786036 / 969096446 / 9320069266 / 8097096501
Email: career@ag-enterprises.com website: www.ag-enterprises.com

KUWAIT Client Interview (WED.) 5th FEB.
FOR WARE HOUSE / LOGISTIC CO.
SALES GIRLS / SALES MEN

VISUAL MERCHANDISING OFFICERS
VISUAL MERCHANDISING EXECUTIVES
VISUAL MERCHANDISING SUPERVISORS

OMAN Client Interview (THU.) 6th FEB.
For Fabrication Workshop

SR. QC ENGINEERS - BE/B.TECH (MECH)
CSWP 3.1/ASNT Certification with 8 yrs. Exp. in ASME approved fabrication shop, OIL & GAS sector including ASME audit experience with good knowledge in ISO System, codes / standards of tanks, vessels, structures, etc.

COATING INSPECTORS - BE/DME (Mech / Chem)
with CSWP Certification with 3 yrs of exp. as coating supervisor/inspector in OIL & GAS sector or in fabrication / coating companies with good knowledge in ISO System and codes/standards.

JR. PRODUCTION ENGINEERS (Transformer Tank Fabrication) - Dep. (Mech) Eng. with 4 yrs exp in modern fabrication shop floor for transformer and tanks Productions with excellent planning and man management with good knowledge in ISO System.

SR. VESSEL FABRICATORS

STRUCTURAL FABRICATORS

ROLL BENDING MACHINE OPERATORS

INDUSTRIAL GRINDERS / INDUSTRIAL BLASTERS

INDUSTRIAL AIRLESS SPRAY PAINTERS

INDUSTRIAL HEAVY EQUIPMENT TECHS. (Diesel Mech.)

DUBAI Client Interview (THU.) 6th & (FRI.) 7th FEB.

PAINTER CUM FORKLIFT OPERATORS

HEAVY DUTY LATHE OPERATORS

HYDRAULIC TECHNICIANS / GENERAL HELPERS

HYDRAULIC CYLINDER TESTING TECHNICIANS

STRUCTURAL FABRICATORS / AUTO PAINTERS

HYDRAULIC PUMP TESTING TECHNICIANS

OMAN Report Urgently

COSTING ENGINEERS - B.E. (Civil) - 5 years exp. in tendering and SOR & BOQ in Construction and Infrastructural Projects.

SAUDI ARABIA Report Urgently

INSTRUMENT FIELD ENGINEERS - Deg. / Dip. (Inst/Electronic & Communication) 10 years exp. on DCS system design engineering, DCS & PLC system configuration FAT testing, filed instrumentation and control system etc.

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IATA
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Lic. No. B-0607/MUM/PER/1000+/5/3010/97

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR SAUDI ARABIA

- GENERAL/ HOUSE ELECTRICIANS- 200 Nos
- PRODUCTION ENGGs- Exp in Sheet Metal
- H2S TECHNICIANS/ SPECIALISTS/ GAS DETECTION TECHNICIANS

FOR SEMI-GOVERNMENT VEHICLE INSPECTION CO.

- FRESH AUTOMOBILE INSPECTORS - DIP/ITI in Automobile
- HEAVY DRIVERS

FOR ARAMCO PROJECT KSA

- ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS QC- ARAMCO APPROVED
- CIVIL ENGINEERS QC- ARAMCO APPROVED

FOR ADVERTISING COMPANY

- PRINTER OPERATORS- Exp in Printing flex face, Sticker on large scale Digital Printing Machine Solvent & Echo Solvent
- ALUMINIUM CLADDERS/ Fabricator
- 3D SIGN FABRICATORS- exp in zinc, stainless steel, acrylic)

FOR PAINT INDUSTRY KSA

- PAINT TINTERS/PAINT TECHNOLOGIST : exp in mix pigments or base colors with paints, enamels, or lacquers to match standard or sample colors.
- BATCHERS: Accurately prepares all Ingredients listed on batch sheets and Confirms weight on all dry materials & Understands all formulation equipment, including pumps, agitators, and filter straining equipment.
- SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS: Exp in Microsoft .NET, C#, VB.Net, VB6, SQL Server, Crystal Reports and/or web technologies

FOR VARIOUS CLIENTS

- HEAVY DIESEL MECHANICS: with Saudi driving license exp. In Mercedes Actross Truck
- ELECTRICAL SUPERVISORS
- HEAVY DRIVERS: With Saudi license valid/ expired
- MECHANICAL FOREMEN: Gulf return with exp in High rise building
- FAMILY COOKS
- FURNITURE CARPENTER
- ALL ROUNDER MASON
- TILES /MARBLE FIXERS

FOR UPVC PLASTIC FACTORY

- ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS
- MIXER MACHINE OPERATORS
- MECHANICAL MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS
- FREE RECRUITMENT

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Email: contactus@fastnaukri.com, fastmpccvs@gmail.com

FOR PRIVATE CLINIC

DOCTORS **LASER TECHNICIANS**

HAIR REMOVAL BOTOX FILLERS for beauty clinic

DENTAL HYGIENISTS

DUBAI Report Urgently

MASONS **HELPERS**

Contact / apply with bio-data, passport, photo & testimonial to:

PIONEER TRAVELS
AN ISO 9001:2015 Certified Agency
6th Floor, Shiv Chamber, Sector 11, Near Railway Station, CBD-Belapur(W), Navi Mumbai. Tel.: 022-40390600 (50 Lines)
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URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR QATAR
CLIENT INTERVIEW ON 9TH FEB SUNDAY 2020
AT ANUPTECH R-84 RABALE, MIDC , NAVI MUMBAI - 400 701.

PIPE FABRICATOR - 40
PIPE FITTER - 20

All candidates should above 8 yrs experience.
GCC experience mandatory minimum (05 years).
Age not above 45 years.

ATTRACTIVE SALARY + FREE FOOD + FREE ACCOMMODATION

Interested candidates please contact to office with
Original passport CV and all exp. Certificates.

Shawn Travel Agents Pvt. Ltd.
LIC NO : B-0375/MUM/COM/1000+/5/738/1984

518, Mohatta Market , 5th Floor, Palton Road, Next to Manish Market, Mumbai - 400001. Tel : 022 22618643 / 22621429
Mob: + 918454819545
Send cv to info@shawntravels.co.in



VISA READY/IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FOR SAUDI ARABIA (required Gulf exp.)

SALESMAN: Knowledge in Spare parts of Hyundai or any, Holding GCC driving license with computer knowledge and good communication skills.
AUTO ELECTRICIAN: English (writing and reading) with good knowledge of devices & software for All Vehicles inspection.

Interested candidates please contact to office with Original passport CV and all exp. Certificates.

Shawn Travel Agents Pvt. Ltd.
 LIC NO : B-0375/MUM/COM/1000+/5/738/1984
 518, Mohatta Market, 5th Floor, Palton Road, Next to Manish Market, Mumbai – 400001. Tel : 022 22618643 / 22621429
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Send cv to info@shawntravels.co.in

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BUS DRIVERS
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 • Must able to speak English / Arabic

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 MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS NO. B0622/BOM/PER/1000+/24/3910/93

SAUDI ARABIA

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR SABIC PROJECTS
SHORT LISTING IN PROGRESS

❖ **VIBRATION:** Technicians / Inspectors, Analysts/Specialists, Engineers (100 Nos)
 (Min 5-10 years Exp in vibration analysis. Must have CAT II OR III vibration analysis certificate)
 ❖ **INSPECTION ENGINEERS** (10 Nos)
 (Min 5 yrs in service plant Exp as Inspection Engineer/API Inspector, Must have API 510, API 570 & 653)
 ❖ **STATIC EQUIPMENT ENGINEERS** (10 Nos)
 (Min 3 years exp as SE Engineer)

Email ID: gcejtent@gmail.com • Mobile: 9004733288

Rush with your CV, Passport, Education & Exp. Certificates At:

J. T. ENTERPRISES
 Manpower Consultants & Overseas Placements
 104 B, Kamanwala Chambers, New Udyog Mandir No.2, Mogul Lane, Mahim West, Mumbai-16. Tel: 2445 7698 / 2446 5171
 Lic.No.: B-0328/MUM/PER/1000+/5/793/1984

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR QATAR

CLIENT INTERVIEW IN 2nd WEEK FEBRUARY
 SHORTLISTING IN PROGRESS

❖ **EXCAVATOR OPERATOR** Salary 2000 Q.R. Qatar Lic.
 ❖ **HYDRAULIC MECHANIC** Salary 1800-2000 Q.R.
 ❖ **HELPER** Salary 900 Q.R.
 ❖ **HEAVY DRIVER** Salary 2000 Q.R. Qatar Lic.
 ❖ **A/C MECHANIC** Salary 1800-2000 Q.R.

