



LOCAL
New IT service fees from
January 2027 **2**

LOCAL
Kuwait tightens money
transfer checks **3**

LOCAL
Kuwait clarifies visit
visa conversion rules,
warns expatriates against
misinformation **4**



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New Commercial Concealment Law to reshape Kuwait's Business Landscape

The Times Kuwait Report

Kuwait has introduced tougher rules against commercial concealment, sending a clear message that businesses must operate under the names, licenses and ownership structures officially registered with the authorities.

For many business owners, however, the new law raises an important question: What exactly is considered commercial concealment, and what does it mean for businesses already operating in Kuwait?

Decree-Law No. 78 of 2026 on Combating Commercial Concealment is aimed at preventing individuals or entities from carrying out economic activities without the required legal authorization or from hiding the real person benefiting from a business.

The law applies not only to arrangements between Kuwaitis and expatriates. It can also cover transactions between Kuwaitis, including family members, if a business is registered in



one person's name while another person is actually running it or benefiting from its profits.

What is commercial concealment?

In simple terms, commercial concealment

occurs when someone allows another person to operate a business or conduct an economic activity through a license, commercial register or trade name that does not legally belong to them.

One common example would be a person effectively renting out a commercial license to someone else in return for a fixed monthly or annual payment. The law also covers situations where someone uses another person's registered trade name or commercial license to conduct business without the necessary legal authorization. Importantly, simply having a business relationship with an expatriate does not automatically amount to concealment. The issue is whether the actual business activity, ownership and financial benefit are consistent with what is legally registered.

One of the important aspects of the new legislation is that commercial concealment is not defined solely by the nationality of the people involved. The law can apply when two Kuwaitis are involved as well. For example, if a commercial license is registered in one person's name but another person is actually running the business and receiving its profits, the arrangement could come under scrutiny.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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New IT service fees from January 2027

What Kuwait residents and businesses need to know

Starting January 1, 2027, some information technology-related government services in Kuwait will carry new fees, following the approval of a revised fee structure by the Central Agency for Information Technology. The changes are part of a wider effort to organize government technology services and establish clearer charges for digital and IT-related services. For residents, businesses and government entities that regularly use these services, the key point is simple: some services that were previously provided without a separate charge will now have specified fees from the beginning of next year.

The new structure is expected to bring greater clarity to the cost of IT services while helping government agencies manage the growing demand for digital infrastructure and technology-related support.

What is changing?

The revised structure introduces fees for a range of IT services provided through

government channels. The charges will vary depending on the type of service requested and the resources required to provide it.

Rather than applying one blanket charge, the new system establishes specific fees for individual services, making it easier for users to know the cost before requesting a service.

Why are the fees being introduced?

Kuwait has been steadily expanding its digital government infrastructure, with more public services moving online and greater reliance being placed on information technology systems. As government services become increasingly digital, maintaining platforms, networks, databases and related infrastructure also involves significant operational and technical costs. The revised fee structure is therefore intended to create a more organized system for delivering these services and recovering part of the associated costs.

The impact will depend on the type of IT service being requested. Government entities,



companies and other users who rely on the covered services should review the new fee schedule ahead of its implementation.

For ordinary residents, the changes may not affect day-to-day digital government transactions significantly. However, those who use specialized IT services or services

provided to businesses and institutions may see additional charges from January 1.

What should users do?

With the new fees set to take effect at the start of 2027, users and businesses would be well advised to familiarize themselves with the revised charges before submitting applications or requesting services.

The introduction of a clearly defined fee structure should also make the process more transparent, allowing users to understand what they will be required to pay rather than discovering additional costs later.

The broader message is that as Kuwait moves deeper into its digital transformation, the cost and management of technology services are also becoming more structured. For users, the immediate priority is to know which services are affected, how much they will cost, and whether any exemptions or special conditions apply before the new system comes into force on January 1, 2027.

Kuwait makes it easier for property owners to remove former residents from their records



Property owners in Kuwait who find that former residents are still officially registered at their properties now have a simpler way to address the problem without having to visit a government office.

The Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) has introduced a new 'Resident Removal' service through the Sahel app, allowing owners of private properties to electronically request the removal of people who are no longer living at their addresses. The new service is aimed at making it easier for property owners to keep civil information linked to their properties accurate and up to date.

A common problem, now easier to resolve

When someone moves out of a property but remains officially registered at the old address, it can create difficulties for property owners and complicate the accuracy of Kuwait's civil information records.

Previously, resolving such cases could involve additional procedures and a visit to a government office. The new Sahel service brings the process online, allowing eligible property owners to submit their request electronically.

Who can use the service?

The service is currently available to owners

of private properties who have activated the pre-registration feature for resident data. This means the service is not simply an open facility for anyone to remove another person's address. It is linked to the property owner's official records and the resident information registered with PACI.

Another step toward digital government

The launch is part of PACI's wider move toward providing civil information services electronically and reducing the need for in-person transactions. For residents, property owners and government agencies, accurate address information is important because civil records are used for a range of official services.

By allowing property owners to initiate the removal process digitally, PACI is making what can sometimes be a frustrating administrative task more straightforward. The move also reflects a broader shift in Kuwait's government services: more procedures are moving from counters and paperwork to a few steps on a smartphone.

For eligible private-property owners, the new service should mean less time spent dealing with administrative formalities and an easier way to ensure that the residents officially linked to their property are actually living there.

Al-Muzaini Exchange Company opens its newest branch in SAAD AL ABDULLA

The number one money exchange company in Kuwait, Al-Muzaini Exchange Company recently opened its newest branch in SAAD AL ABDULLA, Block 8, Street 24 on Wednesday, Aug 5, 2026. This opening was extremely significant and the rapid expansion reflects the company's endeavor to always be near its customers.

It also reinforces the company's commitment to providing the highest quality of financial services such as money transfers, foreign currency exchange and bill payments with convenience, comfort and safety and at the most competitive prices, seven days a week.

The General Manager of Al Muzaini Exchange Company, Mr. Hugh Fernandes and the company's department managers and various senior personnel inaugurated the new branch in SAAD AL ABDULLA and Mr. Fernandes stated: "We take great pride in strengthening our leading position in the local market and always place focus in ensuring that we provide the best financial services experience to our customers in order to meet all their money transfer needs.

We always want to stay true to our mission; to always be near to our customers and to add to their convenience and the opening of our new branch is another step in that direction." The company always strives to make its financial services accessible to all. In addition to its strong network of branches, Al Muzaini application provides simple and safe



financial solutions and is packed with plenty of valuable features such as: -Availability in all digital platforms, new customer registration, the ability to add a new beneficiary and benefits from the Western Union service and Visa Direct services that makes it possible for you to transfer anywhere, anytime.

Al Muzaini, always near you!

Kuwait declares August 27 public holiday for Prophet's Birthday

Kuwait has declared Thursday, August 27, a public holiday to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), giving government employees a three-day break when combined with the regular Friday-Saturday weekend.

The Council of Ministers approved the holiday for ministries, government departments, public authorities and state institutions, with normal working hours set to resume on Sunday, August 30.

The occasion, known as Mawlid Al-Nabawi,

is observed on 12 Rabi' Al-Awwal in Kuwait's official calendar. It is an important religious occasion for Muslims and provides an opportunity to reflect on the life, teachings and values of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Essential services to continue

While most government offices will remain closed, departments and agencies responsible for essential and continuous services will continue operating according to arrangements made by the relevant authorities.

These include healthcare, security and other essential public services where uninterrupted operations are required. For thousands of government employees, however, the holiday will offer a welcome opportunity to spend time with family and observe the religious occasion.

Kuwait tightens money transfer checks

Bank statement required for transfers above KD 3,000

Sending a large amount of money from Kuwait is becoming a little more document-heavy. Exchange companies across the country have introduced stricter verification procedures for customers transferring more than KD 3,000, requiring them to provide bank statements covering at least the previous two months.

The move is part of tighter financial monitoring aimed at ensuring that large transfers come from legitimate and traceable sources, under the supervision of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK).

What has changed?

Under the enhanced checks, anyone transferring more than KD 3,000 through an exchange company must submit a bank statement covering the previous two months.

