

## Thousands of Ukrainians flee to the borders seeking refuge amid crisis



As the Ukrainian crisis deepened, thousands have sought safety in the bordering nations of Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia. Long lines of cars and buses were backed up at checkpoints at the borders of these countries. The U.N. has estimated the conflict could produce as many as 4 million refugees. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said more than 520,000 refugees had fled Ukraine. In Poland, which has reported the most arrivals at more than 280,000, trains continued to bring refugees into the border town of Przemysl.

## European Parliament votes in favor of Ukraine's application for EU membership



The European Parliament voted in favor of making Ukraine a member of the European Union. European Parliament is one of the European Union's legislative branches. A total of 637 parliament members voted in favour of Ukraine joining the bloc, 13 voted against and 26 abstained. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said that the EU will work with Ukraine towards making it a member of the grouping. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has filed an application to join the EU, a day after he urged for fast-tracking admittance due to the Russian invasion. Being a member of the European Union, which has 27 members at present, would allow Ukrainians to move freely between the 27 countries.

### **Nepalese Parliament approves USD 500 million MCC aid despite China's persistent opposition**



Nepalese Parliament approved a \$500 million U.S. government aid program Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) overcoming domestic political divisions and objections from China. Nepal's Parliament ratified the contentious US-funded USD 500 million MCC Nepal compact along with an 'Interpretive Declaration' a day ahead of the February 28 deadline set by Washington, ending months of debates, protests and polarisation in Nepal. In the run up to the deadline of February 28, China repeatedly accused US of "coercive diplomacy" in Nepal.

### **Bangladesh signs agreement with ADB for two loans for USD 292 million**



The Government of Bangladesh signed two separate agreements with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for loans worth USD 292 million. The first loan worth USD 157 million is being provided to mitigate flood and riverbank erosion risks, strengthen climate resilience through structural and nonstructural interventions, and promote knowledge-based solutions along the Jamuna, Padma, and Ganges rivers in central Bangladesh. The ADB also approved an additional loan of USD 135 million to improve access to and quality of inclusive water supply services. It will help to promote environmentally sustainable surface water supply in Dhaka.

## **Power cut of record span in Sri Lanka**



Sri Lanka announced nationwide seven-and-a-half-hour daily power cuts, the longest in more than a quarter of a century, as its foreign exchange crisis leaves it unable to import oil. The Public Utilities Commission said it was a “black day” for the island nation as it approved the electricity rationing starting Wednesday with power stations running out of fuel.

## **Cash-strapped Egypt hikes Suez Canal transit fees for ships**



Cash-strapped Egypt increased transit fees for ships passing through the Suez Canal, one of the world’s most crucial waterways, with hikes of up to 10%, officials said. The Suez Canal Authority said on its website the increases were “in line with the significant growth in global trade” and cited the canal’s “development and enhancement of the transit service.”



### **At least 440 civilians killed in Sudan clashes, says UN**



At least 440 civilians died in brutal fighting between rival factions in southwestern South Sudan over just a few months last year, the United Nations said. The report comes on the heels of a warning by the United Nations last month that the world's youngest country risked a return to war, with bouts of interethnic violence and political infighting threatening to undo even the limited progress made in implementing a stuttering peace process.

### **12,000 Indian nationals have left Ukraine so far: Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla**



Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on Tuesday said 12 thousand Indian nationals have left Ukraine so far. Of the remaining 8 thousand, 4000 are in conflict zone and the others have either reached the western borders of Ukraine or are heading there. Briefing the media in New Delhi, he said there were an estimated 20 thousand Indians in Ukraine at the time of the release of the first advisory.

### **PM Modi calls for Indian Air Force to join Ukrainian evacuation efforts; IAF likely to deploy several C-17 aircraft**



In order to scale up ongoing evacuation efforts under Operation Ganga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for the Indian Air Force to join evacuation efforts. Leveraging the capacities of Indian Air Force will ensure that more people can be evacuated in a shorter time frame. It will also help deliver humanitarian aid more efficiently. Indian Air Force is likely to deploy several C-17 aircrafts as part of Operation Ganga.

