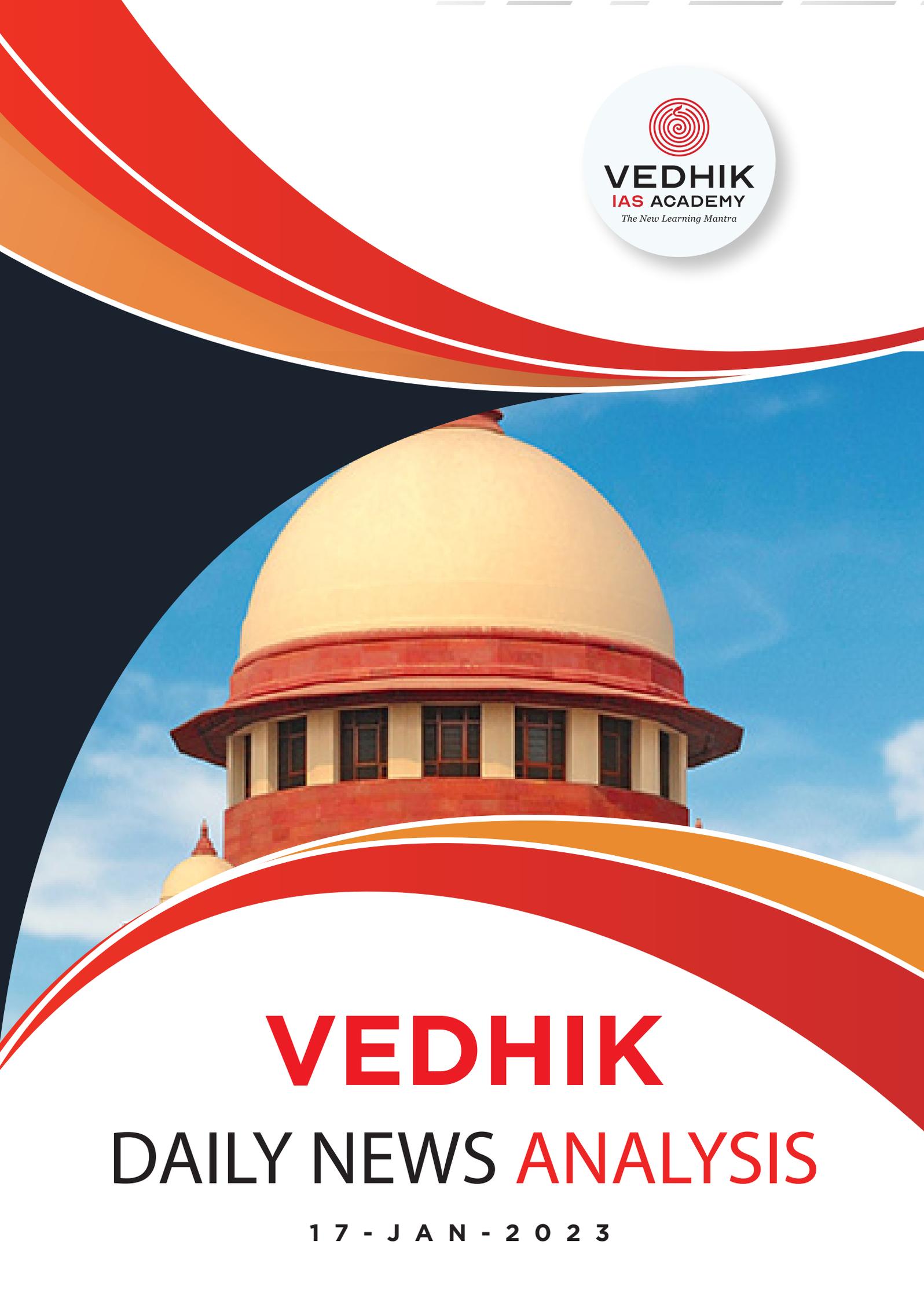




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DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS

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FOREWORD

We, at Team Vedhik is happy to introduce a new initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)_The Hindu" compilations to help you with UPSC Civil Services Examination preparation. We believe this initiative - "Vedhik - Daily News Analysis (DNA)_The Hindu " would help students, especially beginners save time and streamline their preparations with regard to Current Affairs. A content page and an Appendix has been added segregating and mapping the content to the syllabus.

It is an appreciable efforts by Vedhik IAS Academy helping aspirants of UPSC Civil Services Examinations. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Babu Sebastian, former VC - MG University in extending all support to this endeavour. Finally I also extend my thanks to thank Ms. Shilpa Sasidharan and Mr. Shahul Haameed for their assistance in the preparing the compilations.

We welcome your valuable comments so that further improvement may be made in the forthcoming material. We look forward to feedback, comments and suggestions on how to improve and add value for students. Every care has been taken to avoid typing errors and if any reader comes across any such error, the authors shall feel obliged if they are informed at their Email ID.

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As talks with Tamils drag on , Ranil pledges full implementation of 13th Amendment

The President has pledged to resolve the ethnic conflict before February 4 when Sri Lanka marks its 75th anniversary of Independence

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan government will “fully implement” the 13th Amendment, President Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Sunday, making a familiar promise to the Tamils on the nearly 40-year-old legislation guaranteeing a measure of power devolution to the island’s provinces.

“We hope to fully implement the 13th Amendment of the Constitution. Not only in the North but also in the South, the Chief Ministers are demanding that it

be implemented,” Mr. Wickremesinghe said, speaking at a Pongal event organised in Jaffna, in Sri Lanka’s Tamil-majority Northern Province.

His remarks come even as his government is engaged in talks with the Tamil political leadership to find a durable political solution to the civil war-scarred island nation’s long-pending national question. The President has pledged to resolve the ethnic conflict – tied to the historic demand of Sri Lanka’s Tamils for equality and self-determination – before February 4, 2023,



Ranil Wickremesinghe

when Sri Lanka marks its 75th anniversary of Independence.

‘No tangible action’

The Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the main

grouping representing Tamils in the north and east in Parliament, has participated in four rounds of discussions with the President since December 2022, including one last week. The Alliance has urged the government to fully implement the 13th Amendment, passed consequent to the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987, as a necessary first step while negotiating a final political settlement. With no movement on it so far, and little tangible action on its other urgent demands pertaining to land grabs in the north and east, prolonged detention

of political prisoners, and answers to enforced disappearances, the TNA said it has little hope left in the process.