The statement is expected to show the movement of funds in the account, including smaller transactions. Exchange companies will use this information to assess whether the amount being transferred is consistent with the customer's income and normal financial activity.

Previously, such documentation was

generally requested for much larger transfers, typically around KD 10,000 or more, or when a transaction appeared significantly higher than the customer's declared financial profile under Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures.

Cash transfers face a separate limit

There is another change that customers making remittances should be aware of. Exchange companies are limiting cash remittances to KD 1,000 per customer per day. Anyone wishing to transfer more than that will need to use funds that can be traced through the banking system and provide the required documentation.

For people who regularly send money abroad, this means planning ahead may become more important, particularly when transferring larger amounts for family expenses, property payments, education or other major commitments.

Why are the checks becoming stricter?

The aim is not simply to add paperwork. The stronger verification process is intended to give exchange companies a clearer picture of where



transferred funds come from and whether the transaction is consistent with a customer's known financial activity.

The measures form part of Kuwait's broader efforts to strengthen its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing framework and bring financial monitoring in line with international standards.

The CBK has also stepped up inspections of exchange companies, checking their records, internal procedures and systems for monitoring customers and verifying sources of funds.

What does this mean for customers?

For most people making ordinary, smaller remittances, the new requirements may have little immediate impact. The difference will be felt more clearly when transferring larger amounts. Customers should be prepared to provide a recent bank statement and may need to explain the source or purpose of funds if requested by the exchange company.

In practical terms, the message is straightforward: large money transfers in Kuwait are coming under closer scrutiny, and customers need to be able to show where their money came from.

The tighter checks reflect a wider shift in Kuwait's financial system toward greater transparency and traceability. For customers, that may mean a little more paperwork but for regulators, the objective is a financial system where large movements of money are easier to understand, verify and monitor.

Assault cases in Kuwait fall sharply, dropping 53% in first half of 2026

Kuwait has recorded a significant decline in assault cases during the first half of 2026, with cases referred to the Public Prosecution falling by more than half compared to the same period last year.

According to figures cited by the Ministry of Justice, 284 assault cases were recorded in the first six months of 2026, compared with 607 cases during the first half of 2025. That represents a decline of 53.2 percent.

The sharp drop is a notable development in Kuwait's efforts to maintain public safety and address incidents involving violence against individuals. While statistics alone cannot explain why the number of cases has fallen so substantially, the figures point to a marked change compared with the same period last year.



A significant change in six months

The difference is considerable. In the first half of 2025, more than 600 assault cases reached the Public Prosecution. Twelve months later, that number had fallen to fewer than 300.

That means 323 fewer cases were referred during the first six months of this year. The decline is particularly significant

because assault cases are among the incidents that can directly affect people's sense of safety, whether they occur in public places, workplaces, residential areas or during personal disputes.

What the figures tell us

The latest numbers provide an encouraging indicator from a public-safety perspective, but they should also be viewed in context. A reduction in cases referred to the Public Prosecution does not necessarily mean that every form of violence has declined by exactly the same proportion. The figures specifically relate to assault cases referred to the prosecution and should therefore be understood within that scope.

Nevertheless, the year-on-year reduction is substantial and places Kuwait in a notably different position from the first half of 2025.

Maintaining the momentum

For authorities, the challenge now is to sustain this positive trend. Preventing violence requires more than responding after an incident occurs. Effective policing, faster intervention, public awareness, community cooperation and the timely handling of disputes can all play a role in reducing situations that may escalate into violence.

For residents and citizens, the decline offers a welcome sign that serious confrontations are becoming less frequent. At the same time, continued vigilance and respect for the law remain essential to keeping Kuwait's communities safe.



ALSAYER Group honored by Kuwait Society for Human Rights for upholding workers' rights

ALSAYER Group is proud to announce that it has been recognized by the Kuwait Society for Human Rights in appreciation of its commitment to promoting and protecting workers' rights while fostering a safe, fair, and respectful workplace.

The award was presented during a recognition ceremony held on Monday, August 3, 2026, at the Kuwait Society for Human Rights headquarters, attended by senior government officials, including representatives from the Ministry of Public Works, the Public Authority for Manpower, and various organizations committed to advancing labor rights and workplace excellence.

The recognition follows an independent survey conducted by the Kuwait Society for Human Rights as part of its ongoing efforts to promote a culture of human rights and support workers across Kuwait. The survey assessed the extent to which companies adhere to decent work standards and respect the fundamental rights of their employees.

According to the Society's findings, ALSAYER Group was recognized for providing a safe and equitable working environment, respecting the dignity of every employee, complying with labor laws and regulations, and implementing responsible workplace practices that

contribute to employee well-being, job stability, and long-term organizational success.

Receiving this recognition reflects ALSAYER Group's unwavering commitment to creating a workplace built on integrity, inclusion, respect, and responsibility. Our people remain at the heart of everything we do, and we continuously strive to maintain the highest standards in employee welfare, ethical business practices, and organizational excellence.

Senior Manager of Advertising and Promotion for Toyota, Mr. Bader Faisal Al-Sayer noted that, "at ALSAYER Group, we believe that sustainable success begins with empowering our people."

By cultivating an environment where every employee feels valued, supported, and respected, we strengthen our ability to innovate, grow, and contribute positively to the communities we serve. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Kuwait Society for Human Rights for this distinguished recognition.

It serves as both an honor and a motivation for us to continue advancing our workplace practices and reinforcing our commitment to human rights, responsible employment, and excellence across all areas of our business."



Kuwait clarifies visit visa conversion rules, warns expatriates against misinformation

Confusion surrounding Kuwait's latest decision on converting visit visas into residency permits has prompted the Ministry of Interior to clarify that the facility is not open to all expatriates.

The clarification comes after large numbers of expatriates reportedly approached Residency Affairs departments across Kuwait's six governorates following reports that visit visas could now be converted into residency permits. Many applications, however, were rejected because applicants did not meet the conditions set out in the latest ministerial decision.

The message from the authorities is straightforward: holding a visit visa does not automatically make a person eligible for residency conversion. Each application is examined individually, with approval depending on the applicant meeting the prescribed conditions and, where required, receiving authorization from the General Department of Residency Affairs.

Family members among the main eligible categories

One of the principal categories covered by the decision involves expatriates seeking to bring eligible family members onto family residency. Under the stated conditions, the sponsor must earn at least KD800 per month. Eligible family members include a wife, sons below the age of 18 and unmarried daughters below the age of 21.

Applicants approved under this category must also pay the KD150 residency transfer fee, along with health insurance and the applicable



residency charges under Article 22. There are also provisions for certain exceptional family situations. These include children below five years of age and wives whose previous Kuwait residency expired less than one year ago, provided they had been legally residing in Kuwait. Such cases are considered individually, with the final decision resting with the Director General of Residency Affairs.

Visit visa does not mean automatic work residency

The Ministry has also sought to dispel another common misunderstanding that a family visit visa can simply be converted into a

private-sector work residency, or Article 18, for a spouse or child. That is not generally permitted.

Work residency conversion remains restricted to specific circumstances. These include certain professionals invited by government ministries, public authorities or government institutions who possess higher academic qualifications or specialized technical expertise. Domestic workers and certain related categories covered by the regulations may also qualify. Another limited provision applies to individuals who originally entered Kuwait on a work visa and began residency procedures but had to leave the country before completing them. If they return within one month on a

business visit visa, they may, subject to the applicable rules, be allowed to complete the residency process.

Not applicable to everyone

The authorities have stressed that the latest provisions do not apply universally to all expatriates or nationalities. Applications are assessed according to the ministerial regulations, labour-market requirements and the discretion of the Director General of the General Department of Residency Affairs. Applications are initially submitted to the Residency Affairs office in the applicant's governorate before being electronically forwarded for final approval.

The clarification is particularly important for expatriates who may be relying on information circulating through social media, agents or informal channels. A visit visa should not be treated as a guaranteed pathway to residency.

Kuwait's official government portal separately lists visit extensions as a temporary-residence service, while residency categories such as private-sector Article 18 and family Article 22 are governed by their own eligibility requirements.

