

Editor: Ute Krudewagen, **Associate Editor:** Amie Aldana | **Africa and Middle East Editor:** Karen Seigel | **Asia and Oceania Editor:** Jason Noakes | **Canada Editor:** Gilles Touchette | **European Editor:** Paul Callaghan | **Latin America Editor:** Juan Carlos Varela | **Law Student Editor:** Liam Wood, Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University | **USA:** Trent Sutton

India

Agreement on Labour Cooperation for Recruitment of Domestic Service Workers in Saudi Arabia

[Preetha S](#) and [Veena Gopalakrishnan](#), Nishith Desai Associates, Mumbai/Bangalore/Delhi, India

The Agreement on Labour Cooperation for Domestic Service Workers Recruitment ("Agreement"), a cooperative effort signed between India and Saudi Arabia, regulating Indian expatriates working in Saudi Arabia, was signed between the two nations on January 02, 2014.¹ It will operate for a period of five years and includes a provision providing for automatic renewals.²

The Agreement has various aims, including:

- protecting the rights of both employers and domestic service workers;
- controlling recruitment costs in both countries;
- ensuring the implementation of employment contracts for domestic service workers;
- prohibiting the deduction from salaries of domestic service workers of recruitment costs or unauthorized salary deductions by recruitment agencies and employers;
- facilitating the employer to open a bank account in the name of the domestic sector workers;
- establishing a mechanism to provide round-the-clock assistance to domestic sector workers; and
- facilitating the issuance of exit visas for domestic sector workers upon expiry of contract or in an emergency situation.

The Agreement envisages that a standard employment contract will be finalized by the governments of India and Saudi Arabia that would provide minimum wage entitlements, defined working hours, paid holidays and a dispute settlement mechanism.³

The Agreement also envisages the establishment of a joint bilateral committee to meet periodically to deal with any difficulties that may arise in the implementation of the Agreement.⁴

¹<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=102261>

²<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/saudi-arabia-india-sign-new-recruitment-pact-533370.html>

³<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20140103191375>

⁴<http://www.ummid.com/news/2013/October/29.10.2013/india-saudi-pact.html>