Not the solution

On the President’s renewed promise to implement the 13th Amendment in full, TNA spokesman and Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran said several Presidents have “threatened to implement” it in the past. “That’s not the solution to the national question, implementing what is already in the Constitution is the least they can do. And they have not done

even that,” he said.

In the last meeting, the TNA presented a document of five specific actions that can be taken immediately in this regard, such as setting up a national land commission and provincial police forces; amending or reversing certain acts to restore power to the provincial councils; and giving provincial councils the necessary administrative powers to run schools and hospitals. “Let them take those steps first, otherwise we see no point in just continuing talks with the government,” Mr. Sumanthiran said.

Leading from front

India must amplify views of the Global South as president of the G20 summit

The Government's summit for developing nations, called the "Voice of the Global South Summit", as its first big leadership-level G20 event, is an extremely important signal. It is also a departure from New Delhi's looking towards the "high-table" of global leadership, involving its relationship with the UNSC P5 and G-7 (the most developed economies), to focusing on a more just view of the world and how the developing world is being affected by global inequities. In his opening remarks at the virtual summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi explained the reasons for the shift: how "challenges of the COVID pandemic, rising prices of fuel, fertilizer and foodgrains, and increasing geopolitical tensions have impacted our development efforts". External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar too spoke of India's need to envision a common future with the Global South and acknowledge India's "common past" with the Global South, many of whom have suffered colonialism. Over 10 different sessions, India and representatives of 125 countries, of the 134 that make up the G-77, agreed that the key issues include the fragmentation of the international landscape, shortages in grain exports, oil and gas, and fertilizer as a result of the Ukraine war, and terrorism. Of note was Mr. Modi's push for "human centred" globalisation countering the "first world's" view of expediting climate change goals at the cost of development, ensuring immigration and work mobility for skilled populations of the global south, and resilient renewable energy access. The summit appears to mark a reset in India's foreign policy outlook in its year as G20 president: one which has made the Government reclaim the true meaning of non-alignment, in the wake of the Ukraine war where it refused to take sides. Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi's visit to Cuba as it took over G77 chairpersonship (a grouping India has shunned) and the invitation to the President of Egypt, a NAM co-founder, as Republic Day chief guest were significant too.

Of note were some of the summit's exclusions: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Of note too was the inclusion of Myanmar, whose junta regime has not been recognised but with which India has chosen to forge closer ties. It is hoped that the collective South-South understanding of global issues will lead to a more inclusive meeting at the summit level, particularly with reference to South Asian and the subcontinent's regional problems. It is also of note that the grouping did not release a common or joint statement, and much of the narrative on outcomes is built on what Mr. Modi and Mr. Jaishankar said. For India to be heard as the 'Voice of the Global South at the G20', it must reflect on the aspirations of the other nations and amplify them, as a true leader of the developing world at the G20 summit later this year.

The Delhi CM-LG stalemate continues

What is the recent flashpoint between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena? What happened during the mayoral elections? Has communication between the two parties completely broken down? What are the other events which have promoted discord between the CM and the LG?

EXPLAINER

Jaideep Deo Bhanj

The story so far:

The recent flashpoint between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena was triggered ahead of the January 6 election of the Mayor and deputy Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). AAP has accused the LG of issuing orders on “practically everything” and bypassing the elected government.

What happened?

The LG appointed Satya Sharma, a BJP councillor, to preside over the mayoral polls issuing a gazette notification for the same. The AAP alleged that the LG had bypassed the tradition of nominating or appointing the senior-most councillor as the presiding officer and has also bypassed the elected government’s recommendation. The LG also nominated 10 aldermen to the MCD who were persons who needed to have “special knowledge or experience in municipal administration”. The AAP said that the aldermen had political links to the BJP and accused the LG of giving them voting rights in the mayoral polls, which is prohibited according to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. The first meeting of the newly-elected House of the MCD ended with councillors of the AAP and BJP coming to blows.

What does the AAP allege?

Mr. Kejriwal has accused Mr. Saxena of issuing orders on “practically every” subject directly to the Chief Secretary who gets them implemented, completely bypassing the elected government. In a letter to the LG, Mr. Kejriwal said that barring the three reserved subjects of police, public order and land, executive control over all other subjects (transferred subjects) lies with the elected government but the LG has been issuing orders on these subjects and having them implemented by the bureaucracy. The AAP’s stand is that the Supreme



At loggerheads: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Deputy CM Manish Sisodia protesting Delhi LG's cancellation of the teacher training proposal. ANI

Court has said that the LG is bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers on all transferred subjects. He can only invoke Article 239AA (4) of the Constitution if he differs with the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Where does the LG stand?

Replying to letters written to him, accusing him of bypassing the elected government, by Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Saxena said that there are Constitutional provisions, Statutes and Acts that outline the multi-layered scheme of administration in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi that emanated out of serious deliberations in the Constituent Assembly, State Reorganisation Commission, and Parliament of India, interpreted by various Supreme Court judgments.

His office released a statement with a point by point rationale for taking decisions that were pointed out by Mr. Kejriwal and said that these decisions were taken

by him as he was the “administrator of NCT of Delhi”.

Do the LG and CM not meet regularly?

The LG and the Chief Minister are supposed to have weekly meetings every Friday. However, since October, these meetings have not taken place with the LG accusing the Chief Minister of not being available as he was busy with election campaigns in other States. Mr. Kejriwal met the LG after a long gap on January 13 but the meeting ended in a stalemate.

What are the other flashpoints?

Alice Vaz, Secretary, Information and Publicity, Delhi Government, has issued a notice to the Convenor of AAP to recover ₹164 crore spent on political advertisements of the Delhi Government that were published in the garb of government advertisements. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Central govern-

ment was misusing its control over officers through the “services department” to target AAP and its leaders in false cases. He questioned why bureaucrats of other States which advertise in newspapers outside their State do not send recovery notices to their Chief Ministers. The LG had directed the chief secretary to recover this money in December last year.

The LG also sent back a file from the government seeking permission to send teachers from Delhi government schools on an international teacher training programme to Finland, asking for a cost-benefit analysis. The Delhi Government saw this as a direct attack on its education model questioning why the LG was not approving a proposal that has been made by the elected government which had won a clear majority to fulfill the aspirations of the people of Delhi. The LG’s office said it had not stopped the proposal but had asked for a cost-benefit analysis.