For expatriates, the safest approach is therefore to check their individual eligibility with the relevant Residency Affairs department rather than relying on claims that "any visit visa can now be converted."

New Commercial Concealment Law to reshape Kuwait's Business Landscape

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The same principle applies to companies and other legal entities: the person officially listed on paper should correspond with the person or persons who are actually conducting and benefiting from the business.

Can expatriates own part of a company?

Yes, within the limits permitted by law. According to the guidance accompanying the legislation, an Article 18 resident may hold a stake in a company within the legally permitted ownership percentage, which can be up to 49 percent of the capital.

However, this provision applies to companies and not to individual establishments, which remain subject to separate rules governing ownership and licensing.

Authorities will be looking beyond the paperwork

Another significant feature of the new law is the stronger coordination between government and financial institutions. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry can work with bodies including the Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecution, Kuwait Financial Intelligence Unit, banks, exchange companies, electronic payment providers, investment companies and insurance companies to identify possible discrepancies.

This means that authorities will not necessarily have to rely only on what appears on a commercial license. Financial transactions and ownership information could also provide clues.

For instance, if a company is officially structured with a 51 percent Kuwaiti and 49 percent resident ownership, but the flow of profits or financial transfers appears substantially different from that arrangement, it could raise questions and lead to further examination.

What are the penalties?

The consequences are serious.

A person convicted of commercial concealment can face one to three years in prison and a fine ranging from KD10,000 to KD100,000, or either of the two penalties.

Where the illegal profits exceed KD100,000, the fine can potentially rise to the value of those profits. Authorities can also confiscate proceeds generated through the offence, as well as equipment or other means used to commit the violation. Repeat offenders face doubled penalties if they commit another commercial concealment offence within five years of a final conviction.

The consequences can go beyond a fine

A conviction could also result in the closure of the business and cancellation of its commercial license. For foreign offenders, administrative deportation may also be ordered.

Companies themselves may face financial responsibility when an offence is committed by employees in the company's name or for its benefit. Managers and officials could also face liability if they knowingly overlook false information or fail to carry out their responsibilities in a way that contributes to the violation.

Businesses have time to put their house in order

The law does not mean that penalties will begin overnight. According to the current guidance, enforcement will begin after the executive regulations are issued, with application expected after a six-month period.

That period is important. Rather than waiting until inspections begin, businesses and license holders should use the time to review their ownership structures, licenses, commercial activities, financial arrangements and the people actually running their businesses.

For businesses that have operated for years under informal arrangements, this may be the right time to regularize their position.

Settlement may be possible

The law provides for reconciliation in certain cases before criminal proceedings begin, during proceedings or before a final judgment. However, settlement comes with conditions.

The amount paid must be at least half of the maximum fine prescribed for the offence, and paying the settlement alone is not enough. The underlying violation must also be removed and the legal situation corrected.

Settlement is not available to repeat offenders. Even where reconciliation takes place, administrative deportation may still be possible if authorities consider it necessary in the national interest.

Those who expose violations may be rewarded

The legislation also introduces an incentive for people who help authorities uncover commercial concealment. Individuals who report violations and provide serious evidence that contributes to uncovering the offence and securing a final conviction may receive a financial reward.

The reward can reach 10 percent of the fines collected, with the amount shared among qualifying informants. The detailed criteria will be determined by the competent minister.

Inspectors will have wider powers

Officials authorized to enforce the law will have judicial enforcement powers and can request documents and information needed to investigate suspected violations.

Businesses and individuals cannot obstruct inspectors or refuse legitimate requests for information. Providing false or misleading information is also an offence.

Those who obstruct inspectors or deliberately provide misleading information can face up to six months in prison and a fine of up to KD10,000, or either penalty.

What should businesses do now?

For legitimate businesses, the message is relatively straightforward: make sure the reality of your business matches what is written on paper.

Business owners should review:

- Who legally owns the business.
- Who actually manages its day-to-day operations.
- Who receives and controls the profits.
- Whether all business activities are covered by the relevant licenses.
- Whether expatriate ownership complies with the permitted limits.
- Whether commercial records accurately reflect the real beneficiaries.
- Whether financial transactions are consistent with the registered ownership structure.
- Whether employees or managers are operating outside their legal authority.

The new law is ultimately about transparency. Kuwait is seeking to create a business environment in which companies compete on a more equal footing, economic activities are properly licensed and the identity of those who actually own and benefit from businesses is clear.

For businesses already operating within the law, the new legislation should provide greater clarity and protection. For those relying on informal or concealed arrangements, the six-month window before enforcement becomes fully applicable should be seen not as extra time to wait, but as an opportunity to put their businesses in order before the rules begin to bite.

Online scams surge in Kuwait as CITRA receives 156 fraud reports in July

Kuwait is seeing a sharp rise in reports of online fraud, with suspicious messages, phone calls and links increasingly being used to target individuals. The Communications and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) received 156 reports related to fraud and scams in July, more than double the 70 reports recorded in June - an increase of 122.8 percent.

The figures offer a clear warning that scammers are becoming more aggressive and are using multiple digital channels to reach potential victims. Websites accounted for the largest share of the reports, with 54 cases, up 38.4 percent from the previous month. Fraud involving phone calls saw an even more dramatic jump, reaching 52 cases, compared

with just four in June - a rise of 1,200 percent.

Social media platforms were linked to 24 reports, an increase of 20 percent, while cases involving WhatsApp rose sharply to 26, up 333 percent from June. For users, the message from CITRA is straightforward: do not trust an unexpected message or call simply because it appears to come from a bank, government authority, company or someone you know.

CITRA urged the public to report suspicious messages, links and calls and, most importantly, avoid sharing personal, banking or other sensitive information with unknown individuals. The authority also stressed the importance of checking who is actually behind a request for confidential information before responding.

Complaints remain high



The July figures come against a broader backdrop of heavy complaint volumes handled by CITRA. The authority received 1,149 complaints during the first quarter, covering

cases under processing, awaiting responses from service providers, review and investigation.

In the second quarter, the number rose significantly to 2,623 complaints, with most still being processed while others were referred for follow-up, investigation or cancellation in accordance with established procedures.

The latest figures underline a simple reality of increasingly digital lives: the easiest way to avoid becoming a victim is often to pause before responding. A message demanding urgent action, a caller asking for banking details, or a link requesting personal information should all be treated with caution. When in doubt, users should contact the relevant institution through its official channels rather than responding directly to the suspicious communication.

Summer brings the taste of Kuwait's timeless date tradition

As summer settles over Kuwait, a familiar sight returns to markets and homes across the country baskets and boxes filled with freshly harvested dates. For many families, the arrival of the first dates is more than a seasonal event. It is a reminder of a tradition deeply woven into Kuwait's history, cuisine and way of life.

Palm trees across the country are now carrying their summer harvest, with Barhi and Khalaas among the varieties eagerly sought by consumers. Barhi dates are known for their crisp texture and naturally sweet taste, while Khalaas remains a firm favorite, particularly when served to guests at homes, majlis and diwanis.

The harvest brings with it a sense of nostalgia. Long before modern markets and supermarkets, the date palm was central to life in Kuwait and across the Gulf, providing food, shade and other essential resources.

Today, that relationship continues in a different form, with fresh dates appearing in markets each summer and finding their way onto family tables. Dates are also valued for their nutritional qualities. Naturally rich in sugars, vitamins and minerals, they provide a convenient source of energy and remain a popular summer fruit.

The journey from fresh fruit to fully ripened

date is itself part of the traditional appreciation of the harvest. Khalaas dates gradually develop their deeper sweetness and texture as they mature, eventually reaching a stage locally known as 'Kanz', prized by date lovers.

Barhi dates, meanwhile, can also be preserved and prepared as 'Achar', keeping alive an old culinary practice that continues to have a place in Kuwaiti homes. But perhaps the greatest significance of the annual harvest lies beyond taste. Each season reconnects younger generations with traditions that have been passed down through families for generations.

In a country where modern life has



transformed almost every aspect of daily living, the humble date palm remains a powerful link to Kuwait's past. With the summer harvest now in full swing, the arrival of fresh dates offers both citizens and residents a chance to enjoy one of Kuwait's most treasured seasonal traditions a simple taste that carries with it a rich story of heritage, hospitality and home.



