



Daily the Hindu News Paper Headlines 17-2-2022

- 1. States can ease COVID curbs: Centre Page 1**
 - 'Economic activity should not be hampered by restrictions at entry points'
 - The Centre on Wednesday informed the States that they may review, amend or end additional COVID-19 restrictions as the cases are showing a declining trend across the nation since January 21, 2022.

- 2. NATO, U.S. sceptical of Russian troop pull out Page Gs 1 and 13**
 - 'Military build-up seems to be continuing around Ukraine'
 - Russia said on Wednesday more of its forces surrounding Ukraine were withdrawing but NATO joined the U.S. in saying it had yet to be convinced the pull-out was real.
 - India on Wednesday set up control rooms and released emergency phone numbers for students and professionals who are based in Ukraine. Informed sources also said that negotiations are under way to increase the number of flights between India and Ukraine to help in evacuating the Indian citizens. MEA official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Ukraine -based Indians and their relatives can reach out on the helpline.

- 3. A case for a more federal judiciary Editorial Page 8**
 - There is an imbalance now which the Supreme Court of India needs to address by empowering High Courts again.
 - The idea which lies at the bottom of federalism is that each of the separate States should have approximately equal political rights and thereby be able to maintain their non-dependent (for want of a better word) characteristics within the larger union.

- 4. After the Budget's 'crypto signal', India awaits reforms The Editorial Page 8**
 - In the Union Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a 30% flat tax rate levied on any gains made from the transfer of virtual assets including cryptocurrencies and Non-fungible Tokens (NFTs).
 - This prescient move amounts to effectively being a de facto affirmation of the role that cryptocurrency and related technologies could play in India's financial-cum-economic system. Foreseeable are changes that would, down the road, legitimise and formally legalise the activities of crypto start-ups and enable them to access the necessary support system which might not have been available previously. Such a statement also heralds reforms aimed at removing ambiguity among the relevant stakeholders.

- 5. India lacks solar waste handling policy. News page 12**
 - IRENA has estimated that global photovoltaic waste will touch 78 million tonnes by 2050.
 - The **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** last December estimated that the global photovoltaic waste will touch 78 million tonnes by 2050, with India expected to be one of the top five generators of such waste.

- 6. Helmet must for children under four News page 12**
 - Safety harness too required on rides.
 - A year from now, a safety harness and helmet will be compulsory for all children under the age of four riding pillion on a two-wheeler.
 - The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways issued a notification on February 15 to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, making the two safety equipment mandatory for children between the age of nine months and four years. The new rule comes into force one year after the notification

- 7. China slams Quad, AUKUS 'cliques' World Page 13**
 - China has equated the India, U.S., Australia, Japan Quad grouping with the **AUKUS (Australia, the U.K., the U.S.)** defence pact, calling both "exclusive cliques" part of the Biden administration's "ill-intentioned" Indo-Pacific strategy.
 - The U.S. strategy seeks 'to resurrect the Cold War mentality and bloc politics' .