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DUBAI  
BY MANOJ NAIR  
Business Editor

After the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept interest rates unchanged for a tenth straight time, the rupee stayed stuck at its low level of 22.85 to the UAE dirham – a rate that will continue to benefit expat remittances in the region.

However, the remittance-friendly trend isn't expected to last long as the RBI also indicated that there is now a possibility that interest rates may start to taper down by the year end as the economy looks to maintain its growth trajectory and moderate inflation by end of the year.

In its latest briefing, the RBI is projecting the Indian economy to keep hitting 7 per cent plus growth rates through the current 2024-25 financial year. That makes it one of the higher prevailing growth rates for a systemically important economy.

What this means for the Indian rupee is that after hitting its lowest ever rate of 22.87 on October 4, the currency is expected to bounce back to possibly when it was its strongest at 22.51 to the dirham on March 7.

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# Biden, Netanyahu hold talks as Israel attack on Iran looms

US, EUROPEAN AND ARAB LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL STRIKES

DUBAI  
BY STEPHEN N. R.  
Senior Associate Editor

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu held a crucial phone call with US President Joe Biden yesterday, as tensions escalate following Iran's recent missile attack.

The phone call between Netanyahu and Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris ended after 50 minutes, Netanyahu's office added.

The two sides were expected to provide readouts of their discussions later yesterday. The phone call marked the first time Biden and Netanyahu spoke since August.

Their talks come as Israel strategises its response to Iran, raising concerns among US, European and Arab leaders about potential strikes on Iranian nuclear or oil facilities that could exacerbate regional conflict and spike energy prices.

Netanyahu and Biden last spoke on August 21, making this dialogue all the more critical.

## 'Deadly, precise attack'

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said yesterday that Israel's retaliation against Iran for last week's missile barrage will be "deadly, precise and surprising".



AFP

■ Syrians, who were refugees in Lebanon, return to their home country after a journey to the Idlib province through the crossing Aoun Al Dadat north of Manbij, yesterday.

"Our attack in Iran will be deadly, precise and surprising," Gallant said in a statement posted on social media, adding: "Those who try to harm the State of Israel will pay a price."

Netanyahu is due to hold a security-cabinet meeting today, an Israeli official was quoted as saying by Bloomberg news agency.

Meanwhile, as part of diplomatic efforts, Iranian Foreign

Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in the Saudi capital yesterday. Araghchi's visit to Saudi Arabia comes as the region awaits Israel's response to the Iranian missile attack.

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## How human touch sets apart Dubai airport from others

'Unified service' at  
DXB ensures travellers  
get an experience  
to remember

DUBAI  
BY SHARMILA DHAL  
UAE Editor

Dubai Airports is a habitual record-breaker. For 10 years now, it has earned the distinction of being the world's busiest airport. Each year, it has also raised the bar for its own offerings. Dubai International (DXB) is currently connected to 256 destinations across 102 countries. In 2023, it welcomed 87 million passengers, with the figures expected to reach 92 million by the end of this year.

But amid the record arrivals and departures, it's the cherished passenger experience that sets DXB apart. And that is made possible by what Dubai Airports calls its "unified service".

## 'Spirit of our people'

The behind-the-scenes teamwork, which was recognised at the inaugural oneDXB

Chairman's Awards recently, was also featured in a special film released on the occasion.

Chairman's Awards recently, was also featured in a special film released on the occasion.

Shaikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Airports, said, "As DXB continues its mission to be the best airport in the world, this film serves as a powerful reminder that our success goes beyond cutting-edge technology or world-class infrastructure. It is the dedication and spirit of our people that bring the guest experience to life. United as one airport community, DXB is making a profound and lasting impact on every guest."

Gulf News brings you a special report featuring some of these passenger experiences, highlighting the human touch behind the hustle and bustle at the world's busiest airport.

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