Contact immediately! personally with Resume, Experience Certificates & Passport to:

International City Links
 A-303 Trade Square, Mehra Compound, Behind Vespa Showroom, Nr DSK Madhuban, Sakinaka Kurla Rd, Andheri (E), Mumbai 72.
 Tel: 022 28590007 / 28590008 Mobile: 9020226000
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FOR OFFSHORE PROJECTS / UAE

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 • Pipping Technicians
 • Certified Riggers
 • Certified Mechanical fitters
 • Hot bolting/Torquing Fitters
 • Piping Draughtsman
 • Cathodic Protection Technicians

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 Email : jobs@meridianmanagement.in
 Regd. No. B-0126/MUM/PART/1000+/5/4622/96

Urgently Required for a Reputed Factory in KSA

Final Client Interview Will be Held On
06/02/2020 AT MUMBAI OFFICE

❖ **Heavy Driver (Return)**
 ❖ **Auto Electrician (Heavy Vehicle)**
 ❖ **Hydraulic Mechanic (Return)**
 ❖ **Pocklain Operator**
 ❖ **Bulldozer Operator**
 ❖ **Heavy Driver**
 ❖ **Cook**
 ❖ **Denter Painter**
 ❖ **Spray Painter**
 ❖ **Lab Technician**

GULF RETURN WILL BE PREFERRED

Attractive Salary + Free Accommodation + Free Transportation
 Contact Immediately with Passport, Updated CV or Send us on Email

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 EMAIL ID: greenlinejobs4@gmail.com

REQUIRED FOR SAUDI ARABIA

STILL & ROLLING MILL CO. IN SAUDI ARABIA

• Roughing Mill / Pulpit Operator
 • Production Fitter
 • Fireman / Furnace Operator
 • Lathe Machine Operator (For Roll turning & similar)

5 STAR RESTAURANTS IN SAUDI ARABIA: Selection in process

• SOUS CHEF – (Salary SR 3500-5000)
 • Continental Cook (Salary SR 2000-3000)
 • Indian Cook – (Salary SR 3000-4000)
 • Asst. Indian Cook • Butcher – 3 Nos
 • Waiter - 20 Nos. • Kitchen Helper – 5 Nos • Baker – 5 Nos
MALL & SUPER MARKET CO. IN ABHA, KSA: CV SELECTION
 • BUTCHER (SR 2000 to 2500/- Sales exp) • AC Technician
 • Maint. Supervisor • Pastry Chef • Light Driver (KSA lic)
 • Electronic Technician • Trailer Driver (KSA lic)
 • Diesel Mechanic • Gardener cum Driver
 • Forklift Operator (KSA license) • Building Electrician
 Report along with your original Passport & Cert. For detailed JD visit web.

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 ❖ **SCAFFOLDING SUPERVISOR** (ARAMCO Approved Only)
 ❖ **PROCUREMENT OFFICER**
 ❖ **SAFETY OFFICER** (ARAMCO Approved Only)
 ❖ **CONSTRUCTION MANAGER** (Mechanical/Civil Qualification)
 ❖ **PROJECT ENGINEER** (Mechanical/E&I/Civil Qualification)
Must have Exp. 4 to 5 yrs working with Contracting Firm in Similar Assignments.

EMAIL: recruitment@rajanexports.net

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Bldg No. 3, 13th Floor, Room No. 28, Navjivan Society, Lamington Rd, Mumbai Central (E), Bombay-8. Tel : 61404800 / 801 / 803 / 804
 Reg. No: 02428/BOM/PER/1000+/3/3743/93 Dt. 16/10/21

Indman on behalf of their Major EPC Client requires the following for their various ongoing Projects on immediate basis:

SELECTIONS IN PROGRESS ON 4th, 5th & 6th FEB. 2020

ALGERIA
MEP PROJECT
 • **SUPERVISORS:** Plumbing / Pipe Fitting (MEP) / Fiber Optic / Electrical - MV Termination, Power, Panels
 • **TECHNICIANS:** Fiber Optic & Low Current Termination / Instrument / Motors & Equipment Control / Electrical - MV / Electrical - Panels & Accessories / Electrical - General Power

KSA
OIL & GAS PROJECT
 • **GRINDERS**
 Candidates having Overseas Experience will be considered.
 All Candidates to report with CV's, Certificates, Passport & Photos:

Indman Consultants
 An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Agency
 41-B, Excel Building, 1st Floor,
 Road No. 2, Azad Nagar, Off Veera Desai Road,
 Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400053
 Regn. No.: B-0438/MUM/PER/1000+/5/5268/1999

WE HAVE NO SUB-AGENTS
 Email: hrdep@indman.com

SAUDI ARABIA

REQUIRED FOR A LARGE TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS CO.
SHORT LISTING IN PROGRESS

❖ **WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS**
 (Exp in large heavy vehicle is a must)
 ❖ **BUSINESS DEVT. OFFICERS**
 (Saudi exp is a must)
 ❖ **DIESEL MECHANICS (HEAVY)**
 ❖ **TRAILER DRIVERS**
 (Saudi driving licence is a must)

Email ID: gcejtent@gmail.com • Mobile: 9004733288

Rush with your CV, Passport, Education & Exp. Certificates At:

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 Manpower Consultants & Overseas Placements
 104 B, Kamanwala Chambers, New Udyog Mandir No.2, Mogul Lane, Mahim West, Mumbai-16. Tel: 2445 7698 / 2446 5171
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 Please share as Document with contact details in PDF format

OM SAI TRAVELS
 REGN. NO.: B-0508/MUM/PER/1000+/5/4597/95
 28 Darashaw Building, 24/28 Jambhulwadi Kalbadevi Road, Near CST Railway Station, Mumbai-2. Tel: 022-6139777 / 22054778
 Website: www.omsaitravels.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR A REPUTED CO. IN SAUDI ARABIA

FINAL SELECTION IN PROGRESS-VACANCY IN LARGE NUMBERS

• **COMPANY LIGHT / MEDIUM DRIVER**
 • **DYNA / MINI BUS DRIVER**
 Should have original Saudi license
 • **BUS DRIVER FOR AIRPORT** (Saudi Bus/Heavy Lic.)
 • **CONSTRUCTION LABOUR**

Mob: 8433989600 • Tel: 022-61666574/575/555 • DM: 864360
 Email: mg37@mgheewala.com • Job Code: 17/MG0569

Interested candidates apply online OR Report immediately with Original Passport/Updated CV, Photographs, Qualification & Experience Certificates.

