



### The Consul General Speaks...

Anurag Bhushan  
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**Q:** Dear Sir, I recently read about the Arab India Economic Forum that is to take place in November in Dubai. Can you please explain what the format of the forum will be and who can participate in it?

—Vinod S, Sharjah

Dear Vinod, thanks for your question.

The Arab India Economic Forum (AIEF) is proposed to be a definite platform to discuss and evaluate the economic opportunities in India.

It will address the policy framework on guidelines required to attract investors, sovereign wealth funds and large corporations and industries, focusing on critical sectors like infrastructure, tourism (including the burgeoning wellness and medical tourism segment), renewable energy and banking.

It will also act as a strong medium for Indian businesses aiming to explore the Middle East market.

In addition, the AIE Forum will highlight key landmark initiatives, undertaken by the Government of India, like the 'Make in India' initiative, the 'Digital India' initiative and the 'Smart City Projects'.

It's hoped that the forum will serve as a catalyst in attracting investment and bolstering cooperation and partnership between India and Arab countries.

The event is expected to bring together more than 300 delegates, mainly political and business leaders, from the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Egypt and India.

AIEF will feature some key speakers as well as well-researched content and panel discussions. A key emphasis will be placed on strategies and solutions to meet investor challenges in India.

Specifically in terms of India and the UAE, the event will explore potential in various complementary sectors, including investment, energy security, food security, industrial development, aeronautics, defence, science, technology and innovation.

The Arab India Economic Forum will take place from November 16 to 17, at the Burj Al Arab. India's Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley, will inaugurate the forum and deliver the opening address.

It is not an open event. Only those with a genuine interest to invest are invited to pay a delegate registration fee for attendance. You can find more details at: <http://aieforum.com/>.

**Q:** Hi Sir, I would like to know what the schedule for the Open House in the Northern Emirates of the UAE is for the month of November.

—Suresh P, Ajman

Dear Suresh, thanks for your query. As the response to our Open House at the outstations was not positive, it has been suspended for now.

However, there is an Open House at the Consulate on all working days, from 9AM to 12PM, which can be utilised by members of the community, including those from the Northern Emirates.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to send them to: [cgspk@thegulfindian.com](mailto:cgspk@thegulfindian.com)

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## Mohammed Ilyas wins TGI's 57th Read 'n' Win contest

TGI Team  
DUBAI

**M**ohammed Ilyas, the winner of The Gulf Indian Weekly's 57th Read 'n' Win contest, moved to the UAE eight years ago from Rajasthan. Mohammed, who works as a nurse practitioner at Reem Specialist Medical Centre, Sharjah, won a Lenovo Android tablet in TGI's latest draw.

While at our office to collect his prize, Mohammed said that this was the first time he had won something, since coming to the UAE. "I had just returned from prayers, when I got the call about having won the draw. The first thing I did was thank Almighty Allah for looking after me. God gave me this and I can't thank him enough for it," said Mohammed. He added, "I, then, shared the news with



Mohammed Ilyas (left) receives his prize, a Lenovo Android Tablet, from TGI's Associate Editor, Payal Kamat Samant (right)

my staff members and my roommates. All are now asking me for a treat!"

Mohammed also told us that he's a regular reader of TGI: "I started reading TGI last June. I find it very interesting, especially the CG

column and the Cricketing Gems, since I'm a cricket player myself. The publication does a very good job of keeping us connected with news from back home. I like it so much, that I urge my colleagues, even doctors,

and my roommates to read it."

If you want to go home with a snazzy prize, like Mohammed did, simply log on to our website at: <http://www.thegulfindian.com/readwin/>.

## Emirates turns 30

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versary, in 2014, Emirates brought its A380 to India with a first-ever display at the Hyderabad Air Show.

Throughout the years, the airline has partnered with several renowned sporting events such as the Melbourne Cup, the English Premiership football club Chelsea, the FIFA World Cup, the Dubai Rugby Sevens, the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the US Open Series, among others.

### Travellers' choice

Last year, Emirates was named the 'Most Valuable Airline Brand'. We asked a couple of Dubai residents what their experiences with the airline were like.

Dr Darshana Sawant Dhaka, an anaesthesiologist at a private hospital in Dubai, praised Emirates, "Although I only moved to Dubai three years ago, I've been travelling with Emirates for the past seven years. Their lounge facilities at the



airport are fabulous. With Emirates, there's always 'the-right-time' flight when I need one."

She added that she found the crew to be helpful and that: "On one occasion, they'd forgotten my bassinet request, so they upgraded me to Business Class."

Sakshi Nath, Founder, Queens Beauty Lounge and co-owner, Tresind (an In-

dian restaurant), told TGI, "I moved to Dubai from Nigeria in 2008, but have been frequenting Dubai since 2002. The moment Emirates launched its services to Nigeria, we flew only with Emirates."

She added, "The connectivity is very good. Be it the US, the UK, India, Africa or anywhere else in the world." Sakshi did have a request

for the airline: "I'd just like to say that the airline has one area of improvement—food. Since we're frequent flyers, it becomes boring to eat the same type of food every time we fly."

It has been an amazing 30-year journey for Emirates. The airline truly has had a dream-come-true success story. Let's see what the next 30 years bring.