

### **Jordan to host Palestinian-Israeli talks as violence spirals**



Jordan will host a "political-security" meeting between Israel and the Palestinians to try and restore calm to the occupied Palestinian territories after deadly violence, a Jordanian government official said.

The meeting to be held in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba will also be attended by the U.S. and Egyptian representatives.

It aims at "building trust" between Israel and the Palestinians, the official told AFP on Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### **Russian Soyuz spacecraft arrives at International Space Station to bring three crew members back to earth**



A Russian Soyuz spacecraft has arrived at the International Space Station on a mission to bring three crew members back to earth. The unmanned Soyuz blasted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

It is replacing the original return vehicle that was found to have a coolant leak from a capsule last December. The discovery forced US space agency NASA and Russia's state space corporation Roscosmos to postpone their plan to send the crew back to earth on the vehicle.

It is expected to bring home U.S. astronaut Frank Rubio and Russian cosmonauts Dmitry Petelin and Sergei Prokopyev in September. The vehicle with the leakage will be separated from the ISS in March to come back to earth without any crew.

### EU agrees to new round of sanctions against Russia on first anniversary of Russia-Ukraine conflict



The European Union agreed to a new round of sanctions against Russia, on the first anniversary of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The package is the tenth to be adopted by the EU member states. The EU diplomats had agreed on nearly all points of the new proposed sanctions.

Sweden, which took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU at the beginning of the year, said, the new measures targeted restricted measures against individuals and entities supporting the war.

The US also announced, it was sanctioning hundreds of Russian firms, banks, manufacturers and individuals, specifically targeting entities that helped Russia evade sanctions on the one-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

### India ranks 42 among 55 countries on International IP Index



India ranks 42nd among 55 leading global economies on the International IP Index released by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce, according to which India is ripe to become a leader for emerging markets seeking to transform their economy through IP-driven innovation.

According to the report, which covers everything from patent and copyright laws to the ability to monetise IP assets and the ratification of international agreements, India has maintained continued strong efforts in copyright piracy through the issuing of “dynamic” injunction orders.

### First G20 Finance Ministers & Central Bank Governors meeting concludes in Bengaluru



The First G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting concluded in Bengaluru after adopting the Chair's Summary and Outcome document that laid the road map on the way forward.

The meeting concluded by reiterating its commitment to enhance international policy cooperation and steering the global economy towards securing strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

### B.V.R. Subrahmanyam joins as new Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog



B.V.R. Subrahmanyam has joined Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog on Saturday. Mr Subrahmanyam is an Indian Administrative Service Officer of 1987 batch.

He has held important assignments over the last three decades in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir, along with a stint at The World Bank. He has been Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Principal Secretary in Government of Chhattisgarh, and has held positions in the Prime Minister's Office.



### Indian Air Force contingent reaches in UAE to participate in Exercise Desert Flag VIII



An Indian Air Force contingent comprising of 110 Air Warriors reached at Al Dahfra airbase of United Arab Emirates for participating in Exercise Desert Flag VIII. The IAF would be participating with five Light Combat Aircraft, LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. This is the first occasion when the LCA Tejas will participate in an international flying exercise outside India.

Exercise Desert Flag is a multilateral air exercise in which Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea, and USA would also be participating. The exercise is scheduled from 27th of February to 17th of March.

### Lt Gen RS Reen takes over as Director General Quality Assurance



Lt Gen RS Reen took over as Director General Quality Assurance.

A 1986-batch officer, Lt Gen Reen is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. The Officer had completed his BE (Electrical) from the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, Specialisation in Radio Engineering and post-graduation in Communication Engineering from MC EME, Secunderabad. He was a senior faculty at the Defence Institute of Quality Assurance, Bengaluru.

## CGI organises Millet Food Festival cum Exhibition in Shanghai under IYOM 2023



Diplomatic Corps in Shanghai, China was all praise for the millets-based delicacies and the exhibition on 'International Year of Millets (IYOM) 2023' as diplomats from over 40 countries attended a grand 'Millet Food Festival cum Exhibition' organized by the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Shanghai.

FAO is the main UN agency to lead the IYOM 2023 celebrations worldwide. The UN General Assembly has declared the Year 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) for raising awareness about the health benefits of the grains and their suitability for cultivation under changing climatic conditions. The resolution for the International Year of Millet, adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly, was sponsored by India and supported by over 70 nations.

## Bank credit grows at 16.1% to Rs 134.17 trillion in Feb 10 fortnight



The banking system credit grew 16.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in the fortnight ended February 10 to Rs 134.17 trillion, latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

About a month ago (January 13 fortnight), credit growth stood at 16.5 per cent YoY.

The growth is significantly higher than the year-ago period when the banking system credit growth was hovering around the 9 per cent mark.

## Max Purcell crowned Bengaluru Open 2023 champion



Max Purcell landed his second ATP Challenger title within a week when he clinched the title at the Bengaluru Open 2023 at the KSLTA Stadium.

In an all-Australian final, Purcell emerged a 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5) winner over second-seeded James Duckworth.

It was the just culmination of the prestigious tournament, hosted by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) at the KSLTA Stadium in Bengaluru, which witnessed high-voltage action dished out by top players from more than 20 countries.

## Indian Greco Roman wrestler Ankit Gulia bags Bronze medal in Ibrahim Moustafa ranking series in Egypt



Indian Greco-Roman wrestler Ankit Gulia has won a bronze medal in the Ibrahim Moustafa ranking-series in Alexandria, Egypt.

The 19-year-old Ankit, who lost 9-0 to Georgian Otar Abuladze, got the better of Nurzhigit Keneshbek Uulu of Kyrgyzstan 9-0 in the repechage round.

The Indian grappler won the medal after Iranian 67kg Olympic champion Mohammadreza Abdolhamid Geraei withdrew from the bronze medal match due to an injury. Geraei suffered the injury in one of his earlier bouts.



### **Strandja Memorial International Boxing Tournament: Govind Kumar Sahani, Anamika and Anupama storm into finals**



Indian pugilists Govind Kumar Sahani, Anamika and Anupama stormed into the finals of the ongoing 74th Strandja Memorial International Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Govind was up against Luka Kublashvili of Georgia in the semi-finals of the men's 48kg category. The 2022 Asian championships bronze medallist put up a scintillating attacking display throughout the bout and emerged victorious against his opponent.