M. GHEEWALA GLOBAL HR CONSULTANTS
 HO Add : 202, 2nd Floor, Bombay Market, Tardeo Road, Mumbai -34
 www.mgheewala.com B-0578/MUM/PER/1000+/5/9039/2013

Urgently Required for a Reputed Co. in KSA

MODE OF SELECTION - TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW

❖ **Telecommunication Technician.**
 (Original Diploma in Telecommunication)
 ❖ **Electrical AutoCad Draftsman**
 (Original ITI in Draftsman).
 ❖ **Petrol Mechanic (Fresh)**

Attractive Salary + Free Accommodation + Free Transportation
 Contact Immediately with Passport, Updated CV or Send us on Email

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 Add: Orchard Corporate Park, B - Wing, 207/208, Royal Palms, Goregaon (E) - Bus No - 452 Last Stop
 EMAIL ID: greenlinejobs4@gmail.com

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR A LEADING CO. IN BAHRAIN

FOR THEIR AIR CONDITIONING DIVISION

CV SHORTLISTING IN PROGRESS-VACANCY IN LARGE NUMBERS

HVAC TECHNICIAN

5-10 Years in GCC; ITI / Diploma

Capable of carrying out installation, repair & troubleshooting of Central AC, Split & Window AC units. Also should be aware of carrying out repair works for Chiller related works & carry out troubleshooting works independently

CHILLER TECHNICIAN

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Udacity launches new Nanodegree programme

US-based learning platform Udacity has launched a new Nanodegree programme titled 'Intro to Machine Learning with TensorFlow' that offers practitioner-level skills in new-generation Machine Learning (ML) through hands-on projects.

Developed by Google, TensorFlow is a deep learning framework that is widely used for creating ML models powered by multi-layer neural networks.

Its library offers users to perform various technologically-intensive functions by creating computational graphs.

The new Nanodegree

programme incorporates advanced areas such as manipulating data, supervised and unsupervised learning, along with deep learning, the company said in a statement.

"Learners can now choose between PyTorch and TensorFlow frameworks. Under this programme, students will also get the opportunity to acquire skills through hands-on projects that will display their expertise to the relevant employers," said Lalit Singh, COO, Udacity.

TensorFlow is utilized by several organizations to improve the quality of their businesses.

Google, for instance, utilizes this technology in its

Cloud product to allow start-ups to build machine-learning models that work on data of any size.

Airbnb leverages this technology to improve the guest experience by driving large-scale classification and detection of images and objects.

Udacity collaborates with more than 200 global employer-partners including AT&T, Google, Facebook, Mercedes-Benz and NVIDIA to close talent gaps.

Headquartered in Mountain View, California, the privately-funded company has operations in India, China, Egypt, Germany and the UAE.

NEST 2020: Admissions open to five-year integrated MSc courses

The application process is open for the National Entrance Screening Test (NEST) 2020. Those who clear this entrance exam will be able to seek admission to five-year integrated MSc programmes in biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics at National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) Bhubaneswar, University of Mumbai's department of atomic energy centre of excellence in basic sciences (UM-DAE CEBS).

The NEST 2020 will be held on June 6 across 90 cities

in India. Those interested can apply at the official website, nestexam.in. The registrations are on and will conclude on April 3. The admit cards will be made available from April 24, 2020. NEST will be held in two shifts, morning shift beginning at 9 am and afternoon at 2 pm. The exam will be of three and half-hour long.

Eligibility: Education: Candidates having cleared class 12 exams with at least 60 per cent marks and having science stream in 2018 or 2019 boards or appearing in 2020 boards can apply. For

SC, ST and PwD candidates the minimum marks requirement is 55pc.

Age: Applicant should be born on or before August 1, 2000. Those belonging to SC, ST and PwD category will get a relaxation of five years in the upper age limit.

Exam pattern: The test will be conducted online. There will be five sections in the exam. The first section will be general and section 2 to 5 will have questions on biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics, respectively. Only the best three subject

score will be counted while preparing the result, as per the rule. Test will be held only in English language.

How to apply:

Step 1: Visit the official website, nestexam.in. Step 2: Click on 'apply online'. Step 3: Fill details, click on register. Step 4: Create log-in id. Step 5: Log-in to fill form. Step 6: Fill form, upload images. Step 7: Make payment

Fee: Candidates will have to pay Rs 1200 as application fee for SC, ST and PwD candidates as well as females of all categories, the fee is Rs 600.

IIT Kanpur-Rice University to cooperate in development of energy solutions

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Rice University signed a memorandum of understanding at an event held at IITK recently. By signing the agreement, the two Universities agree to share resources and perform research in the development of energy solutions, materials and sustainable technologies and then expand to other areas.

"This is a key relationship in our new partnership strategy for international engagement and impact," said Rice University President Prof David Leebron. "India is one of

our top priorities and IITK is widely acknowledged as one of the best universities in India. We're very excited about this pathbreaking collaboration to devise solutions to the energy and environmental challenges we face," he added.

Located in Houston, Rice University is the first US University to establish a long-term strategic presence at an Indian institution, claimed Prof Abhay Karandikar, director, IITK.

"With the revolution in technological advances and world developing at a rapid rate, energy needs are going to be a significant

challenge in the future. IIT Kanpur and Rice University, being at the forefront of cutting-edge research in energy solutions, are in an excellent position to be



steering the path for international collaborative research in this area. We are especially thankful to Ra-

hul Mehta, Mehta Family Foundation for his key role in bringing the two institutions together and making the collaboration a reality," said Prof Abhay Karandi-

kar, director, IITK. Through this MoU, Rice University is the first US University to have a physi-

cal presence in India in the form of Rice-IITK Research Center, located at IIT Kanpur. This center is expected to facilitate deeper levels of collaborations leading to exchange of knowledge and perspectives, enabling fertilization of groundbreaking ideas between the faculty members and researchers of Rice and IITK, said IITK director.

He said, "This will create a fertile ground for both the institutes to undertake grand challenges in the area of sustainable energy and environment. In its initial phase, Center's research focus will be on

designing and developing materials and processes for solar photovoltaics, energy storage, alternative fuels, electrocatalysis and water. Researchers on the two sides are expected to jointly supervise graduate students, publish high-impact joint research papers and garner funds from both federal agencies and industrial sponsors through joint research grants."

"The Center will facilitate faculty, staff and student exchanges between the two institutes for promotion of joint research in the areas of energy, materials and sustainability. "The

collaboration will be fructified in a physical Rice-IITK Research Center, which will impart training to the students and researchers and conduct research in areas related to clean and sustainable energy technologies and practices in the early stage of its inception, with possibility of expansion into various other areas of not only science and engineering but also humanities. Both institutes shall appoint Faculty in-charges on each side for managing and coordinating Center activities," said Prof Abhay Karandikar, Director, IITK.

Treating mental health during infertility

Infertility affects millions of people across the world. But the consequences of the condition are beyond physical. Studies have shown that infertility has a profound impact on the health of women as well as men. The reproductive system affects the mental, emotional, spiritual and sexual aspects of life. Most men and women go through anxiety and depression during the treatment of infertility. With every passing month, emotions such as anger, sadness, hope, and guilt get a stronger hold on both partners as there is lack of information on lifestyle modifications, personal and religious interventions, and family intervention that confuses the couple seeking treatment.

Even though it is a

medical problem, infertility has been associated with shame and secrecy. This makes it difficult to ask for help from friends and family. Going through infertility leads to frustration and disappointment without the love and support from others. Here are a few symptoms that should prompt those seeking treatment to consult a psychiatrist or psychologist:

Loss of interest in activities previously enjoyed
Feeling depressed on most days for most of the day

Sleeping too little or too much

Weight gain or loss and not because of a health condition or dieting

Trouble in concentrating or thinking clearly

Frequent thoughts of suicide or death

Feeling ashamed, guilty and worthless

If these symptoms are making normal functioning difficult, one should get help and make an appointment with a psychologist who will assist in lifestyle modifications catered to personal and treatment needs.

For treating depression, anxiety and other such psychosomatic problems, there are several medications available. However, there needs to be details shared as it might intervene with the infertility treatment. In some cases, an individual might have to try more than one medication to see which one works best for them. Another way of treating depression, anxiety and psychosomatic ailments is therapy. During treatments such as couple therapy, a

person shares their feelings, how their life is affected by infertility, sets future goals and seeks strategies that could improve their relationship. Infertility can often create a crack in the relationship.

