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Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

## NEARLY 1.2 MILLION STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASS

Students of Delhi Private School in Sharjah on the first day of school after the summer vacation yesterday. Also returning to class for the 2024-25 term were more than 1.2 million students at public and private schools and colleges in the UAE. **SEE ALSO P2**

## India to introduce digital Unified Lending Interface

New system promises seamless delivery of credit, quicker turnaround time

**BENGALURU**

India's technology platform for providing "frictionless credit" launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last year as a pilot project will be introduced nationwide soon, said Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI, yesterday.

This technology platform will be named Unified Lending Interface (ULI), Asian News International (ANI) quoted Das as saying at the Global Conference on Digi-

tal Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies in Bengaluru.

The governor said, "Just like UPI (Unified Payments Interface - India's instant payment system) transformed the payments ecosystem, we expect that ULI will play a similar role in transforming the lending space in India."

### Seamless flow

The new ULI platform facilitates a seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including even land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders.

The technology platform introduced last year as a pilot project cuts down the time

taken for credit appraisal, especially for small and rural borrowers.

"This reduces the complexity of multiple technical integrations. It enables borrowers to get the benefit of seamless delivery of credit, and quicker turnaround time without requiring extensive documentation," the RBI Governor said.

Speaking about the success of Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Das said, "The current ecosystem of digital payments in India offers a bouquet of simple, safe, and secure options for instant or quick transfer of funds, both large and small value, for businesses and individuals."

—WAM

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## Egypt against Israeli troops on Gaza border

UN URGES CALM AFTER HEZBOLLAH AND ISRAEL TRADE HEAVY STRIKES

**CAIRO**

Egypt has said it will not accept the continued presence of Israeli forces along its border with the Gaza Strip, state-linked media reported yesterday.

Cairo, a key mediator in efforts to secure a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, "reiterated to all parties that it will not accept any Israeli presence" along the strategic Philadelphi Corridor, Al-Qahera News said, citing a high-level source.

A key sticking point in the ceasefire talks have been calls for Israel to withdraw its forces from the border area, including the Rafah crossing, the only one from the Palestinian territory that was not directly controlled by Israel.

"Egypt is managing the mediation" between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas "in accordance with its national security," the source told Al-Qahera News.

Meanwhile, Israel's military struck the Gaza Strip yesterday a day after truce talks in Cairo coincided with a major but brief cross-border escalation involving Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Lebanese group on Sun-

day launched rockets and drones in retaliation for a top commander's killing as Israel carried out air raids the military said thwarted a larger attack.

Mediators held meetings in the Egyptian capital on Sunday but reported no breakthrough in months of protracted negotiations as the fighting in Gaza raged on.

### 'Deeply concerned'

In the wake of the latest flare-up between Israel and Hezbollah, the heaviest since the beginning of Gaza war on October 7, UN Secretary General António Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by cross-border strikes.

Guterres warned that their actions put civilians at risk, as well as threatening regional security and stability.

Meanwhile, the United States said there was still a threat of a new attack on Israel by Iran or its proxies. "We continue to assess that there is a threat of attack, and we... remain well-postured to be able to support Israel's defence as well as to protect our forces should they be attacked," Pentagon spokesman Maj Gen Pat Ryder told journalists.

—Agencies  
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## Workers in Australia get 'right to disconnect'

People can refuse bosses' calls post-work

**SYDNEY**

Australia gave millions of workers the legal right to "disconnect" yesterday, allowing them to ignore unreasonable out-of-hours contact from employers, to the distress of big industry.

People can now "refuse to monitor, read, or respond to" their employers' attempts to contact them outside work hours - unless that refusal is deemed "unreasonable".

The law is similar to legislation in some European and Latin American countries.

Unions welcomed the legislation, saying it gave workers a way to reclaim a level of work-life balance.

"Today is a historic day

for working people," said Michele O'Neil, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

### Quality time at home

"The union movement has won the legal right for Australians to spend quality time with their loved ones without the stress of being forced to constantly answer unreasonable work calls and emails," she said.

"Australian unions have reclaimed the right to knock off after work."

The law, enacted in February, came into force for medium-sized and large companies as of yesterday.

Smaller companies with fewer than 15 employees will be covered from August 26, 2025.

—AFP

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