

DAILY PT POINTERS

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The Hindu-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

PAC to review performance of SEBI, audit airport tariffs

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) headed by Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP K.C. Venugopal will hold a performance review of “regulatory bodies established by Act of Parliament”, such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The PAC will also audit “fees, tariffs, user charges, and so on” levied at public infrastructure such as airports. Currently, seven Indian airports are managed by the Adani Group.

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) headed by Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP K.C. Venugopal will hold a performance review of “regulatory bodies established by Act of Parliament”, such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The PAC is one of the oldest Parliamentary committees that has its roots in the Financial Committee established in 1921 following the Montagu Chelmsford Reforms. “Broadly, there are three things that distinguish the PAC from the other parliamentary committees.
- One, it was the first and original parliamentary committee formed to counter the government of the day. Second, it has a far greater ambit than any Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee.
- The PAC is empowered to call any person in connection to its investigations and third, its recommendations are binding on the government,”

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Modi seeks to script Singapore-like success stories as India inks key MoUs

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Singapore is an important part of India's 'Act East' policy and India wishes to create many Singapore-like success stories in its territory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

Apart from meeting his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong, Mr. Modi oversaw the signing of key MoUs, including one on semiconductors that will help in supply chain resilience for semiconductors.

He also announced that the first Thiruvalluvar Cultural Centre of India (named after the Tamil poet-philosopher) will soon open in Singapore as the two sides plan to celebrate



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting an Indian intern during his visit to AEM Holdings Ltd in Singapore on Thursday. ANI

of bilateral ties next year. "Singapore is not just a partner country for India. Singapore is an inspiration for all developing countries. We want to create many Singapores in India," Mr. Modi said in a speech

delivered in Hindi, adding, "Singapore is a crucial part of our Act East policy. Shared democratic values connect both of us."

Earlier, Mr. Modi, who reached Singapore on Wednesday after visiting

neighbouring Brunei, was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Parliament House.

In his official statement, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the Indian-origin population in Singapore, and said it provided a "solid foundation" to bilateral relations.

"We are forever grateful to Singapore for the respect that you have given to Subhas Chandra Bose, Azad Hind Fauj and Little India (an ethnic district in Singapore). Our relation will turn 60 in 2025 and our two sides are making plans to celebrate this occasion with great vigour," Mr. Modi said.

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India and Singapore enhanced their relationship with the signing of four Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore.

Key Agreements

- **Digital Technologies:** It covers digital technologies, including cybersecurity, 5G, super-computing, quantum computing, and AI, and focuses on upskilling and reskilling workers.
- **Semiconductor Ecosystem:** It involves cooperation in semiconductor cluster development and talent cultivation.
- **Health Cooperation:** It focuses on joint research, innovation, and human resource development in healthcare and pharmaceuticals.
 - It also aims to promote Indian healthcare professionals in Singapore.
- **Skill Development:** It targets educational cooperation and technical/vocational training, enhancing ongoing skill development initiatives.

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Govt. to adopt recommendations for protecting 'Assamese' people

State Cabinet decides to implement 57 of the 67 recommendations of panel appointed by MHA on Clause 6 of 1985 accord, take up the rest with Centre; Opposition accuses CM of 'misguiding' people, says State can only send proposals to New Delhi

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has decided to implement most of the recommendations of a panel appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to apply Clause 6 of the Assam Accord by April 15, 2024.

The accord was signed in August 1985 to mark the end of a violent six-year agitation to eject "illegal foreigners" from the State. Most of the clauses of this accord were implemented, but successive governments steered clear of Clause 6, which guarantees "constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards" to the Assamese people.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said after a Cabinet meeting in North Lakhimpur town late on Wednesday that 57 of the 67 recommendations of the committee headed by Justice Biplob Sarma (retd.) would be implemented.

On Thursday, the Opposition Congress and Trinamool Congress (TMC) said the Chief Minister was



The decision followed a renewed movement across eastern Assam for protecting rights of the *khilonjia* or indigenous communities. *ANI*

"misguiding" the people of Assam on the implementation of the clause, contending that it fell under the Centre's jurisdiction and the State government can only send proposals.

Gang rape incident

The Cabinet decision followed a renewed movement across eastern Assam for protecting the rights of the *khilonjia* or indigenous communities against the "aggression" of the non-Assamese and other *bohiringta* (outsiders). The movement was triggered by the alleged gang rape of a minor girl by Bengali Muslims

in central Assam's Dhing on August 22.

