

Voice of the Global South 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.
- India hosted the summit in a bid to articulate the views of the developing countries regarding the effects of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.
- The event has planned eight ministerial sessions including finance, energy, education, foreign affairs, and commerce.

Theme:

- It was held under the theme - 'Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose' which essentially envisages bringing together countries of the global south and sharing their perspectives and priorities on a common platform across a whole range of issues.

- Prime Minister through this event has set the stage on behalf of developing countries, many of which are united by a history of colonization.
- Offering to become the voice of the Global South, India during the event gave a new agenda to the world on behalf of the countries of the South: 'respond, recognize, respect, and reform'.

Voice of the global South in the ongoing Crisis:

- According to PM, the world is facing a lasting crisis and there is no clarity about how long this "state of instability" will last.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi explained the reasons for the shift: how "challenges of the COVID pandemic, rising prices of fuel, fertilizer and food grains, 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.
- Push for "human-centered" globalization 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.

THE HINDU

Fiscal consolidation

- There is, however, a need to recognize 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 growth in the range of 6-6.5% in 2023--24,

provided significant policy support is given to growth.

- 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 the net inflow of foreign capital provide the extent of surplus available for the potential net deficit sectors in the economy.
- Fiscal support for 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.

THE HINDU

Kerala and the new electricity rule

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,”

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
- . It further observed that the crucial role played by the State Electricity Commission in fixing the surcharge would get diluted.

THE HINDU

Criticism Chat GPT

- 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.

- Asking ChatGPT to write malware is one problem, another issue several coders face is the inherently buggy code (buggy code refers to code that either already has bugs in it or is written in a way that will introduce bugs in the future)
- Teachers and academicians have also expressed concerns over Chat GPT’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.
- New York City’s education department banned ChatGPT in its public schools.

THE HINDU

SUEZ CANAL

- Security of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea connects Egypt with India and the Indian Ocean,
- Invitation to Egypt President Abdel Fateh el -Sisi for Republic Day celebration laying out the new strategic partnership emerging between the two sides.

The Suez Canal

- The Suez Canal is a man-made waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea.

- It enables a more direct route for shipping between Europe and Asia, effectively allowing for passage from the North Atlantic to the Indian Ocean without having to circumnavigate the African continent.



• **THE HINDU**

Venus mission

- The organization has not yet received approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission and that, as a result, the mission may be delayed until 2031.
- Shukrayaan I, the ISRO Venus mission, was scheduled to launch in December 2024.
- VERITAS and EnVision missions of the American and European space agencies, respectively, both have Venus missions scheduled for 2031, but "China might go anytime: 2026, 2027, whenever they want to go."

Shukrayaan-I or Venus mission

- Shukrayaan-I will be a mission for an orbiter.
- A high-resolution synthetic aperture radar and a ground-penetrating radar are two of its current scientific payloads.
- From an elliptical orbit, the mission will likely research Venus's geological and volcanic activities, emissions on the surface, wind speed, cloud cover, and other planetary features.
- The aim of the mission is to study Venus' atmosphere, which is toxic and corrosive in nature as clouds of sulfuric acid cover the planet.
- Earlier, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced two new robotic missions (DaVinci Plus and Veritas) to Venus.

Aim

- Investigation of surface process and shallow subsurface stratigraphy. (rock layers and layering are studied).
- Study of the structure, composition, and dynamics of the atmosphere.
- Investigation of Solar wind interaction with the Venusian ionosphere.

THE HINDU

13th amendment

- It is an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of July 1987, signed by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayawardene, in an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict that had aggravated into a full-fledged civil war, between the armed forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which led the struggle for Tamils' self-determination and sought a separate state.
- The 13th Amendment, which led to the creation of Provincial Councils, assured a power-sharing arrangement to enable all nine provinces in the country, including Sinhala majority areas, to self-govern.
- Subjects such as education, health, agriculture, housing, land, and police are devolved to the provincial administrations, but because of restrictions on financial powers and overriding powers given to the President, the provincial administrations have not made much headway.
- In particular, the provisions relating to police and land have never been implemented.
- Initially, the north and eastern provinces were merged and had a

North-Eastern Provincial Council, but the two were de-merged in 2007 following a Supreme Court verdict.

Why is it contentious?

- The 13th Amendment carries considerable baggage from the country's civil war years.
- It was opposed vociferously by both Sinhala nationalist parties and the LTTE.
- The former thought it was too much power to share, while the Tigers deemed it too little.

THE HINDU

Northern protocol

The NI Protocol

- During negotiations the EU and UK agreed to a Northern Ireland Protocol that there would be no new checks on goods crossing the border between NI and the Republic of Ireland (ROI).



The protocol aims to:

- Avoid a hard border between NI and the ROI make sure of the integrity of the EU's single market for goods facilitate unfettered access for NI goods to the GB market and the inclusion of NI goods in free trade agreements between the UK and third countries.
- As a result of the protocol, NI has in effect remained in the EU's single market for goods (England, Scotland, and Wales have left the EU's single market for goods).
- This allows goods to flow to and from NI to the ROI and the rest of the EU as they did while the UK was a member of the EU, without customs checks, tariffs or new paperwork.

THE HINDU