It is important to get regular exercise and a healthy diet during the treatment. Couples should try a shared activity or a new hobby. This gives them an opportunity to rebalance their life and have something to look forward to. Finding a group with people who are going through or

have had gone through a similar experience is considered helpful. They can give tips to manage stress, keep relationships healthy and reassure that no one is alone.

Your wellness

14pc of India's under-five deaths due to pneumonia

Fourteen per cent of under-five deaths in India — approximately 1,27,000 deaths annually — happen due to pneumonia. In 2013, this figure was about 1,78,000.

It is estimated that half of these deaths are in the northern belt of the country. The current pneumonia mortality rate is five per 1,000 live births and the target is to reduce this to less than three by 2025, says a report.

According to a modelling by Johns Hopkins University, scaling up pneumonia treatment and prevention services can save the lives of 3.2 million children under the age of five the world

over. It would also create 'a ripple effect' that would prevent 5.7 million extra child deaths from other major childhood diseases at the same time, underscoring need for integrated health services.

Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, said: "If we are serious about saving the lives of children, we have to get serious about fighting pneumonia. As the current coronavirus outbreak shows, this means improving timely detection and



prevention. It means making the right diagnosis and prescribing the right treatment. It also means addressing the major causes of pneumonia deaths like malnutrition, lack of access to vaccines and antibiotics, and tackling the more difficult challenge of air pollution."

Outdoor air pollution contributes to 17.5pc — or nearly one in five — pneumonia deaths among children under five worldwide, according to a study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

Household pollution from the indoor use of solid cooking fuels contributes to an additional 1,95,000 (29.4pc) deaths.

Parkinson's disease may start even before birth

People who develop Parkinson's disease before the age of 50 may have been born with disordered brain cells that went undetected for decades, according to a study that paves the way for a potential drug to treat the condition.

Parkinson's occurs when brain neurons that make dopamine, a substance that helps coordinate muscle movement, become impaired or die.

Symptoms, which get worse over time, include slowness of movement, rigid muscles, tremors and loss of balance.

Although most patients are 60 or older when they are diagnosed, about 10pc

are between 21 and 50 years old, according to the research published in the journal Nature Medicine.

"Young-onset Parkinson's is especially heart-



breaking because it strikes people at the prime of life," said Michele Tagliati, a professor at the Cedars-Sinai

Medical Center in the US.

"This exciting new research provides hope that one day we may be able to detect and take early action to prevent this disease in

known as induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), from cells of patients with young-onset Parkinson's disease.

This process involves taking adult blood cells "back in time" to a primitive embryonic state. The iPSCs are cells which can develop into many different cell types in the body during early life, and growth.

The team used the iPSCs to produce dopamine neurons from each patient and then cultured them in a dish and analysed the neurons' functions.

"Our technique gave us a window back in time to see how well the dopamine neurons might have func-

tioned from the very start of a patient's life," said Clive Svendsen, director of the Cedars-Sinai Board of Governors Regenerative Medicine Institute.

The researchers detected two key abnormalities in the dopamine neurons in the dish.

The first was an accumulation of a protein called alpha-synuclein, which occurs in most forms of Parkinson's disease.

Malfunctioning lysosomes, cell structures that act as "trash cans" for the cell to break down and dispose of proteins was the second one.

This malfunction could cause alpha-synuclein to build up, the researchers

said.

"What we are seeing using this new model are the very first signs of young-onset Parkinson's," said Svendsen.

"It appears that dopamine neurons in these individuals may continue to mishandle alpha-synuclein over a period of 20 or 30 years, causing Parkinson's symptoms to emerge," he said.

The researchers also used their iPSC model to test a number of drugs that might reverse the abnormalities they had observed. They found that that one drug, PEP005, reduced the elevated levels of alpha-synuclein in both the dopamine neurons in

the dish and in laboratory mice.

PEP005 is already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating precancers of the skin.

The drug also countered another abnormality they found in the patients' dopamine neurons — elevated levels of an active version of an enzyme called protein kinase C — although the role of this enzyme version in Parkinson's is not clear, the researchers said.

The researchers plan to investigate how PEP005, currently available in gel form, might be delivered to the brain to potentially treat or prevent young-onset Parkinson's.



GULF FAQs

All visas should be properly cancelled

My residency visa expires next month and I will be leaving the UAE in March. My husband who sponsors me will stay here to work. Will my visa get automatically cancelled when it expires or do we have to do anything? I expect to visit a couple of times a year. Do I also have to surrender my Emirates ID card?



While a residency visa can expire and become invalid, it is not automatically cancelled. All visas should be properly cancelled, even if someone is leaving the UAE, otherwise they can have problems when attempting to re-enter the country on a visit visa as a conflict will be shown in the immigration system.

It is not complicated for a sponsor to cancel a residency visa and they can do so in any of the main Immigration Department branches of the emirate in which the visa was issued. The sponsor needs his/her own passport as well as the passport belonging to the person he/she sponsors, although it can be done with a copy if the person has already left the UAE. The charges should amount to no more than Dh280 including typing fees. The Emirates ID card must be handed over when the visa is cancelled as part of the process as the identity card is linked to the visa. Once the visa is cancelled, the individual has a grace period of 30 days before they need to leave the UAE or obtain a new visa.

Dormant bank a/c

Can a bank charge fees on a dormant business account? Can it also charge non-maintenance fees and a fee for not submitting a copy of the renewed company trade licence? We have a company account with a local bank but have not made any transactions on this account for two years, so it has been marked as dormant. When we approached the bank to reactivate the account, we found charges of Dh13,000 for non-maintenance, for not submitting a copy of the company trade licence and for interest on the fees. Are these charges legal?

If a bank account has no transactions for an extended period it is not uncommon for a bank to mark it as dormant and steps are required to reactivate it. Most business accounts have a monthly charge and these will be deducted from any balance, so, if there is no money in the account, it will have a negative balance with further fees and interest payable. These will be in the terms and conditions of the bank account, signed by both parties when it was set up, which are standard.

It is also a requirement for UAE banks to be provided with a copy of a trade licence upon renewal to ensure they are dealing with a properly licenced business under UAE law. Again, most banks apply penalties if this is not provided although I would expect them to issue reminders as they usually do for personal accounts. The fees sound a little on the high side but provided they are shown on the original account information, or listed on the bank's website, they are legal. In some cases, banks will accept a lower sum with less interest if the amount owing is repaid in one go, so a polite offer to this effect may be worthwhile. This demonstrates the importance of communicating with a bank, paying attention to fees and charges and closing inactive accounts to avoid unnecessary charges.

Unpaid salary

I've worked for a Dubai design company for two years and they are now refusing to pay me. They previously paid me in the form of a salary transfer and I have been on a visa provided by them for these two years. Can I claim unpaid salary based on my bank statement even if I worked as a freelancer? My freelancer agreement expired in 2018 but neither me nor the company management renewed it. What is legal position?

If someone is working for a company and is sponsored by them, they are deemed an employee under UAE law. As you have been provided with a residency/employment visa, you are technically an employee of the company and as such, protected under employment laws. As you are employed by a mainland company, the visa comes under the remit of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation. For a visa to have been issued, a contract of employment must be lodged with the ministry, confirming

the salary and whether a contract is limited or unlimited. Individuals can access this contract via the MOHRE website mohre.gov.ae using their passport number. Although you believe you are a freelancer and had an agreement to this effect, the visa and labour contract override this. I suggest you check the contract and use this, plus bank statements showing payments from the company, as the basis of a case against the sponsor. Whatever the circumstances, it is wrong for someone to not be paid for work undertaken.

