

Building on Trust, Driving Growth : Satish Babu Khiradkar Takes Charge as COO of New India Assurance Bahrain

The New India Assurance Co. Ltd. has appointed Mr. Satish Babu Khiradkar as Chief Operating Officer (COO) for Bahrain operations. Mr. Khiradkar took charge on 9 September 2026, succeeding Ms. Nimisha Kadam following the completion of her tenure.

An accomplished insurance professional, Mr. Khiradkar brings a distinctive blend of strong academic credentials, specialised insurance qualifications, extensive operational experience and a recognised passion for knowledge sharing to his new role. He holds B.A., B.Com. and M.Com. degrees, UGC-NET and SET qualifications, Fellowship in Insurance, along with specialised Diplomas in Fire, Health and Marine Insurance. His professional journey with New



Satish Babu Khiradkar, COO, New India Assurance Bahrain

India Assurance spans diverse functions including branch management, underwriting, finance, business development and corporate/key account



شركة تأمين الهند الجديدة المحدودة
THE NEW INDIA ASSURANCE CO. LTD

management, most recently serving as Chief Business Manager and Key Business Office In-charge. This breadth of experience has given him a comprehensive understanding of insurance operations, business development, risk and customer management.

His expertise and knowledge of insurance have also earned recognition in the professional training fraternity, with leading general insurance training institutes in India regularly inviting him as a Guest Faculty to deliver sessions on various insurance subjects and share his practical knowledge

and experience with insurance professionals.

On assuming charge, Mr. Khiradkar acknowledged the valuable contributions of his predecessors, including Mr. Vineet Kumar, Mr. Sohan Lal Koli, Mr. Hemendra Swaroop and Ms. Nimisha Kadam, whose efforts have helped strengthen the company's Bahrain operations.

He also highlighted New India Assurance's longstanding association with its Appointed Representative International Agencies Co. Ltd. (Intercol) and particularly appreciated the significant contribution of Mr. Abdul Rahman Ali Abdul Rahman

Alwazzan in strengthening this enduring relationship. He also expressed his appreciation for the continued support and cooperation extended by all brokers, business partners and fellow insurers.

Expressing his delight at his arrival in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Mr. Khiradkar said, "I am extremely delighted with the warm welcome I have received in Bahrain. The care, cooperation and genuine support extended by the people here, our colleagues, business associates and well-wishers have made my beginning truly memorable."

Thanking all insureds and customers for their continued trust in New India Assurance, he assured them of continued commitment to prompt, professional and dependable service. "We deeply value the

confidence our customers have placed in us and assure them that they will continue to receive the same high standards of service, with our constant endeavour to further improve responsiveness and turnaround time," he said.

As COO, Mr. Khiradkar will focus on customer-centric service, sustainable growth, prudent underwriting and stronger relationships with corporates, brokers and other intermediaries, while building upon New India Assurance's long-standing legacy in Bahrain.

"We have a strong legacy and trusted relationships. My endeavour will be to build upon this foundation and take New India Assurance Bahrain to greater heights, with customer trust and service remaining at the heart of our priorities," he added.

Wadi Al-Buhair remains open to public



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Wadi Al-Buhair remains open to the public and has not been shut by the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry or any other authority, Southern Municipal Council chairman Abdullah Abdul Latif has said.

He spoke after questions were raised over access to the valley, where plans call for building to be kept away while residents are given paths, lighting and traditional cafés.

'Wadi Al-Buhair is not closed,' Mr Abdul Latif told The Daily Tribune. 'Photographers can go there and take pictures.' He said fewer people had visited over the past couple of months because of the hot summer weather, rather than because anyone had barred entry. Parts of the wadi's rocky hills and terrain were ordered to be treated as a nature reserve in 2022, with the land protected from urban development.

Mr Abdul Latif said the move was meant to keep construction away rather than stop people entering.

Migratory and resident birds use the wetland, which lies between East Riffa and Sanad. Storks and gulls are among the birds seen there.