"We sought three years to study the recommendations the committee submitted [more than four years ago] and today, we have decided to implement 85% of these recommendations that fall under the ambit of the State government," Mr. Sarma said on Wednesday night.

The Chief Minister said the remaining 10 recommendations under the purview of the Centre would be taken up with New Delhi. "These recommendations will be made public in three to four days," he

added.

The Chief Minister said a group of Ministers would discuss the 57 recommendations with the All Assam Students' Union, which spearheaded the Assam Agitation, and other organisations in order to reach an agreement.

Approvals would be taken from the authorities of the Bodoland Territorial Region, the Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council – all Sixth Schedule areas – as also from the people of the Bengali-dominated Barak Valley in southern Assam.

"The 57 recommendations will be implemented instantly in the State barring the Sixth Schedule areas and the Barak Valley," Mr. Sarma said.

'Ring of protection'

The Chief Minister asserted that along with actions already taken by the BJP-led State government, these recommendations would ensure a 'suraksha chakra (ring of constitutional protection)' for the Assamese people, specifically land rights.

Pointing out that the term 'Assamese' has to be defined first before Clause 6 can be implemented, TMC Rajya Sabha member Sushmita Dev, who is from Barak Valley, said the Chief Minister should show the formal approval of acceptance of the panel's recommendations. "There is nothing in the public domain to say the report has been accepted by the Government of India. Why should it be confidential?" she said.

'Make report public'

Ms. Dev said the BJP-led government should make all the recommendations of the committee public apart from clarifying how it can do the job of the Centre. "The committee's report is not officially made public. It is neither on the website of the MHA nor the Assam government," she said in Guwahati.

"It's just a political *jumla* (trickery). The State government can only send proposals for a matter under the jurisdiction of the Central government," State Congress president Bhuben Kumar Borah said.

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The Hindu –Economy(GSIII)-Page 12

What is vertical fiscal imbalance?

The role of the 16th Finance Commission should be to eliminate vertical fiscal imbalance in federal relations. What should it do when revenues are concentrated with the Union government, and the States are burdened with expenditure responsibilities?

ECONOMIC NOTES

R. Mohan
R. Ramakumar

The financial relationship between the Union government and the States in India is asymmetrical, as in many other countries with a federal constitutional framework. As the 15th Finance Commission noted, States incur 61% of the revenue expenditure but collect only 38% of the revenue receipts. In short, the ability of the States to incur expenditures is dependent on transfers from the Union government. Consequently, there is the problem of Vertical Fiscal Imbalance (VFI) in Indian fiscal federalism where expenditure decentralisation overwhelms the revenue raising powers of the States.

Why should VFI be reduced?

Constitutionally, the financial duties of the Union government and the States are divided. On the revenue front, to maximise the efficiency of tax collection, the Personal Income Tax, the Corporation Tax and a part of indirect taxes are best collected by the Union government. But on the expenditure front, to maximise the efficiency of spending, publicly provided goods and services are best supplied by the tier of the government closest to its users. It is in this context that the extent of VFI merits attention.

The 15th Finance Commission had noted that India has had a larger, and rising, vertical imbalance than most other federations. These imbalances were further magnified during periods of crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which drove a large wedge between one's own revenues and expenditure responsibilities at the sub-national level.

The problem of VFI falls under the

Estimation of VFI after devolution of taxes

The 15th Finance Commission had noted that India has had a larger, and rising, vertical fiscal imbalance (VFI) than most other federations.

Year	VFI after tax devolution (as a % of GR)	The desired share of tax devolution to eliminate VFI (%)
2015-16	0.12	47.82
2016-17	0.13	46.24
2017-18	0.12	47.35
2018-19	0.13	47.36
2019-20	0.18	51.17
2020-21	0.26	56.87
2021-22	0.14	47.90
2022-23 (est)	0.20	51.42
Average (including 2015-21 and 2021-22)		48.94

SOURCE: COMPUTED FROM UNION BUDGET DOCUMENTS, AND STATE FINANCES: A STUDY OF THE BUDGETS, RBI.

purview of the Finance Commission, and it deals with broadly two questions. The first question is how to distribute the taxes collected by the Union government to the States as a whole. These transfers are made as a prescribed share of the "Net Proceeds" (Gross Tax Revenue of the Union less surcharges, cesses and costs of collection). The second question is how to distribute taxes across States. The matter of VFI arises as part of the first question.