THE GIST

The recent flashpoint between Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena was triggered ahead of the January 6 election of the Mayor and deputy Mayor of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

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Mr. Saxena said that there are Constitutional provisions, Statutes and Acts that outline the multi-layered scheme of administration in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi. His office released a statement with a point by point rationale for taking these decisions, as he was the “administrator of NCT of Delhi”.

This is an 'address' of great constitutional importance

The Governor of Tamil Nadu, in the customary Governor's address to Members of the Tamil Nadu Assembly (on January 9, the first session for 2023), skipped an important and politically significant paragraph, which has stirred up a hornet's nest of controversy in the State.

The paragraph in question referred to the Dravidian model of governance which has great political and cultural significance especially in Tamil Nadu. The present Governor is known to have no emotional link with the concept of a Dravidian model of governance or politics or its rich cultural past (evident in his speeches and observations), which is understandable. The issue here is not one of the Governor's personal likes or dislikes of a particular political ideology or a cultural tradition, but whether the constitutional authority can deviate from well-established and mandatory constitutional practices while performing a constitutional function.

It is a complete address

Article 176 of the Constitution requires the Governor to mandatorily address the Members of legislature at the commencement of the first session of each year and to inform them of the causes of its summons. Clause two says that the legislature will discuss the matters referred to in such an address. The "address" here means the complete address and not a truncated or garbled version. Therefore, what the Governor reads before the legislators is a complete address whose entire contents are to be mandatorily discussed by the legislators in the House.

Here, the Constitution gives a specific direction to the House to find time to discuss the contents of the Governor's address. It is of special significance that the Constitution nowhere else says that the legislature must make rules for the allotment of time to discuss a particular matter other than the address by the Governor under Article 176. This underscores the importance the Constitution attaches to such an address by the Governor.

It will become more clear when we consider Article 175 which says that the Governor may address the legislature and for that purpose require the attendance of the members. The Governor's address under Article 175 is not a mandatory address unlike under Article 176. Article 175 does not speak about any discussion of the content of such an address; but Article 176 requires a discussion on the matters contained in the Governor's address. The reason behind the Constitution making such a distinction in two addresses by the same constitutional authority,



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The mandatory address the Governor of a State makes under Article 176 is about only the policies and the programmes of the elected government, so wilfully not reading certain portions goes against the mandate of the said Article

namely the Governor, to the same Members of the legislature, is that the address under Article 176 contains the policies and programmes of the elected government of the State which is accountable to the legislature. Executive accountability to the elected representatives of the people is the essence of parliamentary democracy.

So, through the address which the Governor is mandated to give at the commencement of the first session of each year, the government informs the legislature of its major legislative programmes for that year, its achievements in the previous year, and a clear outline of its developmental programmes for the future. These programmes and policies of the government are conveyed to the legislature through the Governor. Thus, the address under Article 176 assumes great importance.

Content by the government

When the Constitution has accorded such importance to this address, can the Governor ignore it and skip certain paragraphs of the address or add anything of his own? Skipping paragraphs of the address would simply mean that the Governor does not approve or agree with those ideas. Anyone who is familiar with the constitutional system in India knows that the address the Governor gives under Article 176 is the address prepared by the government. It does not contain any of the personal views of the Governor but only the policies and the programmes of the elected government. The government alone is responsible for the content of the address and not the Governor. The Governor cannot change a word on his own. So, by wilfully not reading certain portions of the address the Governor has gone against the mandate of Article 176. It is another matter if the Governor is not able to read the whole speech because of a ruckus created by Members of the Assembly. But the Governor cannot wilfully skip paragraphs of the address because the Constitution does not permit him to disagree with the matters contained in the address or interpose his own views therein.

The actions by Governors in some of the Opposition-ruled States have often come under critical scrutiny. Sitting on a Bill passed by the Assembly without exercising any of the options given by the Constitution, and thus frustrating the entire legislative exercise, is clearly against the mandate of the Constitution. The Constitution does not give the Governor the option to sit on a Bill passed by the Assembly. But the Governors seem to assume that since it does not lay down any time frame for assent to a Bill they can sit on

it without exercising any of the options contained in Article 200. This is a gross misreading of the constitutional provision. Article 200 requires the Governor to either give assent or withhold assent or send the Bill back to the Assembly for reconsideration, in which case if the Assembly passes it again in the same form without any change the Governor has to give assent to it. He can also send the Bill for the consideration of the President in some rare cases. Thus, Article 200 clearly shows that the Governor cannot sit on a Bill and thus frustrate the legislative exercise done by the Assembly. In Britain it is unconstitutional for the King to withhold assent to a Bill passed by Parliament.

An open challenge now

All these problems arise now because of an inexplicable effort to question and challenge long-established constitutional positions. Governors have suddenly become pro active and have begun to openly challenge and criticise Chief Ministers and State governments. Some Governors are even holding press conferences to attack Chief Ministers. Gubernatorial displeasure is being openly expressed. Bills pile up in Raj Bhavans without any decision being taken. From *Shamsher Singh (1974)* to *Nabam Rebia (2016)*, the Supreme Court has consistently held that Governors can act only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and cannot exercise any executive powers independently ignoring the elected government. In the *Nabam Rebia* case, the Court has said "... such a nominee, cannot have an overriding authority, over the representatives of the people, who constitute the House or Houses of the State Legislature (on being duly elected from their respective constituencies) and/or even the executive Government functioning under the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head."

B.R. Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly: "If the Constitution remains in principle the same, as we intend that it should be, that the Governor should be a purely constitutional Governor, with no power of interference in the administration of the province,"

The Supreme Court had in *Shamsher Singh* said, "The Constitution does not aim at providing a parallel administration within the State by allowing the Governor to go against the advice of the Council of Ministers."

These are voices of wisdom which should be heeded to if we want to preserve the integrity of the system. If constitutional authorities wilfully cross the line and over strain the system, democracy will be in peril.

SC to hear petitions against marital rape from March 21

CJI asks Union government to file its affidavit on or before February 15; Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta says the case has not only legal ramifications but also widespread social impact

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will begin hearing a series of petitions seeking to criminalise marital rape from March 21.

A three-judge Bench led by the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, directed the Union of India to file its response in an affidavit. The Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, said the case not only has legal ramifications but also widespread social impact. He said the Centre even invited the States to give their views two or three months ago.

The court asked the go-



A man is a man; an act is an act; rape is a rape, be it performed by a man, the 'husband', on the woman, 'wife'

KARNATAKA HIGH COURT

vernment to file its affidavit on or before February 15.

