

**Embassy of India
Kuwait**

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KJO awards Dorra gas project offshore package contract

Al-Khafji Joint Operations (KJO) has awarded the main offshore EPC contract for Package 1 of the Dorra gas field facilities project to Indian contractor Larsen & Toubro Energy Hydrocarbon (L&TEH). The project is divided into four EPC packages - three offshore and one onshore - with Package 1 covering the construction of seven offshore jackets and the installation of intra-field lines. The contract is valued between \$140 million and \$150 million. L&TEH had emerged as the frontrunner for this package following KJO's initial bid evaluations, with submissions having closed on June 2, 2025.

KDIPA elected WAIPA chair, highlights Kuwait's investment leadership

Kuwait has marked a major achievement with the election of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) as chair of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for the 2025-27 term. The appointment highlights global recognition of Kuwait's growing influence in shaping international investment policies and fostering cooperation among investment promotion agencies worldwide. Under Kuwait's leadership, WAIPA is expected to advance new governance standards, enhance coordination between member agencies, and strengthen knowledge-sharing networks to promote cross-border investment. This milestone also positions Kuwait at the forefront of global investment diplomacy, reflecting its commitment to building a competitive, innovation-driven, and digitally advanced investment ecosystem.

Kuwait's imports surge 22% in Q2 2025 to 3.26 bln dinars, driven by vehicles, gold, and medical supplies

Kuwait's imports reached approximately KD 3.26 billion in the second quarter of 2025, up nearly 22% from KD 2.68 billion in the same period last year. Vehicles led growth at KD 376.4 million (+20.5%), while gold and jewelry imports surged to KD 202 million (+119%). Medical supplies and vaccines rose by 29%, with packaged medicines jumping 324%, and mobile phones reached KD 100.2 million (+15.9%). Consumer goods also expanded, including perfumes and cosmetics at KD 129

million, footwear at KD 57 million, and children's toys and sports equipment at KD 28.4 million. Imports of oil and gas pipelines and fittings soared 400%, supporting ongoing energy projects. China remained the top exporter to Kuwait at KD 668.8 million (+42.1%), followed by the UAE at KD 457 million (+24%) and the United States at KD 266 million.

Kuwait leads Gulf in project growth with \$227 billion market value

Kuwait's projects market led the Gulf in growth for the second consecutive month, expanding 2.6% in the four weeks from September 12 to October 10, adding \$5.7 billion to reach a total value of \$227 billion in 2025. The increase was primarily driven by upward revisions in the value of three major Kuwait Oil Company projects following updated bids. Kuwait's market growth outpaced other Gulf states, with Saudi Arabia adding \$19 billion (+1%) and the UAE \$10.5 billion (+1%). Across the wider MENA region, total contracts in September fell to \$15.5 billion, below the 2025 monthly average, while Kuwait recorded \$148 million in deals, including an \$84 million contract for a Kuwait Oil Company well tie-in facility. This highlights Kuwait's growing momentum in project development, underpinned by energy sector investments and key infrastructure expansions.

Goldman Sachs targets \$10bn Kuwait mandate to boost private markets expansion in the Gulf

Goldman Sachs is in talks with the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) for a potential \$10 billion investment mandate across its private equity, credit, and infrastructure funds, as the firm seeks to expand its presence in the Middle East. While the discussions are ongoing and the full commitment is not guaranteed, such an allocation would be a notable addition to KIA's \$1 trillion portfolio and a major win for Goldman Sachs in competing with private market leaders like Blackstone, KKR, and Apollo for Gulf sovereign capital. The move aligns with a broader trend of international managers - including Carlyle, Franklin Templeton, and State Street - establishing offices in Kuwait to strengthen ties with the sovereign wealth fund, reflecting the country's ambition to grow its financial sector and attract more global investment.

MoCI launches Gulf Alliance to develop North Zour plant

A new Kuwaiti public shareholding company, M/s Gulf Alliance for Power and Water Company, has been established under Ministerial Decision No. 181/2025 issued by

Minister of Commerce and Industry Khalifa Al-Ajeel. The company will be responsible for constructing, operating, and maintaining Phases Two and Three of the North Zour Power and Water Desalination Plant. The firm's authorized capital stands at KD197.032 million, divided into 1.97 billion shares, with allocations distributed among public entities, investors, and Kuwaiti citizens. The incorporation process will follow the Companies Law, Capital Markets Authority Law, and Public-Private Partnerships Law.

Kuwaitis spent 1.9 billion dinars on travel in six months, see slight decline amid growing regional tourism

Kuwaiti international tourism spending fell slightly in the first half of 2025 to 1.902 billion dinars, down 5% from 2.003 billion dinars in 2024, as travel shifted toward short regional trips within Gulf countries. Outbound expenditures peaked at 1.181 billion dinars in Q1 before easing to 720.9 million dinars in Q2, while inbound spending in Kuwait also declined 7% to 317.9 million dinars. To boost tourism, Kuwait has implemented measures such as simplified e-visa procedures, flexible entry systems, and expanded GCC access, supporting the hospitality, retail, and restaurant sectors. These initiatives, along with promotional campaigns and seasonal collaborations with airlines and hotels, are gradually strengthening Kuwait's appeal as a cultural and urban tourism destination, with expectations for more balanced travel spending in the coming years.

'Visit Kuwait' and Jazeera Airways launch strategic tourism initiative

The 'Visit Kuwait' platform and Jazeera Airways have signed a cooperation agreement marking a major step in strengthening Kuwait's position as a leading cultural and tourism hub. The partnership introduces a "Stopover Package" that enables travelers to stay in Kuwait for several days to explore its heritage and culture - an option not previously available. The initiative supports the government's efforts to simplify entry procedures and expand visa accessibility, making travel to Kuwait easier and more efficient. Tourism is recognized as a key sector for job creation and economic diversification, with visitors in the Gulf region spending an average of USD 2,500 per trip, contributing significantly to national income.

Kuwait Launches Unified Gulf Industrial Platform

Kuwait inaugurated the Second Gulf Industrial Exhibition with participation from GCC ministers, industry leaders, and investors, highlighting regional cooperation in

advancing industrial growth. The event marked a key milestone with the launch of the first unified Gulf industrial platform, designed to showcase industrial projects across GCC countries through a comprehensive database. The platform aims to strengthen industrial cooperation, improve regional supply chain connectivity, and support the integration of national factories with partners and suppliers across the Gulf.

Kuwait PM inaugurates new airport tower and 3rd runway at Kuwait International Airport

Kuwait's Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) inaugurated a new control tower and the 3rd runway at Kuwait International Airport on 26 October 2025, under the patronage of Kuwait's Prime Minister. The new runway is set to officially begin operations on 30 October. The state-of-the-art air traffic control systems and the new runway are designed to handle all types of aircraft.

With Regards,

Davinder Punj
Second Secretary (Commerce)