Apart from devolving taxes, the Finance Commissions also recommend grants to States in need of assistance under Article 275 of the Constitution. But these are generally for short periods and for specific purposes. There are also transfers to the States that fall outside the Finance Commission's ambit. For example, the Union government spends substantial amounts – under Article 282 of the Constitution – on subjects falling in the State and Concurrent Lists through centrally sponsored schemes and central sector schemes. But such grants are tied

transfers that include conditionalities. In sum, the devolution of taxes from the net proceeds is the only transfer to the States that is untied or unconditional.

Calculating VFI in India

Here we try to estimate the VFI in India after the devolution of taxes to the States. We measure VFI at the level of "all States", and not separately for each State. For this, we use a globally accepted method. We first estimate a ratio where the numerator is the sum of the Own Revenue Receipts (ORR) and the tax devolution from the Union government for all States. The denominator is the Own Revenue Expenditure (ORE) for all States. If this ratio is less than 1, it implies that the sum of own revenue receipts and tax devolution of the States is inadequate to meet the ORE of the States. If we subtract this ratio from 1, we get the deficit in receipts. It is this deficit that we use as a proxy for VFI after devolution.

We can then ask the simple question:

how much should tax devolution rise over and above that recommended by the past Finance Commissions to equalise the ratio to 1? Equating the ratio to 1 would eliminate VFI. In the attached table, we show that the average share of net proceeds devolved to the States between 2015-16 and 2022-23 should have been 48.94% to eliminate the VFI. But the shares of tax devolution recommended by the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions were only 42% and 41%, respectively, of the net proceeds.

Raising tax devolution

Many States have raised the demand that the share of tax devolution from the net proceeds must be fixed at 50% by the 16th Finance Commission. They add force to this demand by pointing to the exclusion from the net proceeds of the substantial amounts of cesses and surcharges, which truncates the net proceeds within the gross tax revenue.

Our analysis in this article lends empirical support to this demand. Here, we have assumed the present levels of expenditures of the States as a given. At the aggregate level, these actually incurred expenditures have not only conformed to but also underutilised the borrowing limits specified in the fiscal responsibility legislations. Even then, we find that the share of net proceeds devolved to the States must rise to about 49% to eliminate VFI. Such an increase in devolution would place more untied resources in the hands of the States to spend on their citizens. It would also ensure that States' expenditures better respond to jurisdictional needs and priorities, and that the efficiency of expenditures is enhanced. Overall, it will be a move towards a healthy system of cooperative fiscal federalism.

R. Mohan is former Indian Revenue Service officer. R. Ramakumar is Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

THE GIST

As the 15th Finance Commission noted, States incur 61% of the revenue expenditure but collect only 38% of the revenue receipts. In short, the ability of the States to incur expenditures is dependent on transfers from the Union government.

The problem of VFI falls under the purview of the Finance Commission.

Many States have raised the demand that the share of tax devolution from the net proceeds must be fixed at 50% by the 16th Finance Commission.

- The financial relationship between the Union government and the States in India is asymmetrical, as in many other countries with a federal constitutional framework.
- As the 15th Finance Commission noted, States incur 61% of the revenue expenditure but collect only 38% of the revenue receipts. In short, the ability of the States to incur expenditures is dependent on transfers from the Union government. Consequently, there is the problem of Vertical Fiscal Imbalance (VFI) in Indian fiscal federalism where expenditure decentralisation overwhelms the revenue raising powers of the States. Constitutionally, the financial duties of the Union government and the States are divided. On the revenue front, to maximise the efficiency of tax collection, the Personal Income Tax, the Corporation Tax and a part of indirect taxes are best collected by the Union government. But on the expenditure front, to maximise the efficiency of spending, publicly provided goods and services are best supplied by the tier of the government closest to its users..

The Hindu-Disaster Management (GSIII)-Page 12

Can Kerala access funds from the Loss and Damage Fund?

Is it easy for local communities at the sub-national level to access funds from international climate funds?

