Capital stalemate: On the conflict between the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor in Delhi

Governance is the **casualty** in the conflict between CM and LG in Delhi

The **victory** of the Aam Aadmi Party in the recent Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) elections **has** added a fresh **backdrop** to the **unceasing face-off** between the Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory and the elected government. **Several Governors**, who are all too **eager** to **further** the Bharatiya Janata Party's politics, **confront** elected Chief Ministers from Opposition parties, but Delhi's case is unique, **given** the **vast executive power** at the command of the Lieutenant Governor. The most recent **flashpoint** between Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena **came** ahead of the January 6 election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the MCD, when Mr. Saxena appointed 10 **aldermen** and a BJP councillor to **preside** over the **polls**. The AAP **alleged** that Mr. Saxena had **bypassed** the tradition of appointing the senior-most **councillor** as the **presiding officer**. It has alleged that the **aldermen** appointed by Mr. Saxena **were** given voting rights in **violation** of the MCD Act, a question that remains unclarified. The party has **pointed out** that the Lieutenant Governor is ignoring the Council of Ministers and issuing orders to the bureaucracy directly on all matters, **regardless of** the division of power **established** by the Supreme Court between the two entities.

Technically, the Lieutenant Governor has executive control over only the three reserved subjects of police, **public order** and land; all other subjects (transferred subjects) **lie** with the elected government. But **by virtue of** being in control of the **bureaucracy**, and **exercising** the power to transfer, **suspend** or take any action against any employee of the Delhi government, the Lieutenant Governor's authority extends beyond those. As its earlier **interventions** have not **settled** the **dispute** between the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government, the Supreme Court is currently **examining** the question **afresh**. **Meanwhile**, the **relations** between the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor **are** sliding further. The Lieutenant Governor **sought** a meeting with the Chief Minister, but then refused to give him time. Till October, the Lieutenant Governor and the Chief Minister used to have weekly meetings. The Supreme Court's **calls** for **statesmanship** and **wisdom** by **actors** **have** not **resolved** the stalemate, which is seriously impacting governance in the national capital. The **heightened** political **competition** between the AAP and the BJP **has** **worsened** the situation, but the **root** of it all is the legal **ambiguity** that needs to be **dispelled**.
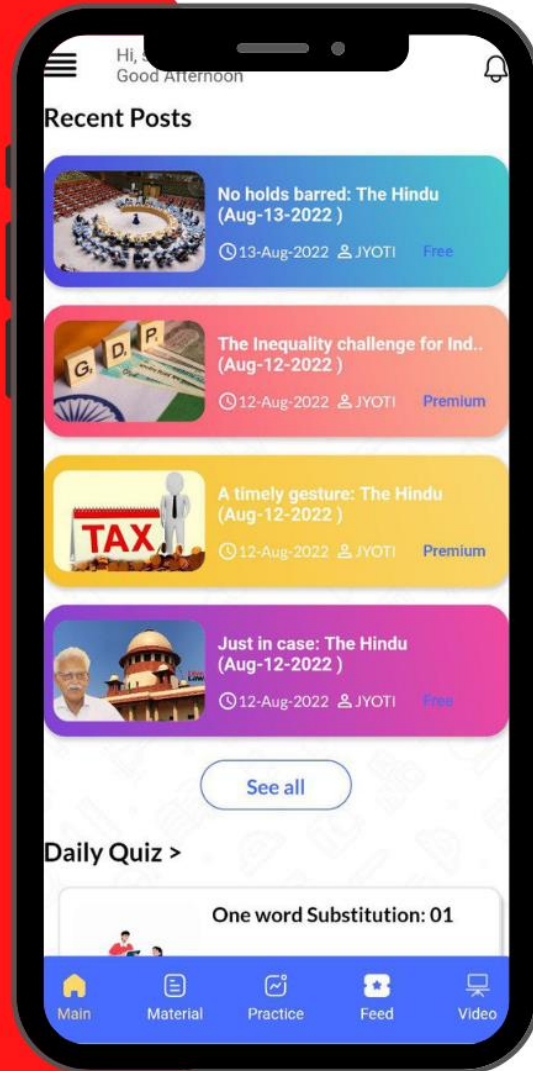
> ➢ Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Stalemate** (noun) – impasse, standoff, standstill. गतिरोध