The Karnataka High Court had earlier held that a man was liable to be charged for rape under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) if he had forcible sex with his wife. The Karnataka government had supported the High Court judgment in an affidavit in the apex court subsequently.

Exception Two to Section 375 of the IPC decriminalises marital rape and holds that sexual intercourse by a man with his wife, who is not under 18 years of age, without her consent, is not rape.

"A man is a man; an act is an act; rape is a rape, be it performed by a man, the 'husband', on the woman, 'wife';" the Karnataka High

Court had observed in its decision.

A Division Bench of the Delhi High Court had, in May 2022, delivered a split verdict in a separate case on the identical issue. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, who headed the two-judge Bench, struck down as unconstitutional the Exception Two to Section 375 of the IPC.

Mr. Mehta asked the CJI whether the apex court should wait till a three-judge Bench of the Delhi High Court delivered its decision in the case. But the CJI said the apex court already had the benefit of the crystallised views of two judges and would go forward and hear the petitions.

Why is Kerala opposing the new Electricity Rules?

What is Rule 14 in the new Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022? How are consumers going to be affected by the amended rules? Why is the State government blaming the Centre?

Tiki Rajwi

The story so far:

The gazette notification on the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, came out on December 29. Ever since the Union Power Ministry shared the draft rules with the States last August, the CPI(M)-led government in Kerala had fiercely objected to Rule 14 which permits distribution companies (Discoms) to automatically recover from consumers, on a monthly basis, the expenses arising out of variations in fuel price and power purchase costs.

What are the new rules?

The Centre introduced the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, to amend the Electricity Rules, 2005. Rule 14 of the Rules requires the State electricity regulatory commission to specify a price

adjustment formula for automatically passing on the costs through the consumer tariff on a monthly basis. "Fuel and power purchase adjustment surcharges shall be calculated and billed to consumers, automatically, without going through the regulatory approval process, on a monthly basis, according to the formula, prescribed by the respective State Commission," it says.

What has been Kerala's stand?

The State government has argued that giving Discoms the freedom to automatically pass on the aforementioned costs through the electricity bill endangers consumer interests. The amendment spawns an "unstable pricing situation" in the power sector, akin to that of petrol and diesel prices. Consumers would be subjected, quite unfairly, to frequent price fluctuations, it

said. It further observed that the crucial role played by the State Electricity Commission in fixing the surcharge would get diluted. Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty declared that his department would seek legal advice on how best to enforce the rules without burdening the consumers of the state-run Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). On January 11, Mr. Krishnankutty blamed the Centre for ignoring the State's stand and going ahead with the amendment.

What is the role of regulator?

Until now, KSEB would file petitions for collecting the thermal fuel surcharge before the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission on a quarterly basis. Since Kerala produces only 30% of its electricity demand within its borders, the power purchase expenditure, especially during the summer months

when demand soars, is quite substantial. In the normal course of things, the Commission finalises a decision on the KSEB plea after holding a public hearing. According to the State government, doing away with this prudence check would put the general public at the receiving end.

What next?

With the Centre notifying the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, Mr. Krishnankutty convened a high-level meeting on January 10 to discuss measures to be adopted in the State. He directed the Power department to examine whether potential tariff fluctuations arising out of the new arrangement can be balanced through reduced tariffs during the State's extended monsoon months when power purchases and consumption levels are on the lower side. During rainy seasons, hydropower generation is high, meeting over 50% of the demand. The Minister has also suggested that, in the remaining months, power purchase costs should be kept to a minimum to avoid burdening the consumers. But experts argue that such safeguards would only work in a situation where a State-run entity like the KSEB is at the helm of things. They state the real concern lies in the future when they could get dumped in a scenario where private players enter electricity distribution in Kerala.

THE GIST

▼ The gazette notification on the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, came out on December 29.

▼ Rule 14 of the new rules permits distribution companies (Discoms) to automatically recover from consumers, on a monthly basis, the expenses arising out of variations in fuel price and power purchase costs.

▼ Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty declared that his department would seek legal advice on how best to enforce the rules without burdening the consumers of the state-run Kerala State Electricity Board.

Rijiju seeks govt. nominees in court collegiums, writes to CJI

In a letter, Law Minister seeks formation of a search-and-evaluation panel, which will have govt. representatives, to shortlist and suggest names to collegiums for judgeships in constitutional courts; Jairam Ramesh calls move 'poison pill for judiciary'

Sandeep Phukan
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In a clear indication that the Narendra Modi government is determined to restructure the collegium system of appointments to the higher judiciary, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud to suggest a nominee of the Union government in the Supreme Court Collegium and a State representative in each of the High Court collegiums.

The four-page letter has raised a long list of complaints and sought the formation of a search-and-evaluation committee, which will have government representatives, to suggest names to the collegiums for appointment as judges in constitutional courts.

The letter is a fresh salvo by the Law Minister after recent statements by the Vice-President and the Lok Sabha Speaker against the collegium system. The letter coincides with the fact that Collegium recommendations for appointment of five Supreme Court judges lie pending with the government.



 This is precise follow-up action of the direction of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench while striking down the NJAC Act.

KIREN RIJIJU
Union Law Minister

The government's fresh move prompted Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh to allege that the government wants the judiciary to be "subservient". He called it a "poison pill for the judiciary".

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called the move "extremely dangerous", and said there should be no government interference in judicial appointments.

"I hope you honour Court's direction! This is precise follow-up action of the direction of the Supreme Court Constitution Bench while striking down the National Judicial Appointment Commission (NJAC) Act. The SC Constitution Bench had directed to restructure the MoP (Memorandum of Procedure) of the collegium system," Mr. Rijiju tweeted in response to Mr. Kejriwal.

The Law Minister's letter

found fault with a Supreme Court judgment in 2021 which had given the government maximum 18 weeks to process the names forwarded to the Law Ministry by the High Courts and send them to the Supreme Court Collegium for final approval.

This came as a surprise as, on January 6, Attorney-General R. Venkataramani had informed a Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul that the government would adhere to timelines fixed by the court to process recommendations for judicial appointments.

Calling the escalation in confrontation between the judiciary and the government as "orchestrated", Mr. Ramesh said, "The collegium needs reform. But what this government wants is complete subservience".

"How is it possible @KirenRijiju ji in the teeth of

NJAC judgment of SC!! Though there are inherent issues in the collegium system, but the reigning sentiment in the country is to protect the independence of judiciary," Congress Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha said in a tweet.

