

ways, mega shopping malls and efficient public transport make Dubai one of the best cities in the world to work, do business and live a leisurely life," said Poogadan.

"Regional geopolitics is highly volatile and characterised by safety concerns, political turmoil, and an elevated risk of terrorism. The lowest ranking cities in the region are Damascus (229) and Baghdad (230), both of which have witnessed continual violence and terrorist attacks that weigh upon the daily life of locals and expatriates," said the report. "Rankings in many regions were affected by recent world events, including economic and political

pressure to the residential market. Prices are expected to continue falling as the additional residential units will be ready for occupancy this year," he added.

Vienna continues its reign in the top spot for overall quality of living, followed by Zurich (2), Auckland (3), and Munich (4). Vancouver (5) is North America's highest ranking city, and Singapore is the highest ranking Asian city, holding 26th place. Mercer's survey also identifies the personal safety ranking for the full list of cities; it is based on internal stability, crime figures, performance of local law enforcement, and the home country's rela-

ble cities here are Hong Kong (70), Taipei (84), Shanghai (101), and Beijing (118).

For personal safety, the rankings for Asian cities again vary greatly. Singapore (8) ranks highest overall and is followed by five Japanese cities—Kobe, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo, and Yokohama—that are tied for 32nd place. Other key cities include Hong Kong (37), Taipei (78), Beijing (97), Seoul (115), New Delhi (142), and Jakarta (172). Following considerable political unrest and terrorist attacks in several tourist areas over the last few years, Bangkok ranked 173rd for personal safety.

— [issacjohn@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:issacjohn@khaleejtimes.com)



Dubai or UAE in general is being considered as one of the safest countries in the world

**Johnaliza Nazareno,**  
Office: Manager, Stender & Partners  
Management Consulting



Hats off to Dubai for making us all feel so incredibly 'at home' always!

**Shradha Mohanty,**  
Manager, Gifts & Novelties, Watermelon  
Communications

## inbrief

### ABU DHABI

#### UAE, Russia talk investments

The UAE Minister of Economy, Sultan bin Saeed Al Mansouri, on Tuesday met Russian Minister of Agriculture, Aleksandr Nikolayevich Tkachev, on the sidelines of the Gulfood 2016, a major food and hospitality trade event in the region. The UAE imports around 80 per cent of its food needs, a major challenge that the UAE is working to overcome in the future, Al Mansouri said during the meeting.

### ADDIS ABABA

#### UAE, Ethiopia sign agreement

Ghazi Abdullah Salem Al Mehri, the UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Ethiopia, has participated in intensive negotiations held over three days in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, between a delegation from the UAE, headed by Dr Hamid Nasr Abdel Qader, an economist expert at the Ministry of Finance and the Ethiopian side. The negotiations culminated by the signing of a comprehensive agreement, the first of its kind, to protect and encourage investment between the UAE and the Republic of Ethiopia. The signing of the agreement represents economic development and a growth in the path of improving relations between the two countries.

Compiled from Wam

## Expo Centre seeks to gain from new UAE-India ties

### Staff Report

DUBAI — Expo Centre Sharjah is looking to take advantage of the paradigm shift in ties between the UAE and India.

"The recent exchange of visits between the UAE and India has taken the bilateral relationship between the UAE and India in several areas to new strategic heights. At Expo Centre, we are extremely excited about this. We already have strong ties with our Indian partners and the fresh momentum will help us to take it to a new level," said Saif Mohammed Al Midfa, CEO, Expo Centre Sharjah.

The recent visit of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, and later by Mohammed Al Gergawi, UAE Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Future, has laid a clear roadmap for deeper cooperation between the countries.

The Expo is organising an ongoing multi-industry event in associa-

tion with its Indian partners. The ongoing 3rd Plastivision Arabia and 2nd Print Pack Arabia are being held in association with the All India Plastics Manufacturers Association (AIPMA), and the Indian Printing, Packaging and Allied Machinery Manufacturers' Association (IPAMA), respectively.

On Tuesday, Expo Centre also hosted the 'Investing in India Summit', which was addressed by R K Agarwal, President, AIPMA, and featured presentations by Shurooq, Indian partner states Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh, and was attended by Shri Amar Agarwal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, State Government of Chhattisgarh, India.

"Our trade relations date back thousands of years, and I am happy to note that we spotted the strength of the plastics and printing and packaging industries of India long ago, and chose to partner with the apex bodies of the industries to launch Plastivision Arabia in 2012 and Print Pack Arabia in 2014," said Midfa.

— [sandhya@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:sandhya@khaleejtimes.com)



Saif Mohammed Al Midfa at Expo Centre Sharjah. — Supplied photo



Kamal Vachani and Harsimrat Kaur Badal at Al Maya Group stand at Gulfood in Dubai. — Supplied photo

## Al Maya sees bright prospects for India food trade: Vachani

### Staff Report

DUBAI — Al Maya Group sees bright prospects for food trade with India and expects strong growth in its business this year, its senior official says.

Kamal Vachani, group director at Al Maya Group, said the UAE is India's third largest trading partner with around \$60 billion total trade after China and the US. Referring to Business Monitor International's latest report, he said the value of food consumption in the UAE is projected to grow to Dh40.8 billion by 2018.

Vachani, who welcomed India's Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal at Al Maya Group stand at Gulfood, said his group is launching new food products at the 21st edition of Gulfood exhibition,

which is due to close on Thursday. The minister showed keen interest on the products on display at Al Maya stand and appreciated the efforts of Al Maya Group to promote Indian products in the UAE, Vachani said.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal is strong believer of the promotion of food sector in the country to attract foreign direct investment and increase exports.

"Al Maya Supermarket portfolio includes a large variety of food items for everyday needs of almost all nationalities in the UAE," Vachani said.

Al Maya Group, the UAE-based business conglomerate, has more than 40 supermarkets in the GCC countries in addition to other businesses. The group recently expanded its reach in Oman and Abu Dhabi by opening new outlets last year.

— [business@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:business@khaleejtimes.com)

MUMBAI — With the Dubai Financial Services Authority upgrading it to a category four licence, L&T Capital Markets, promoted by Indian engineering giant Larsen & Toubro, will launch wealth management services at the DIFC.

LTCML, which has had a representative office at the DIFC, will now offer wealth management solutions by way of arranging deals in credit and investments, providing advice on financial products and services, including equities, debt, structured products, investments in alternate asset classes etc. to high net worth individuals based in the UAE and in the Gulf region.

"In the last few years, the UAE, particularly Dubai, has emerged as a major financial centre for wealth management services," remarked Y M Deosthalee, chairman and managing director, L&T Finance Holdings, which is the parent company of LTCML, here on Tuesday. "The large Indian community in the UAE, estimated to be around 2.6 million, often struggle to get the right options and right intermediaries to invest in Indian markets be it equities, mutual funds, insurance or any other financial products."

— [nithin@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:nithin@khaleejtimes.com)

## Emirates to fly to Auckland non-stop

### Staff Report

DUBAI — Emirates airline's first non-stop service between Auckland and Dubai will be one of the longest air routes in the world by distance, but with the assistance of clever technology and good planning, passengers will get to their destination in the shortest possible time.

Emirates will be using flexible routes, which can vary by day, taking advantage of tail winds and avoiding head winds to reduce the time in the air.

This proven technology, combined with the elimination of an en-route stop in Australia, could shorten the time to Auckland by up to three hours.

— [business@khaleejtimes.com](mailto:business@khaleejtimes.com)