Neha Miriam Kurian
Thankom Arun

The story so far:

In the wake of the devastating landslides that recently struck Kerala's Wayanad district, a crucial conversation has emerged around whether subnational entities can seek compensation through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Loss and Damage Fund (LDF). While this demand is justifiable, accessing climate funds is far more complex than it appears.

What is the Loss and Damage Fund?

The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) was established at the 2022 UNFCCC Conference (COP27) in Egypt to provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change. These include extreme weather events and slow-onset processes, such as rising sea levels. The LDF is overseen by a Governing Board that determines how the Fund's resources are disbursed, with the World Bank serving as the interim trustee. The Board

is currently developing mechanisms to facilitate access to the Fund's resources, including direct access, small grants, and rapid disbursement options. Despite its intended purpose, concerns persist that climate funds are often too slow to be accessible immediately after a disaster, particularly for local communities at the sub-national level. It is anticipated that the LDF may face similar challenges.

What has been India's role?

India has suffered over \$56 billion in damages from weather-related disasters between 2019 and 2023. Despite this, India has prioritised mitigation activities over adaptation in its National Climate Action Policy and budgets. This focus has led to a subdued participation in Loss and Damage dialogues at COP meetings. With certain regions in India being highly vulnerable to climate change, active engagement in these dialogues could bring substantial benefits.

Within India, there is an urgent need for a clear legal and policy framework to streamline climate finance, particularly for adaptation and loss and damage, in line with the principles of locally led



Landslide-hit Wayanad on August 1. REUTERS

adaptation, which are crucial for vulnerable communities. The introduction of a climate finance taxonomy in the Union Budget 2024 has raised expectations for increased international climate finance. However, without clear guidelines on accessing loss and damage funds within India, frontline communities will continue to be vulnerable. In international climate change negotiations, India should advocate for more decentralised methods of fund disbursement from the LDF, as opposed to the centralised systems used for other climate funds.

What have been State interventions?

Adaptation and loss and damage needs are more acutely felt at the ground level by State governments. For instance, in Kerala, it is the State government that bore most of the financial burden for disaster recovery. A notable example is the Rebuild Kerala Development Programme, launched in the aftermath of the August 2018 floods. This initiative was funded through loans from the World Bank and the KfW Development Bank, a German institution, illustrating the critical role of international climate finance in post-disaster recovery. The program focused on reconstructing the State's infrastructure, including roads and bridges, all of which had been severely damaged by the floods.

However, the absence of a standardised method for conducting comprehensive assessments of disaster-related damages, particularly those from slow-onset events, means that significant loss and damage needs that could qualify for assistance from the LDF may go unassessed. This lack of a structured assessment process could impede India's ability to access the LDF in the future. The situation in Wayanad district underscores the broader challenges India faces in accessing and managing climate finance, particularly for loss and damage. By establishing a more explicit domestic policy framework that focuses on locally led adaptation and clearer guidelines for accessing loss and damage funds, India can better protect itself from the impacts of climate change.

Neha Miriam Kurian is with the Kerala Institute of Local Administration. Thankom Arun is with the University of Essex.

THE GIST



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Adaptation and loss and damage needs are more acutely felt at the ground level by State governments. Consequently, it is the State governments that often bear most of the financial burden for disaster recovery efforts.

- Recent landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district have prompted discussions on whether subnational entities can access the UNFCCC's Loss and Damage Fund (LDF).
- The Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) was established at the 2022 UNFCCC Conference (COP27) in Egypt to provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change. These include extreme weather events and slow-onset processes, such as rising sea levels.
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The Hindu-Governance(GSII)

NExT for AYUSH students to apply from 2021-22 batch

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Exit Test (NExT) for AYUSH will be applicable to students who had enrolled from the 2021-22 academic session onwards, Union Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Prataprao Jadhav announced on Thursday. The Minister said that the decision was taken on the recommendation of a government committee set up to review the concerns of students in the matter. The test is mandatory for obtaining licence and enrollment in State or national registers after completing a one-year internship. The examination

features clinical case scenarios, images, and videos to evaluate the practical skills of candidates.

A number of representations had come from students of Ayush streams seeking clarity in the implementation of NExT. Mr. Jadhav held a meeting with some Ayurveda and homeopathy students regarding the issue.

Those interns who have not completed their internship but have qualified in NExT shall be eligible to register only after the completion of the one-year internship.

The Minister stated that the government's aim is to ensure a fair and transparent process.