Drafting of MoP

The underlying message in the Law Minister's letter is that the government is still not done with drafting the MoP for judicial appointments. It has been seven years since a Constitution Bench, in October 2015, struck down the NJAC that had given the government an equal role in judicial appointments. In the NJAC verdict, the court had asked the government to work, in consultation with the collegium, on evolving a more transparent and accountable MoP.

A revised draft MoP was sent to the then CJI by the government first on March 22, 2016 for the response of the collegium. After exchange of notes with the government, the collegium sent its final response to the MoP on March 13, 2017.

However, the government had rekindled communication with the collegium on July 4, 2017. The

immediate trigger was the Supreme Court's *suo motu* contempt action against Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan, and his six months' prison sentence.

The government's July 2017 letter referred to remarks from no less than two judges on the Bench that Karnan's case was an ideal example of the failure of the collegium system to make a "correct assessment of the personality" of people under scanner for judgeships.

The July 2017 letter figures prominently in the current missive of the Law Minister to buttress the argument for more prominent government representation in the appointments' process.

The Supreme Court said it would follow the collegium system as long as the NJAC verdict remains the law. Parliament was free to introduce a new law, but it would be subject to judicial review.



Explained | Why is the NJAC verdict at the centre of the impasse over appointment of judges?

bit.ly/SCcollegiumsystem

Balance fiscal consolidation with growth

As the number of COVID-19 cases subsided, 2022-23 was expected to be a normal year. However, this hope was shattered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The supply of critical imports was disrupted and, as a consequence, the prices of such imports increased sharply, derailing many economies. Growth slowed down, and India was affected too. While India's performance was relatively better than many other countries, the return to normalcy has been delayed. Even at the currently projected growth rate, India's GDP at the end of the present fiscal year will only be 8.57% higher than its level in 2019-20, giving an average of 2.86% for three years. India needs to move on to a high growth path beginning 2023-24. In this context, what should be the focus of the upcoming Budget to achieve steady, high growth with reasonable price stability?

Growth performance

In 2022-23, real Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated to grow by 6.7%. Its sectoral decomposition indicates that every output sector has turned positive as compared to the corresponding magnitudes in the pre-COVID-19 year of 2019-20. In other words, the 2023-24 Budget would pertain to the first normalised economy after the pandemic shock. The expectation is that nominal GDP in 2023-24 may be close to ₹300 lakh crore. This is based on applying a nominal growth of about 11-11.5%, which implies the assumption of a real growth in the range of 6-6.5% and a deflator-based inflation in the range of 4.5-5%. It may be noted that real growth in the second half of 2022-23 is only 5.5% as per the advance estimates.

The policy response to the COVID-19 shock, which affected 2020-21, was a sharp increase in the Centre's fiscal deficit to 9.2% of the GDP. This was more than three times the original Fiscal Responsibility and Budget



C. Rangarajan

is former Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India



D.K. Srivastava

is Chief Policy Advisor, EY India, and former Director, Madras School of Economics. Views are personal

A careful calibration would be required for limiting revenue expenditure growth in order to retain space for capital expenditure to grow adequately

Management Act (FRBM) norm of 3%. In the two succeeding years, fiscal deficit could be reduced to 6.7% and 6.4%, respectively. With 2023-24 being the first genuine post COVID-19 normal year, it would be best to spell out a convincing path towards the prescribed fiscal deficit ratio of 3%. This calls for a total adjustment of 3.4 percentage points of GDP. Given this task, a reduction of at least 0.7 percentage points may be targeted for 2023-24.

There is, however, a need to recognise the challenges to India's growth prospects in view of the global economic slowdown. Multilateral institutions have projected global growth prospects and India's growth prospects for 2023-24. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has projected a growth rate of 2.2% for the global economy in 2023 and 5.7% for India in 2023-24. The International Monetary Fund, on the other hand, has projected global growth at 2.7% and India's growth at 6.1%. India may be able to achieve a growth in the range of 6-6.5% in 2023-24, provided significant policy support is given to growth.

Saving-investment balance

The need for correction in the government's fiscal deficit primarily arises because of the relative profile of savings and investment as a proportion of GDP. Financial savings along with net inflow of foreign capital provide the extent of surplus available for the potential net deficit sectors in the economy, which consists of the public sector (government and non-government) and the private sector. Financial savings in the household sector had averaged 7.9% of GDP from 2017-18 to 2019-20 before it increased inordinately to 11.6% in 2020-21 due to an upsurge in the precautionary motive in the COVID-19 year.

If we target a reduction of 0.7%

point in fiscal deficit in 2023-24 as compared to 2022-23, the resultant fiscal deficit of 5.7% of GDP would imply availability of investible resources of 1.1% of GDP for both the private corporate sector and the non-government public sector. This can be financed by a household sector financial saving of about 8% of GDP and net inflow of foreign capital of 2.3% of the GDP assuming that States are allowed a fiscal deficit of 3.5% of the GDP in 2023-24. This balancing would not put any additional pressure on interest rates and would be ideal for sustaining a robust medium-term growth with price stability. Bringing down fiscal deficit and charting out a glide path are essential for maintaining price stability. The pressure on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to expand reserve money will come down.

Fiscal prospects

We expect that growth in the Centre's Gross Tax Revenues (GTR) in 2023-24 would be less than that in 2022-23. This is because of an expected fall in both real GDP growth and deflator-based inflation. Assuming a nominal growth of about 11.5% and a buoyancy of 1 in 2023-24, the Centre's GTR may be estimated at ₹34.8 lakh crore while its net tax revenue would amount to ₹24.4 lakh crore. Together with non-tax revenues and non-debt capital receipts, total resources available to the Central government would be nearly ₹28.3 lakh crore. If a fiscal deficit of 5.7% of GDP is added, total expenditure may have to be limited to ₹45.7 lakh crore. This is only about 6.3% higher than the estimated total expenditure for 2022-23.

Fiscal support to growth would call for continuing emphasis on capital expenditure. A careful calibration would be required for limiting revenue expenditure growth in order to retain space for capital expenditure to grow adequately with a view to supporting growth.