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Alrifai Mixed Nuts 300gm

900 fils

خيار محلي 1 كيلو

Cucumber Local 1 Kilo

900 fils

سديا دجاج 4x340جم

Sadia Chicken Franks 4x340gm

900 fils

شورق زيت عباد الشمس 1.5 لتر

Shurooq Pure Sunflower Oil 1.5Ltr

900 fils

سنيكرز شوكولاته 5x40جم

Snickers Chocolate Bar 5x40gm

900 fils

الرفاعي فول سوداني مملح 24x13جم

Al-Rifai Salted Peanuts 24x13gm

900 fils

نستله ميهي موهو 400جم

Nestle Coffee Mate 400gm

900 fils

أكواфина مياه شرب معدنية 20x200مل

Aquafina Mineral Water 20x200ml

900 fils

كابري صن عصير برتقال 10x200مل

Capri-Sun 100% Orange Crush Drink 10x200ml

900 fils

أميريكانا ناچس الدجاج 2x400جم

Americana Chicken Nuggets Twin Pack 2x400gm

900 fils

دوف كريم ترطيب عميق 250مل

Dove Beauty Cream Deep Moisture 250ml

900 fils

سوبر ماكس مدموعة المانيكير 5pcs x 2 Packs

Supermax Manicure Kit 5pcs x 2 Packs

900 fils

ديتل صابون 4x120جم

Dettol Soap Asstd 4x120gm

900 fils

فيري ممتنع 2x600مل

Fairy Liquid Asstd 2x600ml

900 fils

أريال مسحوق غسيل 1كجم

Ariel Asstd Detergent 1Kg

900 fils

أريال مسحوق غسيل 1كجم

Ariel Asstd Detergent 1Kg

900 fils

روبال ساتن منشفة 180 x 70cm

Royal Satin Dark Beauty Bath Towel 70x145cm

900 fils

جبنه فيتا دانماركي 1 كيلو

Feta Cheese Denmark 1 Kilo

900 fils

حبات كالموريا تونة 3x170جم

California Garden White Solid Tuna In Water 3x170gm

900 fils

فريتا دجاج 4x340جم

Sadia Chicken Franks 4x340gm

900 fils

سنيكرز شوكولاته 5x40جم

Snickers Chocolate Bar 5x40gm

900 fils

الرفاعي مخلوط 300جم

Alrifai Mixed Nuts 300gm

900 fils

خيار محلي 1 كيلو

Cucumber Local 1 Kilo

900 fils

سديا دجاج 4x340جم

Sadia Chicken Franks 4x340gm

900 fils

شورق زيت عباد الشمس 1.5 لتر

Shurooq Pure Sunflower Oil 1.5Ltr

900 fils

سنيكرز شوكولاته 5x40جم

Snickers Chocolate Bar 5x40gm

900 fils

الرفاعي فول سوداني مملح 24x13جم

Al-Rifai Salted Peanuts 24x13gm

900 fils

نستله ميهي موهو 400جم

Nestle Coffee Mate 400gm

900 fils

أكواфина مياه شرب معدنية 20x200مل

Aquafina Mineral Water 20x200ml

900 fils

كابري صن عصير برتقال 10x200مل

Capri-Sun 100% Orange Crush Drink 10x200ml

900 fils

أميريكانا ناچس الدجاج 2x400جم

Americana Chicken Nuggets Twin Pack 2x400gm

900 fils

دوف كريم ترطيب عميق 250مل

Dove Beauty Cream Deep Moisture 250ml

900 fils

سوبر ماكس مدموعة المانيكير 5pcs x 2 Packs

Supermax Manicure Kit 5pcs x 2 Packs

900 fils

ديتل صابون 4x120جم

Dettol Soap Asstd 4x120gm

900 fils

فيري ممتنع 2x600مل

Fairy Liquid Asstd 2x600ml

900 fils

أريال مسحوق غسيل 1كجم

Ariel Asstd Detergent 1Kg

900 fils

أريال مسحوق غسيل 1كجم

Ariel Asstd Detergent 1Kg

900 fils

روبال ساتن منشفة 180 x 70cm

Royal Satin Dark Beauty Bath Towel 70x145cm

900 fils

جبنه فيتا دانماركي 1 كيلو

Feta Cheese Denmark 1 Kilo

900 fils

حبات كالموريا تونة 3x170جم

California Garden White Solid Tuna In Water 3x170gm

900 fils

فريتا دجاج 4x340جم

Sadia Chicken Franks 4x340gm

900 fils

سنيكرز شوكولاته 5x40جم

Snickers Chocolate Bar 5x40gm

900 fils

الرفاعي مخلوط 300جم

Alrifai Mixed Nuts 300gm

900 fils

خيار محلي 1 كيلو

Cucumber Local 1 Kilo

900 fils

سديا دجاج 4x340جم

Sadia Chicken Franks 4x340gm

900 fils

شورق زيت عباد الشمس 1.5 لتر

Shurooq Pure Sunflower Oil 1.5Ltr

900 fils

سنيكرز شوكولاته 5x40جم

Snickers Chocolate Bar 5x40gm

900 fils

الرفاعي فول سوداني مملح 24x13جم

Al-Rifai Salted Peanuts 24x13gm

900 fils

نستله ميهي موهو 400جم

Nestle Coffee Mate 400gm

900 fils

أكواфина مياه شرب معدنية 20x200مل

Aquafina Mineral Water 20x200ml

900 fils

كابري صن عصير برتقال 10x200مل

Capri-Sun 100% Orange Crush Drink 10x200ml

900 fils

أميريكانا ناچس الدجاج 2x400جم

Americana Chicken Nuggets Twin Pack 2x400gm

900 fils

دوف كريم ترطيب عميق 250مل

Dove Beauty Cream Deep Moisture 250ml

900 fils

سوبر ماكس مدموعة المانيكير 5pcs x 2 Packs

Supermax Manicure Kit 5pcs x 2 Packs

900 fils

ديتل صابون 4x120جم

Dettol Soap Asstd 4x120gm

900 fils

فيري ممتنع 2x600مل

Fairy Liquid Asstd 2x600ml

900 fils

أريال مسحوق غسيل 1كجم

Ariel Asstd Detergent 1Kg

900 fils

أريال مسحوق غسيل 1كجم

Ariel Asstd Detergent 1Kg

900 fils

روبال ساتن منشفة 180 x 70cm

Royal Satin Dark Beauty Bath Towel 70x145cm

900 fils

جبنه فيتا دانماركي 1 كيلو

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Sadia

Kuwait begins work on 2027–2028 development plan with six key priorities

Focus shifts to economic diversification, financial sustainability and stronger private sector participation

Kuwait has begun preparations for its 2027–2028 annual development plan, with the government placing economic diversification, financial sustainability and greater private sector participation at the centre of its next phase of development.

The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development has asked ministries and government agencies to submit proposals for projects to be included in the plan by August 23.

The Secretariat stressed that proposed projects should go beyond the routine operational requirements of government entities. Instead, they must have a clear development impact and contribute to Kuwait's wider economic and national priorities.

Six priorities at the heart of the plan

- The guidelines identify six broad priorities that government projects are expected to address:
- Diversifying sources of national income
- Strengthening financial sustainability
- Improving the efficiency of public spending
- Enhancing the business and investment environment
- Increasing the private sector's contribution to economic activity
- Supporting development and sustainable economic growth
- Projects are also expected to help Kuwait move towards a more sustainable economy, including through wider adoption of renewable energy.

The new approach places greater emphasis on projects that can deliver measurable economic and developmental benefits rather than simply expanding government operations.

Authorities have asked ministries to ensure that their proposals are aligned with national priorities, economic and financial reform programmes and the state's broader development objectives.

The Planning and Development Secretariat is also holding an introductory workshop to explain the methodology for preparing the plan, the criteria for including projects and the required format for presenting proposals. Two representatives from each government entity are expected to participate.

Linking spending to national priorities

The development planning process comes as the Ministry of Finance works to improve the way government budgets are prepared for the 2027–2028 fiscal year.