2. **Conflict** (noun) – Battle, fight, war, struggle, skirmish, clash, encounter संघर्ष

3. **Governance** (noun) – The action or manner of governing a state, organization, etc शासन

4. **Casualty** (noun) – a person or thing that suffers as a result of something else हताहत

5. **Victory** (noun) – triumph, success, conquest, win, achievement जीत

6. **Backdrop** (noun) – the view behind something पृष्ठभूमि

7. **Unceasing** (adjective) – Constant, continuous, never-ending, perpetual, unending निरंतर

8. **Face-off** (noun) – Confrontation, conflict, argument, challenge, run-in टकराव

9. **Eager** (adjective) – keen, excited, willing, enthusiastic उत्सुक/ बेताब

10. **Further** (verb) – Advance, promote, foster, broaden, expand, spread, extend आगे बढ़ाना

11. **Confront** (verb) – Tackle, Meet, Face, Encounter, Handle सामना करना

12. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए

13. **Vast** (adjective) – huge, extensive, expansive व्यापक

14. **Executive power** (noun) – Executive power implies certain authority to control administration and manage various activities within a nation

15. **Flashpoint** (noun) – the moment at which a conflict, especially a political conflict, suddenly gets worse and becomes violent

16. **Aldermen** (noun) – an elected member of a city council. पौर-मुख्य

17. **Preside** (over) (verb) – To hold the position of authority; act as president: अध्यक्षता करना

18. **Poll** (noun) – Election चुनाव

19. **Allege** (verb) – claim, assert, contend, declare आरोप लगाना

20. **Bypass** (verb) – ignore, pass over, miss out, omit, neglect दरकिनार करना, वर्जन करना

21. **Councilor** (noun) – a member of a council. पार्षद

22. **Presiding officer** (noun) – an official in charge of a polling station at an election. पीठासीन अधिकारी

23. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, infraction, contravention उल्लंघन

24. **Point out** (phrasal verb) – indicate, mention, note, highlight, emphasize इशारा करना

25. **Regardless of** (phrase) – in spite of, despite, notwithstanding, without regard to, irrespective of भले ही

26. **Establish** (verb) – set up, create, institute स्थापित करना

27. **Public order** (noun) – a situation in which laws are obeyed, and people behave in an organized and peaceful way क़ानून और व्यवस्था

28. **Lie** (verb) – be, remain, or be kept in a specified state. होना

29. **By virtue of** (phrase) – because of, due to, owing to, by means of, के आधार पर

30. **Bureaucracy** (noun) – A system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives. नौकरशाही

31. **Exercise** (verb) – use, employ, make use of, utilize, avail oneself of प्रयोग करना

32. **Suspend** (verb) – officially prohibit (someone) from holding their usual post or carrying out their usual role for a particular length of time. निलंबित करना

33. **Intervention** (noun) – involvement, intercession, interceding, interposing हस्तक्षेप

34. **Settle** (verb) – resolve, establish, arrange, determine, decide निबटाना

35. **Dispute** (noun) – Argument, disagreement, clash, row, conflict विवाद, झगड़ा

36. **Examine** (verb) – Inspect, survey, scrutinize, look at, look into जांच करना

37. **Afresh** (adverb) – in a new or different way. नए सिरे से

38. **Meanwhile** (adverb) – at the same time, simultaneously, concurrently, meantime इस दौरान

39. **Slide** (verb) – change gradually to a worse condition or lower level.

40. **Seek** (verb) – ask for (something) from someone

41. **Call** (noun) – demand, Request, plea, appeal मांग

42. **Statesmanship** (noun) – skill in managing public affairs. राजनीतिज्ञता

43. **Wisdom** (noun) – ability to apply knowledge or experience or understanding or common sense and insight बुद्धिमानी

44. **Actor** (noun) – Participant

45. **Resolve** (verb) – Solve, settle, come to a decision समाधान करना

46. **Heightened** (adjective) – More intense than normal. बढ़ा हुआ

47. **Worsen** (verb) – deteriorate, exacerbate, decline, aggravate, degenerate खराब करना

48. **Root** (noun) – source, origin, starting point, seed, germ जड़

49. **Ambiguity** (noun) – uncertainty, equivocation, vagueness, obscurity, equivocalness अस्पष्टता

50. **Dispel** (verb) – Dismiss, disperse; to cause to disappear दूर करना