Exports drop by 12.2% in a year on slow demand

The country exported goods worth \$34.48 billion in December 2022, a rise from November's \$32-billion figure; imports contracted 3.5% to \$58.2 billion from \$60.33 billion a year ago

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

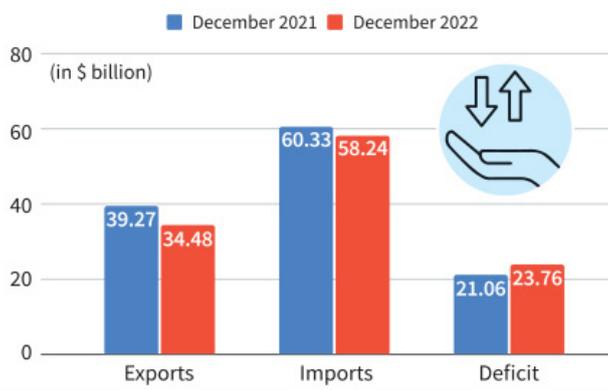
India exported goods worth \$34.48 billion in December 2022, constituting a 7.75% rise from November's \$32 billion figure but a steep 12.2% dip from a year ago, amid slowing global demand. Imports also contracted 3.5% to \$58.2 billion from \$60.33 billion a year ago.

This is the second time in three months that the value of outbound merchandise shipments has tanked year-on-year. In October 2022, goods exports had dropped 16.7% to slip below the \$30 billion mark for the first time in 21 months, and risen a mere 0.6% in November.

Consequently, the country's merchandise trade deficit eased slightly from just under \$24 billion in

Widening deficit

Trade deficit widened by 12.8% to \$23.76 bn in Dec. 2022 from the year-ago period. Exports shrank by 12.2%, which the Commerce Ministry also attributes to the base effect



November to \$23.76 billion in December, remaining under the \$25 billion mark for the second month in a row after five months of \$25 billion-plus deficits, including the record \$30 billion deficit in July 2022.

Stressing that the 'high base effect' from December 2021 was at work too, the Commerce and Industry Ministry pointed out that merchandise exports stood at \$39.27 billion that month, marking the se-

cond highest monthly merchandise and services exports during 2021-22.

"Global growth forecasts indicate downturn in global economic activity and trade. As per Global Composite Purchasing Managers' Index report (January 2023), new export orders have been contracting for the tenth successive month in December," the Ministry said in a statement.

"The sequential improvement in exports due to pre-holiday shipments was not enough to stave off a year-on-year contraction in December," Aditi Nayar at ICRA said. Softer prices of some commodities have helped rein in imports and stabilised the trade deficit, she noted.

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Exports drop by 12.2% in a year on slow demand

“We believe the current account deficit has likely peaked in the second quarter of 2022-23, and foresee a moderation to \$25-29 billion each in the subsequent two quarters,” Ms. Nayar reckoned.

Despite a dip in two months, merchandise exports in the first nine months of 2022-23 are still 9.1% higher than a year ago at \$332.76 billion. Goods imports, on the other hand, are up 25% at \$551.7 billion.

Shipments from as many as 19 of 30 major exporting sectors shrank in December, including cotton yarn and handlooms (-40.4%), handicrafts (-36.9%), petroleum products (-26.9%), plastic and linoleum (-26.23%), gems and jewellery (-15.2%).

Engineering goods exports, the mainstay of India’s exports in recent years, dropped nearly 12% from \$10.3 billion a year ago to little over \$9 billion in December 2022. Overall engineering exports are down 3% so far in 2022-23 following six consecutive months of contraction.

Readymade garments

Exports from the employment-intensive ready-made garments (RMG) sectors grew a mere 1.02% in December and the Ministry attributed the woes of the textiles sector, especially cotton yarn ‘to the continuous price rise of raw materials throughout 2022’. “Exports of Indian textile apparels and RMG textiles got a major hit due to recessionary trend in major economies,” it said.

“Given the cumulative growth until December 2022 and the indicators of the slowdown in global economic activity, there is cautious optimism on international trade in the last quarter of the current financial year,” the Ministry said.

RBI moots 'expected loss-based' model for provisioning by banks

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday proposed a framework for adoption of an expected loss-based approach for provisioning by banks in India.

Banks would be allowed to design and implement their own models for measuring expected credit losses for the purpose of estimating loss provisions in line with the proposed principles. However, to mi-

To mitigate concerns around model risk and variability that may arise, the RBI will issue guidance

tigate the concerns relating to model risk and the significant variability that may arise, the RBI said in a discussion paper that it would issue broad guidance that must be considered by banks while designing credit risk models.

States' gross fiscal deficit may dip to 3.4% this year from 4.1% in FY20: RBI study

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The fiscal health of States has improved from a sharp, pandemic-induced deterioration in 2020-21 on the back of a broad-based economic recovery and high revenue collections, according to an RBI study.

The gross fiscal deficit of States is budgeted to decline from 4.1% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020-21 to 3.4% in 2022-23, the study showed.

While States' debt is expected to ease to 29.5% of GDP in 2022-23 against 31.1% in 2020-21, it is still higher than the 20% recommended by the N.K. Singh Committee for reviewing FRBM Act, in 2018, warranting prioritisation of debt consolidation.

Productive capacities

Going forward, increased allocations for sectors such as health and education can help expand productive capacities if States

mainstream capital planning rather than treating them as first stops for budgetary cutbacks.

“It is worthwhile to consider creating a capex buffer fund during good times when revenue flows are strong so as to maintain expenditure flows through the economic cycle.

“To crowd in private investment, the State governments may continue to focus on creating a congenial ecosystem for the private sector to thrive.”

Wholesale inflation slides to 22-month low at 4.95%

Fuel and power only category to record acceleration in price rise in December, from 17.35% in November to 18.1%; the food category moderated from 2.2% to 0.65%, government data show

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's wholesale price inflation slipped to a 22-month low of 4.95% in December 2022 from 5.85% in November, fostering hopes of further easing in the price rise faced by consumers, as producers may slow down the pass-through of input costs at the retail level.

This is the second month in a row that wholesale inflation has been lower than retail inflation, which came in at 5.88% in

Cooling prices

Dipping wholesale inflation may ease price pressures faced by consumers, as producers may slow down pass-through of costs



- This is the second month in a row that wholesale inflation has been lower than retail inflation
- Wholesale inflation had hit a record high of 16.63% in May 2022 and was above the 10% mark for 18 successive months till September
- December's wholesale rate was also aided by base effect

November and 5.72% for December.

Wholesale inflation had hit a record high of 16.63%

in May 2022 and was above the 10% mark for 18 successive months till September 2022. December's whole-

sale inflation rate was also aided by the base effect as it had touched a steep 14.3% a year earlier.