Government agencies have been instructed to base their budget requests on actual requirements, improve the allocation and use of state resources, strengthen government revenues and ensure that financial allocations are linked to national priorities and development plans.

The emphasis reflects a broader effort by Kuwait to make public spending more efficient while creating greater space for private-sector investment and economic activity. For Kuwait, the 2027–2028 development plan is therefore not simply another list of government projects. It is intended to help shape a more diversified and financially sustainable economy, with the private sector playing a larger role in driving growth.



Uzbekistan Ambassador visits The Times Kuwait, discusses bilateral ties and regional developments

Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Kuwait, H.E. Ayub Khan Yunusov, visited the offices of The Times Kuwait, where he met with Editor-in-Chief Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry and Marketing Director Wilson D'cunha.

The meeting provided an opportunity for an open and constructive exchange of views on issues of mutual interest, including the growing relations between Kuwait and Uzbekistan, tourism and travel opportunities, and developments in the region.

Ambassador Yunusov has been actively promoting stronger Kuwait–Uzbekistan relations since taking up his post. Bilateral cooperation has expanded in recent years across areas including trade, investment, tourism, food security, education and cultural exchange. Uzbekistan's embassy has also highlighted the country's potential as a destination for Gulf travelers and investors.

The ambassador and the Times Kuwait team also exchanged views on regional developments and the rapidly changing geopolitical and economic environment. The discussion underlined the importance of dialogue, cooperation and stronger connections among countries at a time when developments in the region continue to have wider implications. The meeting also explored the potential for future cooperation between the Embassy of Uzbekistan and The Times Kuwait, particularly in highlighting Uzbekistan's tourism, culture, investment opportunities and bilateral ties with Kuwait.

Ambassador Yunusov expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to visit the newspaper and exchange views on matters of common interest.

The visit comes at a time of growing momentum in Kuwait–Uzbekistan relations. Recent discussions between officials from the two countries have focused on expanding commercial and economic cooperation, while food security, agricultural products and diversification of import sources have emerged as areas with considerable potential.



During the meeting, the ambassador spoke about Uzbekistan's growing engagement with Kuwait and the wider Gulf region, highlighting the opportunities for stronger people-to-people, economic and cultural connections. He also discussed the country's increasing appeal as a destination for Kuwaiti and Gulf visitors, with its historic cities, cultural heritage, natural landscapes and growing tourism infrastructure.

The discussion also touched on opportunities for greater awareness of Uzbekistan among Kuwait's diverse expatriate and local communities, particularly through media engagement and coverage of developments in the country.

Kuwait activates new traffic signal warning system

New feature gives drivers and pedestrians advance notice before signals change

Kuwait has introduced a new traffic signal warning system designed to give drivers and pedestrians a little more time to react before traffic lights change.

The General Traffic Department (GTD) has activated a new pre-signal warning light feature across Kuwait as part of ongoing efforts to improve road safety, increase awareness among road users and ensure smoother traffic movement.

The new system provides an advance visual warning shortly before a traffic signal changes. For drivers, this means additional time to prepare to stop or proceed safely, while pedestrians can also better anticipate when it is safe to cross.

Traffic signals can change within seconds, leaving drivers and pedestrians with limited

time to respond. The new warning feature is intended to make that transition more predictable and reduce sudden movements at intersections.

According to the Ministry of Interior, the

system is part of wider efforts to create safer and more orderly road conditions across Kuwait. By giving road users an early indication of an approaching signal change, authorities hope to encourage more cautious driving and

improve coordination between vehicles and pedestrians.

Focus on safer roads

The introduction of the warning system reflects Kuwait's continued focus on using practical measures and technology to improve traffic safety. For motorists, the message is straightforward: the additional warning is there to help them make safer decisions, not to encourage speeding through an intersection.

Authorities are encouraging drivers and pedestrians to remain attentive to the new signals and follow traffic rules at all times. The initiative is expected to contribute to safer intersections and smoother traffic flow, particularly by giving road users a clearer indication of what is about to happen.



Friendship, Trust and a Partnership Growing Stronger with Kuwait

The Times Kuwait Report

For 59 years, ASEAN has shown that countries with different histories, cultures and traditions can find common ground when they choose dialogue, trust and cooperation.

That spirit was celebrated in Kuwait as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations marked its 59th anniversary, with the occasion also highlighting the growing relationship between ASEAN, Kuwait and the wider Gulf region.

Established in 1967, ASEAN has grown from five founding members into a regional community of 11 countries representing more than 680 million people. Its journey has been shaped not only by economic and political cooperation, but also by the belief that stronger relationships between countries ultimately create better opportunities for their people.

Speaking at the ASEAN Day celebration in Kuwait, the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Kuwait said the organisation should be viewed as more than a regional grouping.

"ASEAN is not simply an organization it is a community built on friendship, trust and cooperation," he said. That sense of community has helped ASEAN build relationships well beyond Southeast Asia, including with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

A major step in that relationship came in 2023, when ASEAN and the GCC held their first summit in Riyadh. The meeting opened a new chapter in relations between the two regions and created greater momentum for cooperation in areas of shared interest.

The partnership moved forward again at the Second ASEAN-GCC Summit in Kuala Lumpur in 2025, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation in trade and investment, energy and food security, digital transformation, tourism, education and climate action.

Kuwait has been an active part of this growing engagement. ASEAN has expressed appreciation for Kuwait's support and coordination during preparations for the second summit, while attention is now turning towards the Third ASEAN-GCC Summit scheduled for next year.

Kuwait also deepened its relationship with Southeast Asia by joining the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia in September 2023. The move reflected Kuwait's commitment to peaceful cooperation, respect for international law and stronger engagement with ASEAN countries.

Beyond diplomacy

But the ASEAN-Kuwait relationship is not built only around summits, agreements and diplomatic meetings. Some of its strongest foundations are found in the everyday connections between people.

The ASEAN Committee in Kuwait brings together the ASEAN diplomatic missions to promote the cultures and traditions of Southeast Asia while creating opportunities for communities to interact and build greater understanding.

Over the past year, these efforts have included the ASEAN Night Reception organised with the International Women's Group, the ACK-UN-Habitat initiative at Khaitan Public Park, the Shuwaikh Beach Cleanup campaign and the ASEAN Winter Market.

Such initiatives may appear small when compared with major international summits, but they are



often where friendships between communities are built.

The ASEAN missions have also demonstrated their solidarity with Kuwait during difficult times. In early June 2026, following the attacks on Kuwait International Airport and an appeal from the Ministry of Health, the ASEAN Committee in Kuwait organised a blood donation drive.

It was a simple but meaningful gesture one that demonstrated that the relationship between Kuwait and ASEAN is not limited to official diplomacy, but also extends to standing together when support is needed.

The Ambassador also expressed appreciation for Kuwait's hospitality and for the welcoming environment provided to ASEAN diplomats, their families and residents.

He highlighted Kuwait's openness and culture of coexistence as important reasons why ASEAN communities have been able to feel at home in the country.

A partnership with room to grow

As ASEAN approaches six decades of existence, its relationship with Kuwait and the GCC is entering an increasingly important phase.

There is significant potential for deeper cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, education, technology, energy, food security

through everyday friendships, workplaces and communities.

The 59th anniversary of ASEAN therefore offered an opportunity not only to celebrate how far the organisation has come, but also to reflect on where its partnerships can go next.

The Brunei ambassador's message captured that spirit clearly: ASEAN's strength comes from bringing countries and people together despite their differences. After 59 years, that remains one of ASEAN's greatest achievements and perhaps its most important lesson for the future. For Kuwait and ASEAN, the journey ahead is one of turning long-standing friendship into deeper partnership, greater understanding and more opportunities for both regions.

This version gives the Brunei Ambassador a genuine voice at the beginning and reinforces his message later, while keeping the article in a Times Kuwait news-feature style rather than making it read like a diplomatic press release.

ASEAN at 59

and cultural exchange. But beyond the economic opportunities, the relationship is also about people.

