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A selection of news articles that featured in official publications in UAE and Italy related to the business, economy and culture of the two countries.



### **DUBAI GETS RECORD-BREAKING MICKEY MOUSE OF FLOWERS**

To mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Disney's first and most iconic character, Dubai Miracle Garden constructed the world's biggest Mickey Mouse floral sculpture, which was unveiled on Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The sculpture stands at 18 meters in height and consists of almost 100,000 plants and flowers, weighing about 35 tones. Dubai Miracle Garden earned the Guinness World Record title for the Tallest Topiary-supported Sculpture. The floral statue is the garden's third record-setting one. Two

other Guinness World Record titles have been given to the "Largest Vertical Garden in the World" and the "Largest Floral Installation", for the Emirates A380 display.

*Source: Khaleej Times*

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### **DUBAI FREE ZONES, GOVT STAFF DON'T NEED CONDUCT PROOF**

Dubai immigration authorities have temporarily exempted foreign nationals from producing good conduct certifications for processing their employment visas. This measure is expected to improve job prospects for them in free zones of the Emirate. Free zones fall outside the purview of the UAE Labor Law, hence they will not need the document. Job visa applications outside the free zones in Dubai, however, need to provide conduct certificates, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE). The latest exemption, is, however, only a temporary measure, and it is not known for how long it will be extended, authorities said.



*Source: Khaleej Times*

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### **DUBAI SHOWS OFF ITS SHORTCUT TO FUTURE**

From a robotic dog that can protect UAE residents to bomb diffusing drones and from smart gates that will take less than eight seconds to clear immigration queues to travelling at near-supersonic speed via the hyper loop, Dubai has already taken its first step forward to become a city of dreams. However, what makes the city unparalleled in terms of innovation is the swiftness and efficiency in which it provides government services. Leading government departments such as the RTA, GDRFA-Dubai, Dubai Police, the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and the Dubai Municipality showcased their vision of how Dubai would look in 2030.



“The future for the GDRFA is biometrics...Eventually, your face will be your passport”, said Major General Obaid Muhair bin Surooe, deputy director-general at the GDRFA. The department showcased several new innovative developments including Kafa’ati App, UAE Smart Wallet, Future Accelerator, Smart Gate Project and Customer Journey. Furthermore, criminal analysis centers, crime prediction analysis, CID studio and several other innovative ideas that look at predicting a crime even before it takes place, took center stage at the Dubai Police innovation hub.

*Source: Khaleej Times*

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### **NEW ROUTES LIFT FLY DUBAI PROFIT IN 2017**

Low cost carrier flydubai reported on Wednesday Dh 37.3 mln annual profit in 2017, up from Dh31.6 mln a year before, on the back of a 9.2% growth in revenue to Dh5.5 bln. The airline said it carrier 10.9 mln passengers in 2017, up 5.5% compared to the previous year. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of flydubai, said the results demonstrated the key role the carrier continues to play in the development of trade and tourism in the UAE. In its early stages, the partnership with Emirates has enjoyed a significant response from passengers who recognize the benefits of travelling around the world on a single ticket.

He said the introduction of new and more fluent-efficient aircraft into the fleet would be a positive influence and result in greater benefit.



*Source: Khaleej Times*

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### **THE TURNOVER OF THE ITALIAN INDUSTRIES AT ITS MAXIMUM LEVELS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS**

In 2017 the turnover of the Italian industries recorded a growth of 5.1% and it is the best performance since the 2011, meanwhile the orders growth of 6.6%. The Overall Turnover Index (110), is, in this way, back to the highest level recorded on October 2008, a significant month as it is the immediately after Lehman Brothers’ default. Anyway it is still very far the 117 level and above which was recorded by Italy in the summer of the same year. The data issued by ISTAT in December 2017 shows that the driver of the growth for the Italian industries is essentially the foreign trade (+6.1%), even if also the internal market showed a growth (+4.6%).



*Source: Repubblica*

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