### **Govt invites applications for National Startup Awards 2022**



The Union Government has invited applications for National Startup Awards 2022 across 17 sectors and 7 special categories. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has launched the third edition of the National Startup Awards. In line with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Awards will acknowledge startups and enablers who have been instrumental in revolutionising the development story of India. The 17 sectors include Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Construction, Drinking Water, Education and Skill Development, Energy, Enterprise Technology, Environment, and FinTech.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan**



President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a hub of medicinal herbs and plants 'Arogya Vanam' at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and First Lady Savita Kovind. The Arogya Vanam has been developed in a 6.6 acre area and it has 215 types of medicinal plants like Neem, Tulsi, Bel, Arand, Arjun, Ashwagandha and Harsingar. Aroma Garden, Lotus Pond, Water Channels, Yog Manch and a ViewPoint are also part of Arogya Vanam.

### **MoS for Education Annpurna Devi presents National ICT Awards to 49 teachers**



Union Minister of State for Education Annpurna Devi presented National ICT Awards to 49 teachers across the country. She informed that the Information and Communication Technology intervention under Samagra Shiksha also has a component to provide IT infrastructure to schools and Teacher Education Institutes

The MoS highlighted that the flagship projects to bridge the digital divide include DIKSHA, ePathshala, ICT Curriculum for teachers and students, School MOOCs on SWAYAM, PMeVIDYA and NISHTHA.



### GST collection crosses 1.30 lakh crore mark in February; 26% higher than GST revenues in Feb 2020



Finance Ministry said that more than one lakh 33 thousand crore rupees Gross GST Revenue was collected during the month of February which is 18 percent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and 26 percent higher than the GST revenues in February 2020. The ministry said that the GST collection has crossed one lakh 30 thousand crore mark for the fifth time so far.

### Ashneer Grover quits as BharatPe MD



Fintech firm BharatPe's MD Ashneer Grover resigned minutes after receiving an upcoming board meeting agenda, which included consideration of action against him based on the report submitted by advisory firm PwC.

## **Investments via P-note drop to Rs. 87,989 cr.**



Investments in capital market through participatory notes (P-notes) dropped to Rs. 87,989 crore at the end of January. Experts believe that foreign investors will continue with their negative stance amid Ukraine crisis. P-notes are issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

## **Mankind Pharma to acquire Panacea's formulations brands for Rs. 1,872 cr.**



Mankind Pharma will be acquiring pharmaceutical formulations brands of Panacea Biotec subsidiary Panacea Biotec Pharma, in India and Nepal, for ₹1,872 crore. Definitive agreements have been signed and the transaction is likely to be completed by March. The consolidated revenue of Panacea Biotech is Rs 634.78 crore.



### **Ukraine war will lift import bill, widen current account deficit**



The ongoing crisis in Ukraine is set to push the country's import bills beyond the \$600-billion mark this fiscal, given India's import dependence on crude oil, natural gas, gems and jewellery, edible oils and fertilizers, which can lead to a spike in inflation, wider current account deficit, and a falling rupee, India Ratings warned in a report. The rating agency said the ongoing geopolitical risks arising from the Russia-Ukraine war would push India's import bills higher for items such as mineral oils and gas, gems and jewellery, edible oils and fertilizers.

### **FM Nirmala Sitharaman to launch major e-governance initiative- Electronic Bill processing system**



Finance Minister Sitharaman will launch a major e-governance initiative - the Electronic Bill processing system as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system on the occasion of 46th Civil Accounts Day celebration in New Delhi. The Finance Ministry said the e-Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments. It said, this will be a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency, and a faceless- paperless payment system. The Ministry said that suppliers and contractors will now be able to submit their claim online which will be trackable in real-time basis.

### International Sport Federation World Cup: Saurabh Chaudhary bags Gold medal in 10m Air Pistol



In Shooting, Saurabh Chaudhary has clinched India's first gold medal at the International Sports Federation World Cup in Cairo, Egypt. He defeated Michael Schwald of Germany 16-6 in the gold medal match of the Men's 10m Air Pistol event.

### Russia excluded from women's Junior WC



The Fédération Internationale de Hockey, FIH joined the list of international sporting federations sanctioning Russia from scheduled competition following the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. The Russian women's team has been excluded from the upcoming Junior World Cup, to be held in Potchefstroom, South Africa, from April 1-12.

### Gritty South Africa draw Test series



South Africa outwitted and outplayed New Zealand in a crushing 198-run second Test victory to draw the two-match series 1-1. New Zealand, facing a record fourth-innings chase of 426 to win, was all out for 227, eight balls after tea on the final day.