Air ticket to home

I have been a resident of the UAE for the past 25 years. My recent employment was at a private hospital in the emirate of Dubai, which was terminated at the end of my probation period. Nevertheless, I requested my employer to grant me an additional period of three months before the cancellation of my residence visa to allow me to search for a new employment, to which my employer agreed verbally. Thereafter, at the end of the additional three months, my employer called upon me to sign the documents to cancel my residence visa and I complied with my employer's request. However, I have not been paid my salary for the six days for which I was employed during Oct 2019. Further, my employer is demanding from me the three months of salary and medical insurance charges. On the other hand, my employer is refusing to provide me with an air ticket to my home country. Does my employer have the right to demand from me the three months' salary and the medical insurance cost? Am I eligible for an air ticket to my home country?

Pursuant to your queries, we assume that your employer is based in the mainland of the emirate of Dubai and therefore, the provisions of Dubai Law No. (11) of 2013 concerning health insurance in the emirate of Dubai (the "Dubai Health Insurance Law") and Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 regulating employment relations in the UAE (the "Employment Law") shall be applicable.

In response to the first part of your query, it may be noted that an employer is under an obligation to provide their employees with a medical insurance coverage and the employer is liable to bear the charges for the employee's medical insurance coverage. This is in accordance with Article 10 (1) and Article 10 (2) of the Dubai Health Insurance Law, which states:

Article 10: The employer shall be obliged to do the following:

- 1) Cover the employees by health insurance in accordance with the health insurance policy applicable thereby; providing to comply with the provisions of this law and the resolutions issued pursuant thereto.
- 2) Bear the costs for such health insurance coverage rather than making the beneficiaries do so."

It is the sole responsibility of the employer to bear the costs of their employee's medical insurance coverage. Therefore, any demand made by an employer to their employee for payment of costs arising out of the employee's medical insurance coverage is in violation of Article 10 (2) of the Dubai Health Insurance Law.

In response to the second part of your query, upon the termination of an employment, an employer is liable to bear the costs for the employee's repatriation to their home country. This is in accordance with Article 131 of the Employment Law, which states: "Upon expiry of contract, the employer shall bear the cost of the employee's repatriation to his point of hire or to any other point that was mutually agreed upon. Where an employee joins another employer upon expiry of his contract, the latter shall bear the cost of the employee's repatriation at the end of his service.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, if the employer fails to return the employee or to pay his repatriation expenses, the competent authorities shall do so at the employer's expense and may then recover any expenditure incurred in this connection by attachment. Where the reason for the termination of the contract is attributable to the employee, his repatriation shall be at his own expense if he has the means to pay." Considering the aforementioned provisions of the Dubai Health Insurance Law and the Employment Law, it may be noted that your employer should bear your medical insurance coverage costs. Further, your employer is under an obligation to provide you with an air ticket for your repatriation to your home country and you are entitled to receive remuneration until the last day of your employment with your employer. As you have mentioned that your employer has refused to settle your dues and repatriation costs, you may file a complaint with the Ministry of HR and Emiratisation.



Union Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy presenting awards at the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Chamber of Commerce & Industry of India (MSMECCI) Conference, in New Delhi.

Shaadi.com faces ire over caste discrimination

LONDON: India's leading matrimonial site Shaadi.com has come under fire in the UK for allegedly reinforcing caste-based discrimination with an option for Scheduled Castes to be left out of algorithms.

The website, which is UK's largest marriage site catering to the Indian community, has been accused of allowing discrimination against the Scheduled Caste community and raised questions about whether its algorithms are consistent with the country's equality law.

According to a report, a profile set up for a higher

caste person was not offered lower caste potential matches unless they adjusted their preferences to include all other castes. While Shaadi.com has denied caste-based bias because its "community" setting is not discriminatory, a barrister has warned that there might be a potential breach of the UK's Equality Act. "Restricting matches by caste could be contravening the Equality Act. By forcing users to state their caste, the sites are either discriminating themselves, or knowingly aiding discrimination by users," Chris Milsom, a

barrister who led the first successful charge of caste discrimination in the UK in 2015, said.

In the UK, the Equality Act 2010 prevents discrimination on the grounds of race and other protected characteristics, with caste considered an aspect of race. Santosh Dass, chair of the Anti-Caste Discrimination Alliance, which has been lobbying for a standalone anti-caste law in the UK, said: "Using algorithms to segregate and favour certain users on the grounds of caste is outrageous, you would never do the same

with race. "I am shocked. However, Shaadi.com said that its "community" question works as an important proxy to determine lifestyle fitment but that it did not remove any community from user preferences."

"There is no bias built in the system that reduces the visibility of a particular community. We are not in violation of any act as the platform does not discriminate [on the] basis [of] community or race and provides equal opportunity to everyone regardless of their race and community," a spokesperson of the matrimonial site said.

NRI student jumps to death in Germany

GUNTUR: In a tragic incident, a student belonging to Muppalla of Guntur district of Andhra committed suicide by jumping from the fourth floor of a university hostel building in Germany. According to the reports, deceased Mohan Reddy, was pursuing Master of Science (MS) degree at the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) in the Ruhr metropolitan region of Germany.

Saddened over his poor performance in exams, Mohan reportedly jumped from the fourth floor of the university hostel building and died due to severe head and body injuries. His course was coming to an end, but he was saddened over his

backlogs and mentioned the same to his father Govinda Reddy in conversation with him earlier. Govinda said that his son was sad as he failed in a few subjects in the fourth semester.

Four days ago, Mohan Reddy called his parents back in Muppalla and lamented about the same. "That was the last phone call we received from Mohan and we were informed of his death by his roommates last night," Govinda said. He recalled that his elder son Sudarshan also took his life while studying for Intermediate, three years ago. The bereaved family appealed to the state government seeking help to bring back their son's body.



Mohan Reddy

Job-seeker duped by 'airlines'

JHARSUGUDA (Odisha): A girl of Lakerakla block was duped of some money by an agency which promised her a job in IndiGo Airlines. The victim, Sanjukta Khadia, fell prey to posters pasted in the town inviting applications for jobs in the airline.

When she responded to the advertisement, she was asked to pay and told that training for her job will begin at VSS Airport here from Jan 27 onwards. However, she was told by the airport officials that no training is scheduled by the airport. Sanjukta then lodged a complaint with police. VSS Airport Director S K Chouhan said under Udaan 3 scheme, four airlines have participated in bidding to operate flights from Jharsuguda. Of the four, SpiceJet and Alliance Air have already started service. He said IndiGo had not participated in the bid to operate under Udaan 3 from the airport. Chouhan advised unemployed youths to be careful while responding to fake advertisements.

Kerala airports key entry points for smuggled gold

KOCHI: Four international airports in Kerala continue to be major entry points for smuggled gold into the country as the customs has seized yellow metal worth Rs 152 crore after registering a total of 1,236 smuggling cases from these airports during the three quarters of 2019-20 fiscal.

According to the latest data from the customs, tightened anti-smuggling activities of the department in all four international airports in the state have resulted in the seizure of 252 kg of gold. The Customs also disposed of confiscated gold and fetched Rs 43.20 crore in 2017-18 and Rs 77.99 crore in 2018-19, which was the highest in the country. Officials said the customs was able to check the activities of smugglers after special teams led by Pullela Nageswara Rao, Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs, Central Tax and Central Excise, Thiruvananthapuram Zone, managed to keep track of the smuggling rackets, which used to come out with novel means to bring in gold mainly from the UAE, Qatar, Singapore and other Southeast Asian nations.

The customs revenue for the zone in 2018-19 was Rs 5,098 crore. Customs officials said the opening of Kannur International Airport had resulted in more number of seizures as rackets from northern districts in the state shifted their operations there. According to the customs, 41 gold smuggling cases have been booked from the airport after its inauguration in Dec 2018. While 36 people were arrested, a dozen others were booked under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA).

Indian Coast Guard ship in UAE on goodwill visit

DUBAI: Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Samudra Paheradar entered Mina Rashid, UAE to begin its three-day goodwill visit.

The visit aims to enhance interactions and co-operation between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and UAE maritime agencies and for conduct of combined exercises/interaction so as to consolidate the professional and working relationship with UAE and its respective agencies. ICGS Samudra Paheradar is the second pollution-control vessel in the Indian Coast Guard's fleet. The ship was indigenously built by ABG Shipyard, Surat. It was commissioned in 2010.