National Exit Test (NExT) for Ayush to be Effective from 2021-2022 Batch: Union Minister of Ayush Shri Prataprao Jadhav

- The NExT is a key examination introduced by the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM) under the NCISM Act, 2020.
- It is designed to assess the clinical competency, medical ethics understanding, and ability to handle medico-legal cases for graduates in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, and Sowa-Rigpa.

Indian Express-Governance(GSII)-Page 1

Swachh Bharat helped avert 60,000 infant deaths per year: Study

**DAMINI NATH
& ANJALI MARAR**
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU,
SEPTEMBER 5

ACCESS TO toilets and better sanitation services under the government's Swachh Bharat Mission may have averted around 60,000 to 70,000 infant deaths annually between 2014 and 2020, a study published in the journal *Nature* has found.

Launched on October 2, 2014, over 11 crore household toilets were built under Swachh Bharat

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DECREASE IN INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Kerala	50%
Telangana	38.23%
Bihar	35.71%
Andhra Pradesh	35.13%
J&K	34.61%
Delhi	33.33%
Karnataka	32.14%
Tamil Nadu	31.57%

* Between 2015 and 2020; Deaths of children under one year; Source: Sample Registration System Bulletin, Office of RCI

- A recent study published in *Nature*, world's leading multi-disciplinary science journal, by leading experts reveals that the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), India's ambitious national sanitation program, has contributed significantly to reducing infant and under-five mortality rates across the country – averting 60,000 – 70,000 infant lives annually.
- The study, which utilized a quasi-experimental design, provides robust evidence linking increased toilet access under SBM with improved child survival outcomes. Launched in 2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, SBM is one of the largest national behavioral change sanitation programs in the world, aimed at eliminating open defecation by providing household toilets across the country. This unique programme has now metamorphosed into ensuring Sampoorna Swachhata in the country.

Indian Express-IR(GSII)-Page 2

Interpol issued 100 Red Corner Notices on India's request last year: CBI chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

CBI DIRECTOR Praveen Sood Thursday said the Interpol issued 100 Red Corner Notices on India's request in 2023, highest in a year.

Addressing the 10th Interpol Liaison Officers (ILO's) Conference, organised by the CBI, Sood said as many as 29 wanted criminals were brought back to India in 2023 and 19 so far in 2024 with the help of Interpol and international law enforcement partners.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan said that the Global Operation Centre of CBI is handling 200-300 requests for assistance including both incoming and outgoing on a daily basis.

This year's ILO's Conference has been organised on the theme 'Strengthening International Law Enforcement Partnerships', by the CBI on the eve of the upcoming UN International Day of Police

Cooperation.

Mohan, in his address, emphasised on the importance of international police cooperation in tackling the rapidly evolving landscape of technology-enabled crimes which transcends borders.

"The spectre of transnational crime and organised crimes, require real time international police cooperation. The international dispersal of crime and criminals has enhanced the need for investigation abroad. Prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crime is increasingly reliant on digital evidence and foreign located evidence," he said.

"New age crimes, including cyber enabled financial crimes, online radicalisation and transnational organised crime networks, are not confined by borders. In an increasingly interconnected world, the importance of international police cooperation cannot be overstated," he said.

- Red Notice is issued by Interpol and is meant to facilitate quick location and arrest of a person abroad and providing the information to the national agency / authority on whose request the Notice was issued.
- The Red Notice is not a pre-requisite for and may not necessarily lead to the extradition of a fugitive offender for which there is a separate legal process to be followed.

Indian Express-Science and Tech(GSIII)-Page 10

What is the significance of first global 'legally binding' pact on use of AI

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 5

THE UNITED States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom (UK) signed the Council of Europe's convention on artificial intelligence (AI), the first "legally binding" international treaty on the use of the revolutionary new technology, on Thursday.

The treaty, which prioritises human rights in its approach to the regulation of public and private-sector AI systems, is seen as the first real agreement among the key players in the development of AI. It comes amid concerns that disparate regulations proposed by individual countries could hinder the evolution of this technology.

Officially known as the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, the treaty was opened for signature during a confer-

ence of Council of Europe Ministers of Justice in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Pact with teeth, responsibility

The treaty that was drafted over the last two years by more than 50 countries adopts a risk-based approach to the design, development, use, and decommissioning of AI systems. It covers the use of AI systems in the public sector – including companies acting on its behalf – and in the private sector, and will be applicable across geographies.