Thousands of ASEAN nationals live and work in Kuwait, contributing to the country in many different fields while becoming part of its multicultural social fabric. Their presence has created another bridge between Southeast Asia and Kuwait one built not through treaties, but

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Ethiopian Ambassador Visits The Times Kuwait

H.E. Dr. Sied Muhumed Jibril, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the State of Kuwait, visited the offices of The Times Kuwait, where he met with Editor-in-Chief Tareq Yousef Al-Shumaimry and Marketing Director Wilson D'Cunha.

“The meeting provided an opportunity for a cordial and wide-ranging exchange of views on Kuwait-Ethiopia relations, areas of mutual interest and developments of regional importance.



Discussions focused on the growing engagement between Kuwait and Ethiopia and the potential to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across different sectors. Both sides noted the importance of closer interaction between the two countries and greater awareness of the opportunities that exist for cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, aviation, culture and people-to-people relations.

The ambassador also shared perspectives on Ethiopia's economic and development priorities

and the opportunities the country offers to Kuwaiti investors and businesses. Ethiopia has increasingly sought to position itself as an attractive partner for Gulf countries, particularly in areas such as investment, agriculture and food security.

The discussion also touched on the importance of connectivity between the two countries. Ethiopia and Kuwait have been exploring ways to deepen cooperation in civil aviation and air transport, including technical and operational cooperation.

Regional developments and issues of common concern were also discussed, with the ambassador and the Times Kuwait representatives exchanging views on the evolving situation in the region and the importance of dialogue, cooperation and stability.

Al-Shumaimry welcomed Ambassador Jibril to The Times Kuwait and stressed the importance of continued engagement with the diplomatic community in Kuwait. He noted that such interactions help promote greater understanding of the bilateral relationships that connect Kuwait with countries across Africa and the wider international community.

The meeting concluded with both sides expressing their appreciation for the exchange and their interest in maintaining communication and exploring opportunities for greater cooperation in the future.

Ambassador Jibril has previously engaged with The Times Kuwait on Ethiopia's role in Africa, its economic potential and opportunities for Kuwaiti investors, underscoring the growing scope of interest between the two countries.

RECIPE

Pina Colada Paneer Delight



A tropical fusion dessert that brings together the richness of fresh paneer, the creaminess of coconut milk and the fruity sweetness of pineapple. Inspired by the classic Piña Colada, this chilled kheer is a refreshing twist on the traditional Indian dessert, making it perfect for festive occasions and elegant dinner parties.

Preparation Time: 10 minutes

Cooking Time: 15 minutes

Chilling Time: 3-4 hours

Total Time: 25 minutes + chilling

Serves: 6

Ingredients

- 500 g fresh homemade paneer (crumbled)
- 400 ml coconut milk
- 1 cup full-fat milk
- ½ cup pineapple crush (adjust to taste)
- ¼ cup sugar or as required
- ½ tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- 1 tbsp chopped pistachios
- 1 tbsp coconut flakes,
- Little saffron strands



Chef Chhaya Thakker

- Few dry rose petals

Method:

- Heat the milk in a heavy-bottomed pan and bring it to a gentle simmer.
- Add the crumbled paneer and cook on low heat for 5-7 minutes, stirring gently.

- Pour in the coconut milk and continue cooking for another 3-4 minutes.

- Do not boil vigorously.
- Add sugar and stir until dissolved.

- Turn off the heat and let the mixture cool slightly.

- Mix in the pineapple crush only after the milk has cooled a little to prevent curdling.

- Add vanilla extract
- Chill for 3-4 hours before serving.

- Garnish with coconut flakes, pistachios, rose petals and saffron strands

Tips:

For the best flavour, use chilled coconut milk and fold in the pineapple crush only after cooking. Garnish with coconut flakes and fresh Piñaapple cubes for a beautiful tropical presentation.

Indian Chef Chhaya Thakker, who has a huge following online on WhatsApp and YouTube will be sharing her favorite recipes and cooking tips with readers of The Times Kuwait. For feedback, you can write to editortimeskuwait@gmail.com



By Salwa Shakeel
11 years, 7th standard

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Study Partner or Shortcut?

How to Master AI (Artificial Intelligence) as a Student

study partner? Well, that depends on how you use it. AI can make you feel like you understand something instantly, but real understanding takes time. Sometimes, you need to make mistakes a few times before you truly understand a difficult topic.

The biggest pitfall is treating AI like an answer vending machine. Type in, “Write my essay,” or “Solve this math problem,” and boom instant results. But guess what? When the test comes around and you haven't practiced on your own, AI won't be there. You may realize, too late, that you never really understood that tricky topic.

So, here's a better approach: use AI to actually learn. Instead of asking for quick answers, ask it to explain things in simple language and give you relatable examples. Need practice questions? Want feedback on your writing? AI can help you dig deeper, so



you're not just copying answers you're actually understanding them.

It's important to remember that AI can get things wrong. Sometimes it may mix up facts or provide outdated information. That's why double checking with your textbook, class notes, or a trusted source is important.

Asking thoughtful questions and not taking everything at face value can make you a better learner.

AI is useful for more than just explanations. It can create flashcards, help organize your study schedule, or spark new ideas for projects. Handy, right? Just don't let it do all the thinking for you.

In the end, AI is just a tool. It doesn't know what it's like to stay up late worrying about tomorrow's exam, and it certainly doesn't have your unique ideas. Real learning happens when you're curious, willing to struggle a little, make mistakes, and keep practicing.

So, whether AI is a shortcut or a trusty sidekick that part is up to you. Use it wisely, and you'll walk away with more than just good grades you'll actually learn something real. If you simply let AI do the work for you, you miss out on the most important part: learning.

Interior Minister: Law applies to everyone, without exception

Kuwait has added 486 new investigators to its law-enforcement system, with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Fahd Yousef Saud Al-Sabah calling on them to uphold one fundamental principle: the law must apply equally to everyone.

Addressing the graduates at the ceremony for the eighth batch of investigators at the General Department of Investigations, Sheikh Fahd stressed that investigative work is not simply a profession, but a national responsibility built on integrity, fairness and impartiality.

He urged the new investigators to approach their duties with objectivity, protect people's rights and focus on establishing the truth, regardless of a person's age, social standing or position.

"The law applies to everyone without exception," he said, underlining the importance of treating every case fairly and without discrimination.

A milestone for women in Kuwait's police force

The latest graduating class also marks an important step for women in Kuwait's law-enforcement sector. Of the 486 graduates, 307 are men and 179 are women. The group includes



35 male police officers and, for the first time, four female police officers graduating to serve in investigative roles.

Their entry into investigative work expands the role of women in a critical area of policing and represents a significant development for Kuwait's police force. Following the graduation

ceremony, the new investigators took the legal oath before Sheikh Fahd Al-Yousef. The oath was administered by Public Prosecutor Dr Ibrahim Al-Sharqawi.

Justice built on trust

Director General of Investigations Major General Dr Faisal Al-Makrad said investigators carry a particularly important responsibility within Kuwait's justice and law-enforcement system.

He stressed that their work must be guided by honesty, integrity and a firm commitment to the law. For the new investigators, the graduation therefore marks more than the completion of their training. It is the beginning of a role that places them at the heart of Kuwait's efforts to protect rights, establish facts and ensure that justice is applied fairly.

The ceremony was attended by senior Ministry of Interior officials, including Undersecretary Major General Abdul Wahab Al-Wahib, Deputy Director General for Investigation Departments Affairs Reem Al-Mousa, and Deputy Director General for Technical Office and Disciplinary Council Affairs Bassam Al-Mashouh.

Celebrating Heritage, Enterprise and the Enduring India-Kuwait Connection

As India celebrates its 80th Independence Day on August 15, it is a time to look back with pride at how far the country has come and to look ahead with confidence at what lies ahead.

India's journey since 1947 has been extraordinary. From the challenges of building a young nation to becoming one of the world's leading economies, India has transformed itself through resilience, determination, innovation and an unwavering belief in its potential.

But India's story is not only about economic growth, technology or global influence. It is also about people—the millions of Indians who have carried their skills, traditions, values and entrepreneurial spirit across the world, creating new lives while contributing to the communities they call home.

Few places demonstrate this connection more clearly than Kuwait

For generations, Indians have been part of Kuwait's social and economic fabric. They have worked in hospitals and schools, on construction sites and in offices, in banks, shops, hotels and businesses. Many arrived with little more than a dream and the determination to build a better future for themselves and their families.