Fuel and power is the only category to record an acceleration in price rise from 17.35% in November to 18.1%. Food and primary articles moderated sharply from 2.2% to 0.65% and 5.5% to 2.4%, respectively.

If commodity prices do not rebound strongly, wholesale inflation could clock in at 4.5%-4.9% in January, before easing to below 2% by March, said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.



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Plagiarism and malicious intent: does ChatGPT have an ethics problem?

While cybersecurity experts are concerned about the chatbot correcting and enhancing nefarious code and even writing phishing emails, teachers and academicians are worried about the bot's impact on written assignments

John Xavier

In November 2022, OpenAI opened to users its most recent and powerful AI chatbot, ChatGPT, to test its capability. It amazed netizens all over the world with its range of answering questions across disciplines. The search interface could also generate fixes for broken code. The bot continues to attract diverse people to run experimental questions.

However, some users have been testing the bot's capability to do nefarious things. Illicit actors have tried to bypass the tool's safeguards and carry out malicious use cases with varying degrees of success.

Research outlet ArsTechnica shared some exchanges between several forum users and ChatGPT. These users claimed the chatbot helped them write malicious code even though they claimed to be amateurs.

ChatGPT is programmed to block obvious requests of writing phishing emails or code for hackers.

While it can close the gates for amateur coders looking to build malware, the more seasoned ones could trick the bot into correcting or enhancing malicious code they have partially developed.

They could get through the system by phrasing their request in an innocuous way.

A malicious code generator?

OpenAI notes that asking its bot for illegal or phishing content may violate its content policy. But for someone trespassing such policies, the bot provides a starting point. Cybersecurity firm Check Point's researchers tested the bot by asking it to draft a phishing email for a fictional web-hosting firm. In response, ChatGPT gave an impressive 'phishing email'. The generated reply included a warning that read: "This content may violate our content policy. If you believe this to be in error, please submit your feedback – your input will aid our research in this area."

While surreptitiously asking ChatGPT to write malware is one problem, another issue several coders face is the inherently buggy code (buggy code refers to code which either already has bugs in it or is written in a way that will introduce bugs in the future) the bot spews out. Things have gotten so bad that Stack Overflow, a forum for software programmers, banned its users from using any AI-generated code on the platform. Check Point researchers also tested the bot on multiple scripts with slight variations using different wordings. They note that large language models (LLM) can be easily automated to launch complicated attack processes to generate other malicious artefacts.

"Defenders and threat hunters should be vigilant and cautious about adopting this [ChatGPT] technology quickly, otherwise, our community will be one step behind the attackers," the company noted.

Plagiarism alert

Teachers and academicians have also expressed concerns over ChatGPT's impact on written assignments. They note that the bot could be used to turn in plagiarised essays that could be hard to detect for time-pressed invigilators. Most recently, New York City's education department banned ChatGPT in its public schools. The authorities have forbidden the bot's use in all devices and network connected to schools. It is not that plagiarism is a new problem in academic institutions; ChatGPT has changed the way AI is used to create new content. This makes it hard to single out copied content. "It's definitely different than traditional copy paste plagiarism. What we've noticed with AI writing, like these GPT models, is that they write in a statistically vanilla way," Eric Wang, VP, Artificial Intelligence at plagiarism detection firm Turnitin said.

Humans write based on metrics called "burstiness" and "surprise," while LLMs essentially fill in words based on a probability model. "They choose the

most probable word in the most probable location far more often than a human writer," Mr. Wang explained. When the bot is controlled for these two metrics, the probability of a word in a particular spot jumps up and down, and is all over the place. Humans tend to deviate while writing, but models like GPT deviate much less on average. Turnitin's plagiarism detectors "can cue in that type of behaviour pretty reliably. And we have in the labs, detectors that are working quite well in terms of understanding student writing, versus GPT," Mr. Wang claimed. But there could be fewer such deviations in a more formal essay as such assignments demand a certain type of logical flow, which could be similar to a GPT-style response. So, in a scenario where the answers coming from a human and ChatGPT are in a similar zone, a different kind of pedagogy could help. Perhaps, looking beyond summarisation and reporting based on what is available on the Internet can help.

Comparing and contrasting something to modern events or writing own personal experiences aren't going to come from ChatGPT. So helping educators think through the different types of prompts to best assess students to help them stay away from using ChatGPT is important, Annie Chechitelli, Chief Product Officer at Turnitin, said.

ISRO likely to push Venus mission ‘Shukrayaan I’ to 2031

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI

In a talk on January 9, P. Sreekumar, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and adviser to its space science programme, said that the organisation was yet to receive approval from the Union government for the Venus mission and that the mission could as a result be postponed to 2031.

ISRO’s Venus mission, Shukrayaan I, was expected to be launched in December 2024. The idea was born in 2012. Five years later, ISRO commenced preliminary studies after the Department of Space re-

ceived a 23% increase in the 2017-18 Budget.

The organisation sought payload proposals from research institutes in April 2017.

Optimal launch windows from earth to Venus occur once around every 19 months. This is why ISRO has “back-up” launch dates in 2026 and 2028, should it miss the 2024 opportunity. But even more optimal windows, which further reduce the amount of fuel required at lift-off, come around every eight years.

Mr. Sreekumar, speaking at an Indo-French astronomy meeting at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru,



Shukrayaan I will be an orbiter mission whose scientific payloads include a high-resolution synthetic aperture radar. GETTY IMAGES

said that Shukrayaan I was “originally scheduled for a 2023 launch”, but that “right now the 2031 window is very good”. He added that the mission was “waiting for formal appro-

val and money”, which are required before spacecraft assembly and testing.

He said both the U.S. and the European space agencies had Venus missions planned for 2031 –

referring to VERITAS and EnVision, respectively – while “China might go anytime: 2026, 2027, whenever they want to go”.

ISRO had originally hoped to launch Shukrayaan I in mid-2023 but cited the pandemic when it pushed the date to December 2024. Other ISRO missions, including Aditya L1 and Chandrayaan III, have also been affected by manufacturing delays and commercial launch commitments.

Shukrayaan I will be an orbiter mission. Its scientific payloads currently include a high-resolution synthetic aperture radar and a ground-penetrating radar. The mission is ex-

pected to study Venus’s geological and volcanic activity, emissions on the ground, wind speed, cloud cover, and other planetary characteristics from an elliptical orbit.

ISRO received an allocation of ₹13,700 crore in the 2022-23 Budget, marginally higher than the year before.