The area is also known for old limestone formations and fossils, with environmental studies putting parts of its geology at about 45 million years old.

Mr Abdul Latif wants the



"The aim is to protect the wadi, not prevent public access."

ABDULLAH ABDUL LATIF, SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

valley kept as a haven for birds while making it easier for residents to walk through and spend time there.

Plans include paths, lighting and traditional cafés. He also called on banks and large firms to help pay for tree planting and work on green spaces.

'It can become a lung for the area,' he said. A retention pond in the area also receives water from nearby freshwater aquifers, with aerators used to keep the water moving and curb stagnation and odour. The aim is to stop standing water from collecting near homes and becoming a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Mr Abdul Latif said he wanted the valley kept green, its water problems dealt with and its paths opened to residents. He cited Bahrain's target of three million trees, saying Wadi Al-Buhair should remain green and free from building.

Call to curb 24-hour karak shops

Karak shops accused of trading all night without permission are blocking Zallaq's main road, with customers' cars at times making it hard for ambulances to get through, a councillor has warned.

Hamad Al Zuabi told the Southern Municipal Council during its meeting yesterday that some shops stay open 24 hours a day even though their licences do not allow them to trade through the night.

He said a single car stopping by the roadside could hold up traffic across the area.

Mr Al Zuabi said the trouble went beyond shop signs. Shops staying open late bring cars onto Shaikh Yousif Al-Seddiqi Avenue, a key route into and out of Zallaq, he said.

Karak shops in residential areas, he argued, had no need to trade all night when customers stopping outside could block the road and disturb people living nearby.

Cars left along the avenue can leave little room for passing traffic. Ambulances have at times struggled to get through, he said.

Mr Al Zuabi said late-night businesses should be moved to petrol stations or commercial centres with enough parking rather than operate along residential roads.

He also called for checks



"Late-night shops are creating traffic and disturbing residents."

— HAMAD AL ZUABI, SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

after midnight on shops required to close at that hour, saying visits after closing time would show which businesses were still trading.

Mr Al Zuabi also questioned how shop-sign permits were being handled. He said the municipality had taken action in some cases despite owners holding permits, while other requests had gone unanswered.

He called for clear rules on signs, opening hours and licences, along with checks on businesses accused of breaking them, blocking roads or disturbing residents.



60-Stall Market Plan for Isa Town

Long-shut Lebanon Trade Centre proposed as home for local traders



The former Lebanon Trade Centre in Isa Town

A 60-stall central market for local food traders is being proposed at Isa Town's long-shut Lebanon Trade Centre as investors show interest in the site.

Southern Municipal Council member Mubarak Faraj said a memorandum was being drawn up to turn the former supermarket into a market for fish, fruit, vegetables, meat and poultry.

The building already has electricity and other services, which he said would save the cost of building a new market from scratch.

'The idea is to make this a proper central market for local traders,' he told The Daily Tribune. 'The buildings are already there and they have electricity and the basic services, so we can make use of what exists instead of spending money on new buildings.'

Around 20 stalls would go to fish sellers and another 20 to fruit and vegetable traders, with separate sections for meat and poultry.

Mr Faraj said the market would be mainly for smaller local sellers who cannot afford high shop rents.

'We want local traders to have somewhere they can work and sell their goods at rents they can afford,' he said. 'They should have a place where they are not pushed out by bigger businesses.'

He wants part of the site



Mubarak Faraj, Southern Municipal Council member

kept for small local traders as the municipality weighs bids for the property.

The Lebanon Trade Centre, once a large supermarket serving Isa Town, has been closed since November 2022.

It was emptied under a court eviction order in June 2024 after the company running it failed to meet payments to the Southern Municipality.

Home Electronics was also caught up in the dispute.

Mr Faraj said the existing flea market, known as Maqasees, was not a proper central market and suggested turning the former supermarket into a food market for Isa Town.

Part of the former electronics area is now used for sports and martial arts.

The Southern Municipal Council held the first meeting of its fifth and final session yesterday.