Over the decades, that relationship has grown into something much deeper than employment or trade. It is a relationship built on trust, friendship, mutual respect and shared prosperity.

The India-Kuwait connection has also evolved alongside the two countries themselves. Today, it extends across business, investment, education, healthcare, culture and entrepreneurship. The Indian community has become an important bridge between the two nations, connecting people, ideas and opportunities.

At the heart of India's progress has always been a remarkable ability to embrace change without losing sight of its roots. India is modern, ambitious and increasingly global, yet its heritage remains deeply woven into everyday life. Its textiles, crafts, food, art, music and traditions continue to find new audiences around the world. This ability to preserve what is timeless while adapting to changing times is one of India's greatest strengths. The same spirit can be seen in Indian businesses across the Gulf. Many began as small family ventures, built slowly through hard work, personal relationships and the trust of their customers.



Over time, they evolved into established businesses and brands, combining traditional values with contemporary ideas.

Retail is a particularly good example of this transformation

Today's customers are looking for more than simply a product. They want quality, authenticity, craftsmanship and an experience that connects with them. Businesses that understand this changing mindset are finding new ways to bring cultural identity and modern design together.

From the beginning, our vision has been to celebrate the richness of India's textile traditions and craftsmanship while presenting them in a way that speaks to the modern woman in Kuwait and across the Gulf.

Our collections draw inspiration from India's artistic and cultural legacy, but they are designed for contemporary lifestyles. For us, heritage is not about looking backwards. It is about taking something beautiful from the past and giving it a place in the present.

Our next chapter is equally exciting

Indian Heritage is preparing to launch its e-commerce platform, opening the door for customers across the GCC including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE to discover and shop our collections online.

The move into digital commerce is a natural step in our growth. Shopping habits are changing, and customers increasingly want the freedom to discover brands and products wherever they are. Our online platform will complement our growing physical presence while allowing Indian Heritage to reach a much wider regional audience.

In many ways, this journey reflects the larger Indian story

India has never stood still. It has continuously adapted, reinvented itself and found new ways to turn challenges into opportunities.

The Indian community in Kuwait has done much the same building lives, businesses and relationships while remaining connected to the country they call home. That is the beauty of heritage. It is not something that belongs only in museums or history books.

Heritage lives when it is shared, adapted and passed on to the next generation. As India celebrates 80 years of independence, we celebrate not only the remarkable journey of a nation, but also the millions of Indians around the world who continue to contribute to its story in their own way.

We celebrate the entrepreneurs who took risks, the families who built new lives, the professionals who served with dedication and the generations that continue to carry Indian values wherever they go.

And we celebrate the enduring friendship between India and Kuwait a relationship that has grown stronger through generations and continues to create opportunities for both nations.

May India's 80th Independence Day be a celebration of its past, a reflection of its present and, above all, a confident step towards an even brighter future.

The Indian Heritage family wishes everyone a proud, joyful and memorable 80th Independence Day.



Abu Dhabi tourism bounces back as confidence returns

Strong hotel recovery, growing connectivity and major cultural and entertainment projects reinforce Abu Dhabi's tourism ambitions

The Times Kuwait Report

For Abu Dhabi, the recent months have been less about waiting for uncertainty to pass and more about showing the world that the emirate remains open, connected and ready to welcome visitors.

That message appears to be gaining traction. Abu Dhabi's tourism sector has staged a strong recovery following a period of regional uncertainty, with visitor confidence returning, hotel occupancy improving and international connectivity continuing to expand.

Hotels, airports, museums and attractions continued to operate, while major concerts, sporting events and business gatherings went ahead. At the same time, Abu Dhabi continued its international tourism campaigns rather than stepping back from global markets.

The strategy, according to the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), has been built around transparency, preparedness and confidence.

Speaking during a media briefing at the Saadiyat Cultural District, Abdulla Yousuf Mohammad, Director of International Operations at DCT Abu Dhabi, said the most effective way to reassure travellers was to allow them to see the situation for themselves. "We believe transparency is essential during times of uncertainty," Abdulla said. "The confidence we have today comes from what visitors experience on the ground – our museums, attractions, airports and hotels have continued to operate normally."

For Abdulla, who oversees international tourism operations and partnerships with travel companies, airlines, cruise operators and destination-management firms, maintaining that confidence is an important part of Abu Dhabi's wider Tourism Strategy 2030, which aims to bring nearly 40 million visitors annually by 2030.

Bringing the world to Abu Dhabi

One of the most practical steps taken by DCT Abu Dhabi was to invite international travel professionals to experience the emirate firsthand. Beginning in May, familiarisation visits brought tourism representatives from important source markets to Abu Dhabi. The first delegation came from India, followed by another from China.

Some participants arrived with concerns about the regional situation. But once in Abu Dhabi, they were able to see for themselves that hotels, attractions, restaurants, museums and transport services were operating normally.

That experience helped change perceptions. For Abu Dhabi, the lesson was clear: when uncertainty creates doubts about a destination, confidence is often rebuilt not through advertising alone, but through personal experience.

The familiarisation visits are also part of a much broader international engagement programme that includes roadshows, training sessions, e-learning programmes and continued interaction with travel trade professionals.

"We wanted to remain visible and continue communicating with our global markets," Abdulla said. "Recovery comes from staying engaged." Rather than simply promoting hotels or individual attractions, the focus is on presenting Abu Dhabi as a destination where visitors can combine culture, family entertainment, heritage, business events, hospitality and leisure.

GCC visitors provide a strong foundation

The GCC remains one of Abu Dhabi's most dependable tourism markets. Visitors from the region account for around 20 percent of Abu Dhabi's visitor arrivals and hotel guests, while more than 200

weekly flights connect the emirate with destinations across the GCC. That connectivity gives Abu Dhabi an important advantage, particularly when long-haul travel is affected by regional or international uncertainty. For Gulf residents, Abu Dhabi is close enough for short breaks and weekend visits, while its expanding calendar of concerts, sporting events, cultural exhibitions and family attractions gives visitors new reasons to return.

Hotels show the speed of the recovery

Perhaps the clearest indication that confidence is returning can be seen in Abu Dhabi's hotels. Occupancy temporarily fell to around 45 percent following the emergence of regional tensions. But the decline was short-lived.

By July, hotel occupancy had climbed back to approximately 73 percent. The speed of the rebound is significant. It suggests that travellers who had postponed or reconsidered their plans were prepared to return once they felt confident about the situation.

It also highlights the resilience of the wider tourism ecosystem, where hotels, airlines, attractions, event organisers, travel companies and government authorities all play a role in keeping the destination functioning and attractive.

Keeping Abu Dhabi on the international events map

Another important part of the recovery has been Abu Dhabi's ability to keep its events calendar moving. Concerts, sporting competitions, business conferences and entertainment programmes continued despite the regional uncertainty.

Some events were rescheduled, but officials said none were cancelled. That continuity matters because major international events do more than fill hotels. They bring visitors, media, businesses and international attention to the emirate, reinforcing Abu Dhabi's reputation as a destination capable of hosting large-scale events. The upcoming calendar includes Shakira's concert, UFC 321 in October and the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, alongside international conferences, cultural festivals and entertainment programmes.

Formula One remains particularly important, attracting fans, teams, media and corporate guests from around the world and providing a major boost to tourism activity.

Culture moves to the centre of the tourism story

Perhaps nowhere is Abu Dhabi's long-term ambition more visible than on Saadiyat Island. The Saadiyat Cultural District is emerging as one of the most important elements of the emirate's tourism vision, bringing together museums, exhibitions, creative industries and public spaces.

The idea is to give visitors more reasons to come and more reasons to stay. Culture is increasingly being viewed not simply as something tourists visit, but as part of the infrastructure of a modern, diversified economy.

Abdulla described cultural investment as having an impact that extends well beyond the buildings themselves, creating opportunities for artists, curators, technicians, event specialists, marketers and other creative professionals. This broader cultural vision is also intended to diversify Abu Dhabi's tourism offering beyond traditional luxury and leisure travel.