The ship is 94.10-metre long, draws 4,300 tonnes at maximum displacement, and is propelled by 3,000-kilowatt twin diesel engines, pro-

ducing power that is further enhanced by twin shaft generators for a maximum speed of 21 knots. At economical speed, the ship has an endurance of 6,500 nautical miles and can stay at sea for 20 days.

The ship is equipped with state-of-the-art pollution response and control equipment, including containment equipment such as Hi-sprint booms and river booms, recovery devices such as skimmers and side-sweeping arms and storage devices such as oil recovery operation tanks and inflatable barges. The ship is capable of unhindered oil-recovery operations, with a storage capacity of 502 kilolitres. The special features include an integrated platform management system, a power management system and a high-powered external fire-fighting system.

FPIs net buyers for 5th month in row

Foreign investors have pumped in more than Rs 12,000 crore in stock markets in January, remaining net buyers of Indian equities for the fifth consecutive month helped by easing concerns pertaining to geopolitical tension between the US and Iran coupled with US-China trade war.



In the equities segment, FPIs invested Rs 7,547.8 crore in September, Rs 12,367.9 crore in October, Rs 25,230.6 crore in November and Rs 7,338.4 crore in December.

However, a net amount of Rs 11,119 crore was withdrawn from the debt segment during the same period. This translated into a net investment of Rs 1,003 crore.

“Starting off on a rather placid note on account of brewing geopolitical tension between the US and Iran and fast changing trend with regards to the

off on a rather placid note on account of brewing geopolitical tension between the US and Iran and fast changing trend with regards to the

He said that several measures announced in the Union Budget are likely to boost foreign investments into the Indian market in the interim period.

Budget will attract more FDI: US industry leaders

The 2020-21 Budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will improve the ease of doing business in India and attract more foreign direct investment, US industry leaders have said.

Presenting her second budget in Parliament, Sitharaman offered tax breaks to foreign investors and specifically those like sovereign wealth funds who are willing to place a long-term bet on the economy.

She said the Budget was aimed at boosting incomes and enhancing purchasing power, stressing that the economy’s fundamentals were strong and

inflation was well contained.

Despite a slowdown in growth, the global outlook for investment in India remains strong and therefore the budget was a great



opportunity to convert the global sentiment into action, said Mukesh Aghi, president of US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF).

Complimenting Sitharaman for taking measures to boost investment

in infrastructure sector, including digital, Aghi said the USISPF believed that the budget could have gone further to liberalise sectors such as insurance that are in need of capital.

On ease of doing business, measures such as simplified GST returns, no audit requirement for MSMEs with up to Rs 5 crore turnover, instant issuance of PAN by furnishing Aadhaar, pre-filing of tax returns, faceless appeals and assessments will further enhance India’s image from an ease of doing business perspective.

ONGC, IOC, others to invest Rs98,521cr in upcoming FY

ONGC, IOC and other oil PSUs will invest over Rs 98,521 crore in the coming fiscal starting April 1 in exploring for oil and gas, refineries, petrochemicals and laying pipelines to meet needs of the world’s fastest-growing energy consuming nation.

The investment proposed in 2020-21 is almost 4pc higher than Rs 94,974 crore spending by the state-owned oil firms in the current fiscal year that ends on March 31, according to Budget 2020-21 documents.

Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) leads the pack with a 19pc rise in its capital spending at Rs 32,501 crore. The company is investing in

finding new reserves of oil and gas and bringing to production discoveries it has already made. It is developing discoveries on both east and west coast of the country.

The top oil producer’s overseas arm, ONGC Videsh



Ltd (OVL) will invest almost 10pc more at Rs 7,235 crore in oil and gas operations abroad.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the country’s top oil refiner, will see a 17.4pc rise in spending to Rs 26,233 crore with the bulk of it in expansion and upgrade of its seven refineries that produce fuel.

LIC to get listed on stock exchange

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget 2020 has announced listing public sector behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India on the bourses and privatising IDBI Bank.

The proceeds from LIC Initial Public Offering



(IPO), IDBI stake sale along with current divestments in progress will help the government to achieve its aggressive disinvestment target of Rs 2.1 lakh crore and fiscal deficit targets. However, one needs clarity on the sovereign guarantee that comes with LIC policy.

According to insurance experts, based on a high level of evaluation of LIC’s embedded value (future value of the new business), the insurer’s market capitalisation could be Rs 8 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore, thus more valuable than TCS and Reliance

Industries. Listing of LIC would also require amendments to the LIC Act 1956.

“Listing of LIC is a commendable measure provided there is clarity on the sovereign guarantee to policyholders and adherence to the required solvency margin is undertaken. Based on

a very high level of evaluation of the Embedded value of LIC’s portfolio, the market capitalisation of LIC could be Rs 8 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore,” said Ashvin Parekh managing director at Ashvin Parekh managing director at Ashvin Parekh Advisory Services.

“After two capital infusions, the government owns a substantial part of IDBI Bank (46.5 per cent stake) which will be completely sold off. The new investors will seek complete independence in putting the governance framework including independent directors, nominee directors. Also considering the quality of assets of IDBI Bank, it remains to be seen how much an investor will be expected to pay for the troubled bank,” added Parekh.

“Discussion with respect to law ministry for legislative changes for LIC IPO has already begun,”

said finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a press conference after presenting the Budget.

“Between LIC and IDBI Bank and other disinvestment as per guesstimates, Rs 90,000 crore could be raised. We will have to go back to parliament to get the nod for LIC stake sale... The government’s intention is to get out of IDBI Bank,” said Atanu Chakraborty (secretary) ministry of finance, Department of Economic Affairs.

“Listing of companies on stock exchanges discipline a company and provides access to financial markets and unlocks its value. It also gives opportunity for retail investors to participate in the wealth so created. The government now proposes to sell a part of its holding in LIC by way of Initial Public Offer (IPO),” said Sitharaman in her Budget speech.

WeWork appoints US-Indian Sandeep Mathrani as new CEO

Co-sharing workspace company WeWork has named Indian-American real estate veteran Sandeep Mathrani as the new CEO of the company.

The new role for Mathrani, who most recently served as CEO of Brookfield Properties’ retail group, will be effective from February 18. He will also be a member of the company’s Board of Directors, WeWork said.

Mathrani will report to Marcelo Claure, who will remain Executive Chairman, WeWork said, adding that Mathrani’s deep real estate experience and skills are complementary with those of Claure.

Mathrani’s appointment comes at a crucial time when WeWork is trying to stabilise its business following its failed attempt to go public last year and the departure of the its Co-founder and former CEO Adam Neumann.

Following the setback which led to dramatic fall in its valuation, Japan-based technology investor SoftBank took 80pc ownership



of the company and infused into it \$5 billion in new financing.

“I am honored to be joining WeWork at this pivotal time in its history. The company has redefined how people and companies approach work with an innovative platform, exceptionally talented team and significant potential if we stick to our shared values and maintain our members-first focus,”

Mathrani said in a statement.

“I am grateful for the confidence Marcelo and the Board have placed in me and look forward to partnering with Marcelo and the very talented employees at WeWork.”

Mathrani succeeds co-CEOs Artie Minson and Sebastian Gunningham. Minson and Gunningham will remain with the Company through a transition period to ensure a smooth onboarding process, WeWork said.

“Over the past 100 days since I joined WeWork, we have made tremendous progress strengthening the business. As an important first step, we have recapitalised the business and have a plan that will provide us access to in excess of \$2.5 billion in liquidity to execute our growth plans,” said Claure who is part of the SoftBank Group.

NTPC bags \$750m in Asia’s biggest Japanese Yen loan

State-run power giant NTPC said that it has become the top company in Asia to raise the largest syndicated Japanese yen loan worth \$750 million (around Rs 5,367 crore). According to a company statement, the loan has been raised under automatic route of RBI’s external commercial borrowings regulations, and is also the highest ever single foreign currency loan raised by NTPC.