Signatories will be accountable for "any harmful and discriminatory outcomes of AI systems", and will ensure that "outputs of such systems respect equality and privacy rights, and that victims of AI-related rights violations have legal recourse".

Council of Europe Secretary General Marija Pejcinovic said: "The Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence is a first-of-its-kind, global treaty that will ensure that AI upholds people's rights. It is a

response to the need for an international legal standard supported by states in different continents which share the same values to harness the benefits of AI, while mitigating the risks. With this new treaty, we aim to ensure a responsible use of AI that respects human rights, the rule of law and democracy."

Obligations and applicability

Upon ratification, member states will have to ensure that:

- their AI systems are "consistent with obligations to protect human rights";

- these systems are not used "to undermine the integrity, independence and effectiveness of democratic institutions and processes, including the principle of the separation of powers, respect for judicial independence and access to justice";

- measures are put in place "to pro-

tect...democratic processes in the context of activities within the lifecycle of artificial intelligence systems", including individuals' fair access to and participation in public debate, as well as their ability to freely form opinions.

There are a few exemptions in the scope of applicability, such as national security and research and development. The treaty puts an obligation on parties to address the risks posed by activities within the lifecycle of AI by public and private actors.

The treaty comes at a time when sovereign governments and smaller multilateral groups have come up with a clutch of new regulations and agreements to oversee AI tools, including the G7 pact on AI (October 2023), Europe's AI Act (provisional deal in December 2023), and Bletchley Declaration signed by 28 countries (November 2023).

The G7 pact on AI is called the

International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems. The 11-point code aims to "promote safe, secure, and trustworthy AI worldwide" through "voluntary guidance for actions by organisations developing the most advanced AI systems". These include the foundation models they are built on.

Europe's AI Act provides AI developers and deployers with obligations regarding specific uses of AI, and seeks to reduce administrative and financial burdens for small and medium-sized businesses. It also defines four levels of risk associated with AI systems, with those coming under "unacceptable risk" to be banned.

The Bletchley Declaration saw 28 countries – including the US, China, Japan, and India – declare that global action was needed to tackle the potential risks of AI. Earlier in 2023, X owner Elon Musk, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, and others

signed an open letter calling for a six-month pause in AI development, until a shared safety protocol on the risks posed by AI was drafted.

Issues and concerns

Even though the treaty is being called "legally binding", there are concerns that it does not contain provisions for punitive sanctions such as penalties or fines. Compliance is primarily ensured through "monitoring", which is not much of a deterrent from an enforcement point of view.

Apart from European countries, those who signed the treaty early on included Israel and Georgia. Hanne Juncker, the Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law at the Council and who is in charge of the negotiations, was quoted by the *Financial Times* as saying: "This is confirmation that [the convention] goes beyond Europe and that these signatories were super invested in the negotiations and...satisfied with the outcome".

- The United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom (UK) are expected to sign the Council of Europe's convention on artificial intelligence (AI), the first "legally binding" international treaty on the use of the revolutionary new technology, on Thursday (September 5).
- The treaty, which prioritises human rights in its approach to the regulation of public and private-sector AI systems is seen **as the first real agreement among the key players** in the development of AI, amid concerns that disparate regulations proposed by individual countries could hinder the evolution of this technology.
- The treaty, officially known as the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, was opened for signature during a conference of Council of Europe Ministers of Justice in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Thursday.
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HEADLINES OF THE DAY



PIB-IR(GSII)

Ministry of Defence

India and Saudi Arabia hold 6th meeting of Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation

Posted On: 05 SEP 2024 2:31PM by PIB Delhi

- India and Saudi Arabia conducted the sixth edition of Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on September 4, 2024. The two countries discussed new avenues to further strengthen the long standing and multi-faceted defence cooperation. Detailed deliberations were held to expand the scope of engagement and cooperation in areas such as military, training, defence industry, R&D etc.
- India and Saudi Arabia enjoy cordial and friendly relations founded on the centuries old economic and socio-cultural ties. The MoU on Defence Cooperation provides a framework for defence collaboration between the two countries. Joint Defence Cooperation Committee is an institutional mechanism under the MoU to promote the objectives of defence cooperation.
-