Guggenheim and Disney expand the appeal

The planned opening of Guggenheim Abu Dhabi on December 11, 2026, is expected to become another major milestone for the Saadiyat Cultural District.

The museum will add to the growing concentration of international cultural institutions



Executive Managing Editor Reaven D'Souza
with Abdulla Mohammed

on the island and further strengthen Abu Dhabi's appeal to art and culture enthusiasts from around the world.

At the other end of the tourism spectrum, Disney Abu Dhabi is also progressing according to schedule. The project is expected to add another powerful dimension to Abu Dhabi's family entertainment offering.

Together, the cultural and entertainment developments illustrate the breadth of the emirate's strategy – from museums and heritage to theme-park experiences and major international events. The aim is to create a destination that can appeal to different generations and visitor groups rather than relying on a single tourism segment.

Building for the next phase

For Abu Dhabi, the recent recovery is not being viewed as the end of a difficult period. It is being treated as another stage in a much bigger transformation. The emirate is continuing to invest in aviation, culture, entertainment, events and international partnerships while strengthening its presence in key tourism markets.

Abdulla's role is central to that effort. His work involves developing relationships with travel trade companies, airlines, cruise operators and destination-management firms, while overseeing international promotional campaigns and industry engagement. His previous experience in Dubai's tourism and business-events sectors has also given him more than a decade of exposure to the region's rapidly evolving tourism industry. The immediate figures tell a story of recovery: hotel occupancy has rebounded, regional connectivity remains strong and major events continue.

But the larger story is about confidence

Abu Dhabi wants travellers to see the emirate not simply as a safe place to visit, but as a destination that continues to evolve – one where a visitor can spend a weekend at a major sporting event, explore world-class museums, enjoy family entertainment, attend a concert and return again for an entirely different experience.

That is ultimately what lies behind the emirate's long-term tourism push.



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Ethiopian Airlines opens the door to Ethiopia, the Land of Origins



From Addis Ababa's vibrant streets to ancient churches, mountains and coffee traditions, Ethiopia offers Kuwait travellers a journey far beyond the airport

For many travellers, Ethiopia may begin with a flight to Addis Ababa. But the journey truly begins when they step outside the airport. There is a different rhythm to Ethiopia one shaped by ancient history, dramatic landscapes, warm hospitality and traditions that remain part of everyday life.

That is the experience Ethiopian Airlines is inviting travellers from Kuwait to discover as the airline celebrates 80 years of aviation and promotes special fares from Kuwait to Addis Ababa starting at KD 48.

Founded in 1945 and beginning scheduled operations in April 1946, Ethiopian Airlines has grown from a relatively small national carrier into one of Africa's leading airlines. Today, it operates a fleet of 174 aircraft, including Airbus A350s, Boeing 787 Dreamliners, Boeing 777s, Boeing 737 MAXs and Dash 8-400s, with a further 109 aircraft on order.

The airline also operates Africa's largest fleet of Boeing 787 Dreamliners and has built a network connecting Addis Ababa with more than 145 international destinations. For travellers from Kuwait, that makes Addis Ababa more than a destination. It is a gateway to discovering Ethiopia itself and to connecting with a much wider African network.

Addis Ababa: where the journey begins

Addis Ababa is a city where the old and the new sit comfortably alongside each other. The Ethiopian capital has been undergoing a tourism transformation, combining modern infrastructure with historic landmarks, green spaces and a rich cultural identity.

One of the city's most striking attractions is Entoto Park, high in the Entoto Mountains overlooking the capital. Known as the "Lung of Addis Ababa," the area offers cooler mountain air, walking trails and sweeping views across the city.

Closer to the heart of Addis Ababa, Unity Park, located within the historic National Palace grounds, brings together gardens, cultural exhibitions, historic buildings and indigenous wildlife.

Sheger Park adds another green space to the capital's growing collection of parks and recreational areas, offering families and visitors a chance to slow down and enjoy the city away from its busy streets.

A city that takes visitors back through time

For travellers interested in human history, Ethiopia offers something few destinations can match. The National Museum of Ethiopia is home to some of the country's most important archaeological treasures, including the famous fossilised remains of Lucy, estimated to be around 3.2 million years old.

Standing before Lucy is more than a museum experience. It offers visitors a direct connection to one of the most remarkable chapters in the story of human evolution. Then there is Merkato, one of Africa's largest open-air markets.

Here, the experience becomes much more immediate and colourful spices, textiles, handicrafts and the everyday movement of Addis Ababa come together in a marketplace that offers a glimpse into the rhythm of local life.

And then there is coffee

No journey through Ethiopia would be complete without experiencing its coffee culture. Ethiopia is widely recognised as the birthplace of coffee, but the Ethiopian coffee experience is about much more than the drink itself.

The traditional coffee ceremony is a social ritual centred on hospitality, conversation and community. For visitors, sitting down for a coffee ceremony offers an opportunity to experience a part of Ethiopian culture that cannot be captured simply by visiting a tourist attraction.

It is slow, personal and welcoming a reminder that travel is often as much about meeting people as seeing places.

Beyond Addis: an Ethiopia of mountains, lakes and ancient wonders

The capital is only the beginning. Beyond Addis Ababa, Ethiopia opens into a landscape of volcanic lakes, mountains, national parks, ancient religious sites and quiet retreats.

Wonchi Lake Resort, built around a spectacular volcanic crater lake, offers an escape into nature, while Chebera Churchura National Park is home to Ethiopia's largest elephant population.

For history and architecture, few places are as remarkable as Lalibela, famous for its extraordinary rock-hewn churches. The



monasteries scattered across Lake Tana offer another glimpse into Ethiopia's deep religious and cultural history, while the dramatic landscapes of the Simien Mountains and Bale Mountains provide opportunities for hiking, nature and adventure.

Further south, Hawassa offers a more relaxed lakeside experience. Together, these destinations reveal an Ethiopia that is far more diverse than the image of a capital city or an airport stopover.

Comfort is part of the journey

The growth of Ethiopia's tourism sector is also being supported by an expanding hospitality offering. Travellers can choose from properties including Kuriftu Resorts, Haile Resorts and the Sheraton Addis, giving visitors options ranging from resort-style stays to premium city accommodation.

In Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, located close to Bole International Airport, adds another dimension to the city's role as an international travel hub. For passengers with longer connections, the hotel provides an opportunity to turn a transit stop into a short stay rather than simply waiting for the next flight.



Addis can be more than a stopover

This is perhaps one of the biggest opportunities for travellers from Kuwait. With Ethiopian Airlines connecting Addis Ababa to more than 145 international destinations, passengers can use the capital not simply as a transit point but as the starting point of a genuine Ethiopian experience.

A short stopover can become a city break. A longer stay can open the door to the country's historic sites, mountains, lakes and cultural experiences. The airline has also invested in making the journey easier through online booking, digital payment options and mobile check-in. For today's traveller, convenience begins before boarding the aircraft.

A special time to visit

For those considering a visit in September, Ethiopia offers another reason to travel. The country celebrates Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year, every September under the traditional Ethiopian calendar.

The celebration normally falls on September 11, or September 12 during a leap year, and marks a season associated with renewal, yellow wild daisies, music, family gatherings and traditional food.

For members of the Ethiopian diaspora returning home, it is a particularly meaningful time of year. For international visitors, it provides a chance to experience Ethiopia at a time when its cultural traditions come especially alive.

Eight decades of connecting Ethiopia with the world

Ethiopian Airlines' 80th anniversary provides the backdrop to the campaign, but the larger story is about the role aviation plays in making Ethiopia more accessible to international travellers.

Over eight decades, the airline has grown alongside the country and developed Addis Ababa into one of Africa's major aviation gateways. Its continued expansion, modern fleet and growing international network have made it easier for travellers to discover Ethiopia and for Ethiopia to connect with the wider world.

And perhaps the biggest attraction is that Ethiopia does not require visitors to choose between history, nature, culture or hospitality. They can experience all four.

From Lucy and Lalibela to Ethiopian coffee, from the mountains of Entoto to the waters of Lake Tana, the country offers a journey that is as much about discovering a civilisation and its people as it is about visiting another destination.

Ethiopian Airlines may be the gateway, but Ethiopia itself is the experience.

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