The facility has a door-to-door maturity of 11 years under two tranches. The company said, the facility is fully underwritten by State Bank of India, Tokyo, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Singapore and Bank of India, Tokyo, on January 20 and will be shortly launched by banks for general syndication.

“NTPC has signed a syndicated term loan in Japanese Yen (JPY), equivalent

to \$750 million,” it said, adding that this is the largest ever syndicated JPY loan raised by any Asian Corporate from offshore Samurai loan market.

The loan proceeds shall be utilised by the company for funding its capex for installation of flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) system, hydro projects and other projects using ultra supercritical technology with low carbon emission.

UAE to develop new gas field with reserves of 80 tcf

The United Arab Emirates announced the discovery of a new gas field with an estimated reserves of 80 trillion cubic feet, the country’s prime minister tweeted.

The gas field will be developed by both Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Dubai Supply Authority (DUSUP), Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who is also the ruler of Dubai, said on his official Twitter account.

Amara Raja Batteries Q3 net up over 25pc

Amara Raja Batteries Limited has posted a profit of Rs 164.41 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2019, against Rs 130.89 crore logged in the corresponding quarter of last year.

The battery major reported a revenue of Rs 1,747.81 crore in Q3 FY20, against Rs 1,694.66 crore for the corresponding quarter, registering a growth of 3pc.

The earnings per share (EPS) for Q3 FY20 was at Rs 9.63.

The original equipment (OE) and telecom sectors continue to experience demand slowdown. However, the replacement demand for Amaran, Power Zone and Quanta batteries across market segments helped the company achieve healthy volume growth. Exports to countries in the Indian Ocean

Rim geography continue to gain traction.

S Vijayanand, CEO, Amara Raja Batteries, said, “Our focus on operational excellence and cost efficiency is helping us stay competitive under difficult economic conditions. The planned investments in capacity enhancement and technology upgradation are progressing as per schedule.”

Amara Raja Batteries is a leading manufacturer of lead-acid batteries for both industrial and automotive applications in the Indian storage battery industry. It is the preferred supplier to major telecom service providers, telecom equipment manufacturers, the UPS sector (OEM & replacement), Indian Railways and to the power, oil & gas, among other industry segments.

Viability gap funding set to cheer up pvt health sector

The private health-care sector and medical equipment manufacturers have something to cheer about this year’s budget. The Budget has announced viability gap funding for hospitals in PPP mode and smaller cities and levied cess on imported medical equipments to promote domestic manufacturing.

The viability gap funding window will be provided to hospitals which are setting up centres in tier II and III cities. The first phase will cover the 112 aspirational districts.

“Presently, under PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) there are more than 20,000 empanelled hospitals. We need more in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities for poorer people under this scheme. It is proposed to set up Viability Gap funding window for setting up hospitals in the PPP mode. In the first phase, those Aspirational Districts will be covered, where presently there are no Ayushman empanelled hospitals,” said Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman.

“Setting up of more hospital infrastructure in

Tier-II and III cities under PPP model via viability gap funding, will further be a boost for the health-care ecosystem and benefit the underprivileged families which were devoid of basic medical facilities. India has recorded highest out of pocket expenditure on healthcare, as compared to other developing countries.

The measures proposed in the budget will support to regulate the gap and play an important role in making health a priority for one and all and creating further awareness for

health insurance, Ashish Mehrotra, MD & CEO, Max Bupa Health Insurance.

In order to fund this, the government will impose

a nominal health cess, by way of a duty of customs, on the imports of medical equipment and use the proceeds for creating



infrastructure for health services in the aspirational districts.

This will also promote the domestic manufacturing of medical equipments. Medical equipments will also be part of “Network Products” which are being promoted for exports.

Aiming at addressing the shortage of qualified medical doctors, the Budget proposed to attach a medical college to an existing district hospital in PPP mode. Those states that fully allow the facilities of the hospital to the medical college and wish to pro-

vide land at a concession, would be able to receive Viability Gap Funding.

The government will encourage large hospitals with sufficient capacity to offer resident doctors fellow of National Board (DNB/FNB) courses under the National Board of Examinations, Jan Aushadhi Kendra Scheme to all districts offering 2000 medicines and 300 surgicals by 2024. The Budget has allocated Rs 69,000 crore for health care and this includes Rs 6400 crores for Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojana.



BOEING 777X PLANE MAKES SUCCESSFUL MAIDEN FLIGHT



Boeing employees and others celebrate as a Boeing 777X airplane returns to a hangar after its first test flight at the company's facility in Seattle, Washington.

Pilots, flight attendants refuse to fly to China

Pilots and flight attendants are demanding airlines stop flights to China as health officials declare a global emergency over the rapidly spreading coronavirus, with American Airlines' pilots filing a lawsuit seeking an immediate halt.

China has reported nearly 10,000 cases and 213 deaths, but the virus has spread to 18 countries, mostly, presumably, by airline passengers. The US has advised its citizens not to travel to China, raising its warning to the same level as those for Iraq and Afghanistan. US airlines, which have been reducing flights to China this week, were reassessing flying plans as a result, according to people familiar with the matter. It is possible the White House could opt to take further action to bar flights to China in coming days, but officials stressed that no decision has been made.

The Allied Pilots Association (APA), which represents American Airlines pilots, cited "serious, and in many ways still unknown, health threats posed by the coronavirus" in a lawsuit filed in Texas, where the airline is based. American said it was taking precautions against the virus but had no immediate comment on the lawsuit. It has announced flight cancellations from Los Angeles to Beijing and

Shanghai, but is continuing flights from Dallas.

APA President Eric Ferguson urged pilots assigned to US-China flights to decline the assignment. In a statement, the American Airlines' flight attendants union said they supported the pilots' lawsuit and called on the company and the US government to "err on the side of caution and halt all flights to and from China." Pilots at United Airlines, the largest US airline to China, concerned for their safety will be allowed to drop their trip without pay, according to a memo from their union to members.

United announced on Thursday another 332 US-China flight cancellations between February and March 28, though it will continue operating round trip flights from San Francisco to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The American Airlines pilot lawsuit came as an increasing number of airlines stopped their flights to mainland China, including Air France KLM SA, British Airways, Germany's Lufthansa and Virgin Atlantic. Other major carriers have kept flying to China, but protective masks and shorter layovers designed to reduce exposure have done little to reassure crews.

Trip to Europe gets costlier, visa fee up by over Rs 1,500

A trip to much of Europe has gone costlier from Sunday with increase in Schengen visa fee to Euro 80 from the current Euro 60. A Schengen visa is needed to visit 26 European countries, including Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Switzerland and Spain. One Euro is equivalent to Rs 79.37.

"This increase is the first one since 2006," an European Union (EU) official said. The increase in the visa fee comes as an updated Schengen Visa Code took effective Feb 2. "It brings the fee in line with the level where it would be today if it had been aligned to the general EU-wide inflation rate since 2006," they said.

"The increased visa fee will provide member states with additional financial resources to process visa applications quickly and more efficiently. By international standards, the visa fee remains low," the official said. For regular travellers, the fee increase is offset by the new rules on long-validity visas. These travellers may actually save money under the new provisions, since they have to apply for visas less often, they said.

Travel bans, business closures to hurt global economy

Travel restrictions and business closures aimed at stopping the spread of a new virus that has killed more than 300 people in China could end up causing ripple effects that harm the global economy, experts say.

"When you stop planes and ships, trains and motor vehicles from moving, it starts to shut down the economy — and that can have a cascading effect throughout society," Dr Eric Toner, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said, after multiple airlines announced that they would suspend or cut back on flights to and from China and several countries, including the US, imposed travel restrictions. "And it's not just airline pilots who get out of work, I mean, it's you know, it's everybody that they depend on."

