

Judiciary can't attack forces of democracy, says Vice President

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Context

• Questioning the judiciary for setting a timeline for the President to take decisions and accusing it of acting as a "super Parliament", Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said the Supreme Court cannot fire a "nuclear missile" at democratic forces.

• Addressing Rajya Sabha interns on Thursday, Mr. Dhankhar held an extended critique of the judiciary, citing alleged incursions by the judiciary into the domains of the executive and Parliament. His remarks come days after the **Supreme Court sought to fix a timeline for the President and Governors to grant assent to the Bills reserved for their consideration.**

• "So, we have **judges who will legislate, who will perform executive functions, who will act as super Parliament** and absolutely have no accountability because the law of the land does not apply to them," Mr. Dhankhar said.

• Stressing the principle of separation of powers, Mr. Dhankhar underlined that a government elected by the people is accountable to the people and to Parliament.

• "There is a principle of accountability in operation. In Parliament, you can ask questions... But if this executive governance is by the judiciary, how do you ask questions? Whom do you hold accountable in elections?

• Time has come when our three institutions — legislature, judiciary, and executive — must blossom. Any incursion by one in the domain of the other poses a challenge, which is not good," Mr. Dhankhar added.



Jagdeep Dhankhar

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