



Daily the Hindu News Paper Headlines 28-2-2022

1. TENSIONS SHOOT UP ON DAY 4 OF INVASION

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- Putin puts nuclear deterrent on alert
- Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his military command to put Russia's nuclear deterrent on high alert on Sunday in the face of a huge Western response to his war on Ukraine, which said it had repelled Russian ground forces nearing its biggest cities.
- The Ukrainian president's office said negotiations with Moscow without preconditions would be held at the Belarusian-Ukrainian border. The Kremlin said talks had started.

2. Ahead of IPO, Govt clears 20% FDI in LIC under automatic route

- The UNION Cabinet on Saturday cleared an amendment to the FDI Policy to allow foreign direct investment (FDI) up to 20 per cent under the "automatic route" in the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation. This comes ahead of its proposed initial public offer (IPO), which is expected to be the largest in the Indian capital markets so far.
- WITH just a month to go for the financial year to close, the government is doing all it requires to ensure that the LIC IPO is successful. Allowing FDI will ensure that foreign portfolio investors are able to purchase shares in the secondary market. It also sends a positive signal to investors.
- Since as per the **present FDI Policy**, the **FDI ceiling for public sector banks is 20 per cent on government approval route**, it has been decided to allow foreign investment up to 20 per cent for LIC and such other bodies corporate. Further, to expedite the capital raising process, such FDI has been kept on the automatic route, as is in the case of rest of the insurance sector.

3. What Russia stands to lose

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- Irrespective of how the Ukraine war ends, Putin may lose the plot.
- Prime Minister Modi's phone call to Putin urging the cessation of violence was also a departure from the past and may have helped deflect western pressure to take a more explicitly critical stance on the issue. What is more interesting is PM Modi's readiness to receive a call from the beleaguered Zelensky on February 26. Considering that Russia regards Zelensky as an illegitimate leader who it is trying to defeat and topple from power, PM Modi's gesture of sympathy, if not support, could hardly be welcome to it. India may be sensing the shift in international public opinion against Russia and adjusting its position accordingly.

4. THE ABSTENTION

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- India's nuanced position on Ukraine, seen in its stance on UNSC resolution, reflects the challenging terrain it stands on.
- India's abstention on the United Nations Security Council draft resolution "deploring in the strongest terms" Russia's invasion of Ukraine was in continuation of its balancing act on the crisis since the escalation began in January, keeping in mind its own interests, strategic imperatives and partnerships on both sides of the conflict.

5. So that the war doesn't hit us

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- It is important to reform the grain management cum food subsidy system to release precious resources for growth of agriculture. This should be combined with taking giant strides to raise productivity and producing more nutritious food while protecting the environment. The paradox of Indian policy making can be judged by looking at the Union budget for the 2022-23. It provides more than Rs 2 lakh crore for food subsidy while agri research and development gets a paltry Rs 8,500 crore — even though it's well known Agri-R&D gives a much higher return in terms of promoting growth with competitiveness, and reduces poverty by making food cheaper and controlling food inflation.

6. Why eastern Europe is popular with Indian medical students

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- All those who graduate from foreign medical education institutions are required to take a licentiate exam before they can practice medicine or pursue higher medical education in India. The test, called Foreign Medical Graduates Examination (FMGE), has a very low pass percentage.
- Among Indians waiting to be evacuated from Ukraine following the Russian invasion are students of medicine enrolled in colleges located across the country — from Kharkiv in the east to Lviv in the west. Ukraine and other eastern European countries like Romania and Bulgaria are popular destinations for Indian students pursuing medicine because of the easy entrance criteria in colleges there, relatively less competition, and the appeal of studying in Europe for less than what it would cost to study in private medical colleges in India.

7. The German Turn Around

- Germany's coming on board has been a central factor in the evolving united western front against Moscow — both on economic sanctions and the other punitive measures.
- As the US and the EU nations mount a series of punitive measures against Russia, there is indelible evidence of an about-face in the stance of one key Nato member — Germany. There are at least three major decisions over the past one week where Berlin has clearly marked a sharp reversal of its earlier stated positions, largely to accommodate the growing pressure from the allies as Russia moves its offensive deeper into Ukraine. Germany's coming on board has been a central factor in the evolving united western front against Moscow — both on economic sanctions and the other punitive measures.

8. The ISS, Russia's participation, and its threat to let it fall to Earth.

- AWIDELY circulated comment by the chief of Russia's space agency, Dmitry Rogozin, has ignited fears that the tension following Russia's invasion of Ukraine could have consequences for the International Space Station (ISS), the laboratory in space where the United States, Russia and some other countries work as partners.

9. West unleashes SWIFT bans on Russia

Page 15, The World

- The SWIFT system stands for the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication and is a secure platform for financial institutions to exchange information about global monetary transactions such as money transfers.