It's not just airlines that have cut back on business

in China. Apple Inc announced that it was temporarily closing all of its offices and its 42 stores in mainland China. Google, Amazon and Microsoft previously announced plans to temporarily shut offices and Starbucks and McDonald's have closed some chains. Apple said it was acting "out of an abundance of caution and based on the latest advice from leading health experts." Its stores will be closed until Feb 9.

Toner said Apple's decision could also be harmful to the economy and Apple itself, though he noted that many companies, including airlines, are trying to protect their employees.

Toner led a summit in October with World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss the negative impacts of trade and travel restrictions during a pandemic. In a paper that came out of that meeting,

the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security concluded that "fear and uncertainty experienced during past outbreaks, even those limited to a national or regional level, have sometimes led to unjustified border measures." The US, Australia, Singapore and Japan have imposed travel restrictions and Vietnam suspended all flights to China.

Toner said governments are ultimately "trying to do something that has very little benefit but very real harm."

"It's been shown over and over again that putting up barriers to travel does not stop contagious infectious diseases," he said, pointing to past outbreaks of Ebola, Zika and even influenza. Instead, he said, governments should educate people about the virus and urge people who may have been exposed to isolate themselves.

Budget levies tax on overseas tour packages

In a bid to widen and deepen the tax net, the government has proposed to amend Section 206C of the IT Act to levy five per cent TCS (tax collected at source) on overseas remittances and for sale of overseas tour package. According to the budget documents, an authorised dealer receiving an amount or an aggregate of amounts of Rs 7 lakh or more in a financial year for remittance out of India under the Liberalised Remittances Schemes (LRS) of RBI, will be liable to collect TCS, if he receives sum in excess of said amount from a buyer — a person remitting such amount out of India — at the rate of five per cent. In non PAN/Aadhaar cases, the rate will be 10pc.

Similarly, a seller of an overseas tour programme package who receives any amount from any buyer — a

person who purchases such package — will be liable to collect TCS at the rate of five per cent. The rate will be 10pc in non-PAN and non-five per cent TCS (tax collected at source) on overseas remittances and for sale of overseas tour package. Overseas tour programme package is defined as any tour package which offers visit to a country or countries or territory or territories outside India, and includes expenses for travel or hotel stay or boarding or lodging or any other expense of similar nature, the budget documents state.

Further, it has also proposed a new levy of TDS at the rate of one per cent to be paid by an e-commerce operator for sale of goods or provision of service facilitated by it through its digital or electronic facility or platform.

NRI anxiety

"The Budget proposals have created huge anxiety and significant confusion among the NRI community.

While there are no benefits in the budget for the NRIs - who send billions to their motherland to shore up its foreign currency reserves every year - it appears the Central government is trying to put them into difficulty through some of the proposals."



Dr. Azad Moopen, Chairman, DM Aster Healthcare, puts the situation into context: "The number of days an NRI can spend in India to be get tax exemption is reduced from 182 days to 120 days. This will have an impact on businesses having significant investments in India like us. "Our In-

dia listed company has 13 hospitals in India invested through the FDI route, whereas we have only 12 hospitals in GCC. Out of our 20,000 employees, the majority are in India. This naturally requires us to spend significant time in India. Even in the case of others like offshore workers who get one-month off after one-year of work, this will be a great disadvantage.

"The Budget proposals have created huge anxiety and significant confusion among the NRI community."

Some tax experts in the UAE say this will not apply to UAE based NRIs, and even those in the other Gulf states. India has double-taxation avoidance treaties with them, which means income generated in one country will not be subject to a tax in the other.

Corona: Emirates cuts China capacity

Dubai's Emirates airline has reduced its capacity on China routes because of low demand amid growing concern about coronavirus. The airline said it will remove the world's largest passenger aircraft Airbus A380 and instead will deploy Boeing 777 on Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou routes.

"As part of its regular operational review, Emirates will deploy its Boeing 777 aircraft on routes between Dubai and Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, instead of A380s," an Emirates spokesperson said on Monday. "By utilising 777-300ERs instead of A380s, Emirates will be using jets that cost less to operate and still provide positive yield in the face of demand erosion. Critically, these sorts of adjustments are routine and allow Emirates to perform maintenance checks on its A380s and is also why the airline invested in smaller 787-9s so that it

Tatas interested in running trains

The Tata group has shown interest in the government's ambitious plan of rolling out 150 passenger trains run by private players, adding heft to the high-priority project — mentioned by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her budget speech — that seeks to end Indian railways' monopoly in the sector.

Representatives from the Tatas participated in the latest stakeholders' meeting in which companies such as the Adanis, Alstom, Siemens and Bombardier, among others, were also present. "The Tata group is one of the companies that participated in the stakeholders' meeting," Railway Board chairman V K Yadav said.

The government is expecting an investment in rolling stock to the tune of at least Rs 22,500 crore, and railways is hoping to earn through licence fee and haulage charges by leasing out 100 traffic-heavy routes

to private players, who will operate 150 trains.

In her speech, Nirmala said: "Four station re-development projects and operation of 150 passenger trains would be done through PPP mode. The process of inviting private participation is underway." She also proposed setting up of a large solar power capacity alongside the tracks on land owned by the railways. Chairma Yadav later said that 51,000 hectares along the tracks will be used to set up these solar and wind power systems.

The finance ministry has given Rs 70,250 crore as gross budgetary support for the next fiscal to fund an overall capital expenditure of Rs 1.61-lakh-crore. This is marginally up from Rs 68,104 crore given in the ongoing fiscal for a capital spend of Rs 1.56-lakh-crore.

With an operating ratio of 97.4pc, a bludgeoning expenditure profile and plateauing income from core

business, Indian railways' finances, as presented in the budget, show that the national transporter is working hard to keep financial crisis at bay, at least on paper. The operating ratio is worse than the 95pc projected in the budget estimate, and in a nutshell captures the precarious income-expenditure disparity the railways is trying to balance. Operating ratio is the indicator of money spent to earn every Rs 100 — the lower the better. Its revenue expenditure — or money spent to run the house and carry out its business — is pegged at Rs 2.02-lakh-crore, while its income is estimated to be Rs 2.06-lakh-crore. For the next fiscal, railways has estimated that it will earn Rs 2.25 crore and pegged its revenue expenditure at Rs 2.19 crore, which is just eight per cent more than this year.

Jeddah to host global travel, tourism expo

The 10th Jeddah International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (JTXX) will take place on Feb 26-28 at the Hilton Hotel. Some 200 exhibitors from 30 countries — including ministries, airlines, and service providers in the travel and tourism sectors — will participate.

JTXX promotes domestic, regional and international tourism and features attractions from around the world. The 10th edition is expected to be the most distinguished, featuring many new tourist destinations, services and special offers such as airline tickets and accommodation. Maya Halfawi, president of the organising committee, said this year's edition will be the largest in terms of the number of participants and visitors.

"This year's edition comes to keep pace with the development witnessed by the travel market in the Kingdom, which makes it a unique opportunity for both industry makers and stake-

holders to meet, learn about new tourist destinations and services and sign deals so as to promote this sector and enhance the role of the Kingdom," she added.

The Saudi tourism sector's growth and diversity are due to the synergy of efforts by the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage, and the General Entertainment Authority, Halfawi stressed.

EXCHANGE RATES

As on 03rd February, 2020 (In rupees)

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	46.30	49.30
Bahraini Dinar	184.00	196.25
British Pound	92.15	95.15
Canadian Dollar	52.60	55.60
Emirati Dirham	18.90	20.15
Euro	77.60	80.60
Kuwaiti Dinar	227.00	241.00
Omani Rial	180.00	192.00
Qatari Riyal	18.00	20.30
Saudi Riyal	18.00	20.30
Singapore Dollar	50.75	53.75
Swiss Franc	70.00	75.60
US Dollar	70.00	73.00

Rates are subject to change without notice. Errors & omissions excepted

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