

BENCHMARKS **LIVE**
Nifty 11,924.15 **51.10**

NSE GAINER-LARGE CAP
Vodafone Idea 8.55 **0.60**

FEATURED FUNDS **★★★★★** 5Y RETURN
Mirae Asset Emerging Bl... **14.44%** **INVEST NOW**

MARKET WATCH ▾

THE ECONOMIC TIMES | News

English Edition ▾ | E-Paper

Subscribe | Edna ▾

Home **ETPrime** Markets **News** Industry RISE Politics Wealth MF Tech Jobs Opinion NRI Panache ET NOW More ▾

Podcast Economy ▾ Industry Politics and Nation Defence ▾ Company ▾ **International** ▾ Elections ▾ ET Explains Sports Science More ▾

Business News > News > International > Saudi Arabia > Hundreds of Indian workers demand unpaid wages from Saudi construction firm

Hundreds of Indian workers demand unpaid wages from Saudi construction firm

Reuters Last Updated: Oct 19, 2020, 07:35 PM IST

SHARE FONT SIZE SAVE PRINT COMMENT

Synopsis

More than 280 labourers - who were fired by the Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation before being flown home on chartered flights in July - are part of what is believed to be the biggest collective case of its kind, said their lawyer Subhash Chand.



The number of wage theft cases reported from Gulf countries rose more than three-fold between April and July compared with the same period last year, says the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, which advocates for human rights in business.

COVID-19 CASES		Confirmed	Deaths
India	World	7,550,273	114,610

CHENNAI: Hundreds of **Indian migrant workers** who were laid off by a construction company in **Saudi Arabia** due to the **coronavirus** pandemic have filed a rare complaint to the **Indian government** over unpaid earnings, lawyers and campaigners said.

More than 280 labourers - who were fired by the Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation before being flown home on chartered flights in July - are part of what is believed to be the biggest collective case of its kind, said their

lawyer Subhash Chand.

Chand said all of the workers had been at the firm for at least five years - some over a decade - and were entitled to a "substantial amount" in outstanding end-of-contract benefits.

"Most of (the workers) confirmed that they had been asked to sign blank papers or documents that they didn't understand ... (in order to get) their passports and tickets," said Chand, who is part of Lawyers Beyond Borders, a network of legal experts.

"Many didn't want to return without their money but had no choice," he told

the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

The Indian embassy in Riyadh said the workers' complaint had been taken up with the company and Saudi officials this month, and that it was awaiting a response on the matter.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT
How this B-School dealt with placements in pandemic



Ad Body Secret Revelation

What She Did to Lose Weight Stuns Doctors: Do This Daily Before Bed



VISIT SITE

Recommended by COLOMBIA

The Saudi human resources ministry could not be reached for comment but last month said workers could log violations through its online dispute settlement platform or go to a labour court.

The Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation - which describes itself on its website as the largest industrial contractor in the Middle East - did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

HELPLINE IN DEMAND

Hundreds of thousands of Indian migrant workers are estimated to have returned home from Gulf nations this year due to COVID-19, and activists, lawyers and unions said they were dealing with fresh complaints about pay issues on a daily basis.

The number of wage theft cases reported from Gulf countries rose more than three-fold between April and July compared with the same period last year, says **the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre**, which advocates for human rights in business.

"We started a helpline for Gulf migrants in the middle of the pandemic and were flooded with calls of wage theft," said Rafeek Ravuther, founder of The Centre for Indian Migrant Studies, a Kerala-based charity that works for migrant rights.

"Among them there were hundreds calling in about (the Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation) and a few others," he added. "We consolidated the complaints and encouraged them to fight this collectively since it is difficult to pursue alone for many."

One of the workers in the case said he was owed 120,000 rupees (\$1,637) and feared for his future without the money.

"I wanted to start a grocery store with (the money) but now I am running

MOST READ	MOST SHARED
Billionaire banker Uday Kotak says now's the best time to invest in India, lists 5 'right sectors'	
Narendra Modi's farm reforms could turn India into a food-export powerhouse	
The next China? India is missing its real comparative edge by not emphasizing low-skilled labour exports	
5 signs that the stock you are buying or hold can turn a value destroyer	
Revised inflation index to impact DA, put more money in hands of govt employees: Official	
More »	

Top Trending News

- Bihar Election 2020
- Joe Biden
- Donald Trump
- US Elections 2020
- Economy News
- Defence News
- Morning News
- Breaking News
- Chennai News
- Delhi News
- Mumbai News
- Bangalore News
- Kolkata News
- Latest News
- News Headlines

around filing complaints and job-hunting," said Krishnan, who did not use his real name due to the ongoing case.

"I am still waiting while ... my savings are diminishing rapidly," he said by phone from the southern state of Kerala.

READ MORE NEWS ON

[Saudi Arabia](#) [Indian Government](#) [Indian Migrant Workers](#) [Coronavirus](#)

[The Business And Human Rights Resource Centre](#)

(Catch all the **Business News**, **Breaking News** Events and **Latest News** Updates on **The Economic Times**.)

Download **The Economic Times News App** to get Daily Market Updates & Live Business News.

ADD COMMENT

ET

Search News, Stock Quotes & NAV

BROWSE
COMPANIES:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Trending Now

World News
GDP Growth
Nita Ambani
Nirmala Sitharaman
Economy
Narendra Modi
Politics News
Anil Ambani
Defence
Headlines Today

Popular Categories

Podcast
Industry
Defence
International
ET Explains
Science
Environment
Latest News
Economy
Politics and Nation
Company
Elections
Sports
India Unlimited
ET TV

Hot On Web

Happiest Minds IPO
Bank holidays in October 2020
US elections 2020
Coronavirus LIVE updates
Gold rate today
Best value funds to invest in 2020
YES Bank share price
Sensex Live
Infosys share price
Sensex today
GST
What are multi asset funds
What are balanced funds
Global markets
Breaking news
SGX Nifty
IRCTC share price

In Case You Missed It

GST
Bihar Election 2020
VI
Ayodhya Ram Mandir
Gita Gopinath
Amartya Sen
Delhi Winters
WhatsApp Down
Facebook Down
Indirect tax
Who is Joe Biden
IRCTC
Narendra Modi announcements
Coronavirus in Delhi
Delhi Fog
Mumbai Fire
Instagram Down

ET Verticals

Auto News	Retail News
Health News	Telecom News
Energy News	IT News
Real Estate News	Marketing & Advertising News
Technology News	CFO News
IT Security News	

More From Our Network

इकनॉमिक टाइम्स	ईकोनॉमिक्स टाइम्स	Pune Mirror
Bangalore Mirror	Ahmedabad Mirror	ItsMyAscent
Education Times	Brand Capital	Mumbai Mirror
Times Now	Indiatimes	महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स
बीजय कन्सल्टिंग	Go Green	AdAge India
Eisamay	IGN India	IamGujarat
Times of India	Samayam Tamil	Samayam Telugu
Miss Kyra	Bombay Times	Filmipop
MX Player	Newspaper Subscription	Times Prime
Colombia	NBT Gold Podcast	Ei Samay Gold Podcast
MX ShareKaro App	MX TakaTak App	

Other Useful Links

About Us	Subscribe to ET Prime
Subscribe to ET Ad-Free	Book your Newspaper Subscription
Create Your Own Ad	Advertise with Us
Terms of Use & Grievance Redressal	Privacy policy
Contact Us	RSS

Services

Longwalks App

Follow Us On:

Download ET App:

SUBSCRIBE
TO OUR
NEWSLETTER

Copyright © 2020 Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. All rights reserved. For reprint rights: [Times Syndication Service](#)