The bulk was diverted to the human space flight mission, Gaganyaan. Ahead of the forthcoming Budget announcement, and following recent reforms in the private space flight sector, various industry groups have drafted a wishlist, including boosts to local manufacturing and procurement.

Social equaliser

While promoting digital payments, care is needed to guard against cyber threats

The Union Cabinet's recent decision to earmark ₹2,600 crore for providing banks with an incentive to promote digital payments has focused attention on India's welcome push to broaden and deepen alternatives to the most widely accepted method of payment worldwide, cash. The Reserve Bank of India's 'Payments Vision 2025' document observes that 'payment systems foster economic development and financial stability' while supporting financial inclusion. There can be no two views that the rapid and widespread adoption of digital payment methods, coupled with steps to bring more people into the banking system's fold, has significantly helped cut the reliance on cash for low-value transactions, especially in metros and cities. At the heart of this payments revolution has been the National Payments Corporation of India and its Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The UPI's function as a lynchpin transaction enabler has been key in undergirding this transformation. In December 2022, the total monthly volume of UPI-facilitated transactions aggregated almost 783 crore with the value exceeding ₹12.8 lakh crore. While this was a 71% jump in volume and a 55% increase in value from a year earlier, the UPI volume last month was close to 54 times the transactions in December 2017, and a staggering 98.6-fold of the value seen five years earlier.

The adoption of digital payment methods, while accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, has also been enabled by the widening number of banks which have backed the UPI system, as well as the indigenous RuPay credit and debit cards. A welter of private financial technology or fintech firms that offer tailor-made digital applications, and big technology and social media companies that have added payments with a view to enhancing stickiness with their core offerings have also been major enablers. The banking sector, however, has been at a relative disadvantage in leveraging the payments ecosystem for its core business growth as the spending on infrastructure to support and secure such payments has been disproportionately higher than for fintech and big tech rivals. The Government's new incentive aims to level the field by offering payments in lieu of the commissions foregone by lenders in waiving the merchant discount rate they would otherwise have levied. Still, challenges abound. Policymakers need to urgently ring-fence the wealth of individual spending data being generated and constantly enhance security to safeguard the payments system from cyberthreats.

COVID-19's XBB.1.5 variant spread across 11 States and UTs

26 The number of cases of COVID-19's XBB.1.5 variant in India, according to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). The cases from the variant have spread across 11 States and Union territories, including Delhi, Maharashtra and West Bengal. The XBB.1.5 strain is a relative of the Omicron XBB variant. PTI

The richest 1% owns 40% of the country's wealth: Oxfam

40 The percentage of India's total wealth owned by the richest 1% of the country, while the bottom half of the population together share just 3% of the wealth, a new study by Oxfam International revealed. While releasing the report, the organisation said that taxing India's 10-richest at 5% could fetch funds to bring all children back to school. PTI

Wholesale price-based inflation at a 22-month low in December

4.95 In percentage, the wholesale price-based inflation in December 2022, decelerating to a 22-month low, mainly due to a fall in prices of food articles, such as vegetables, on easing supply side pressures and a higher base of last year. This is the seventh straight month of declining Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation. PTI

General Studies Paper I	
A	History of Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of art forms, literature and architecture from ancient to modern times;
B	Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present-significant events, personalities, issues;
C	Freedom struggle-its various stages and important contributors / contributions from different parts of the country;
D	Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country;
E	History of the world will include events from 18 th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, re-drawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization,
F	Political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.-their forms and effect on the society
G	Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India;
H	Effects of globalization on Indian society;
I	Role of women and women's organization;
J	Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism
K	Salient features of world's physical geography;
L	Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes;
M	Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.
N	Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent);
O	Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India);
P	Population and associated issues;
Q	Urbanization, their problems and their remedies
General Studies Paper II	
A	India and its neighbourhood- relations;
B	Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate;
C	Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests;
D	Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.
E	Indian Constitution, historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure;
F	Comparison of the Indian Constitutional scheme with other countries;
G	Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein; Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
H	Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these;
I	Structure, organization and functioning of the executive and the judiciary, Ministries and Departments;

J	Separation of powers between various organs dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions;
K	Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional bodies;
L	Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies;
M	Mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections;
N	Salient features of the Representation of People's Act;
O	Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential;
P	Citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures;
Q	Issues relating to poverty and hunger,
R	Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States, Performance of these schemes;
S	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to education and human resources;
T	Issues relating to development and management of social sector / services relating to health
General Studies Paper III	
A	Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment;
B	Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth;
C	Inclusive growth and issues arising from it;
D	Infrastructure Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc. Government budgeting;
E	Land reforms in India
F	Major crops, cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems;
G	Storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints;
H	e-technology in the aid of farmers; Technology Missions; Economics of Animal-Rearing.
I	Issues of buffer stocks and food security, Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping;
J	Food processing and related industries in India – scope and significance, location, upstream and downstream requirements, supply chain management;
K	Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices
L	Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology;
M	Indigenization of technology and developing new technology;
N	Developments and their applications and effects in everyday life;
O	Issues relating to intellectual property rights
P	Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment
Q	Disaster and disaster management
R	Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security;
S	Money-laundering and its prevention;

T	Various forces and their mandate;
U	Security challenges and their management in border areas;
V	Linkages of organized crime with terrorism;
W	Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security;
X	Linkages between development and spread of extremism.
General Studies Paper IV	
A	Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions;
B	Dimensions of ethics;
C	Ethics in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators;
D	Role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
E	Attitude: Content, structure, function; its influence and relation with thought and behaviour;
F	Moral and political attitudes;
G	Social influence and persuasion.
H	Aptitude and foundational values for Civil Service , integrity, impartiality and non-partisanship, objectivity, dedication to public service, empathy, tolerance and compassion towards the weaker sections.
I	Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
J	Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.
K	Public/Civil service values and Ethics in Public administration: Status and problems;
L	Ethical concerns and dilemmas in government and private institutions;
M	Laws, rules, regulations and conscience as
N	sources of ethical guidance;
O	Accountability and ethical governance; strengthening of ethical and moral values in governance; ethical issues in international relations and funding;
P	Corporate governance.
Q	Probity in Governance: Concept of public service;
R	Philosophical basis of governance and probity;
S	Information sharing and transparency in government, Right to Information, Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen's Charters, Work culture, Quality of service delivery, Utilization of public funds, challenges of corruption.
T	Case Studies on above issues.