

Course correction – TOWARDS STABILITY

Nepal must hasten the process of government formation

A month after the Left Alliance secured a **decisive** victory in Nepal's parliamentary elections, a government is yet to be formed in Kathmandu. The Alliance was **forged** just before the elections between the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre). The transfer of power from the Nepali Congress to the UML led **coalition** was delayed **initially** due to **procedural** issues. The Upper House, or the National Assembly, needed to be indirectly elected by the **provincial** assemblies. The parties had disagreed on the means of this indirect election, with the NC advocating a **proportional** representation single transferable vote system, and the UML seeking a majority vote. After President Bidhya Devi Bhandari **ratified** a long pending **ordinance** that allowed elections based on the single transferable vote in late December 2017, this issue appeared to have been **resolved**. But there are other procedural issues to be sorted out. In **consultation** with the Left Alliance, the caretaker government has to first appoint governors to the seven provinces. Then, the process of choosing their capitals, in order to **convene** the Assemblies, can be completed. Tentative proposals on new capitals had given rise to protests in several towns, and the main political parties are unwilling to take a clear position on the issue. The caretaker NC government does not seem to be particularly keen on resolving this, and a proposal has been floated to allow the provincial assemblies to convene in Kathmandu first. In the absence of a **consensus**, this may be best.

The clear and decisive choice by the electorate in the polls has put the responsibility of operationalizing the **intricate** provincial model on the Left Alliance. Once the process of nominations to the National Assembly is complete – with 33% of the overall representation in Parliament reserved for women – the election of the Prime Minister will follow. It is a **foregone** conclusion that UML leader K.P.Oli will be elected: the party got close to the majority mark on its own in the first part the post seats. Ten years since the end of the civil war and the convening of the Constituent Assembly, the promise of economic development has been **belied**. This is one of the reasons behind agitations called by democratic and republican forces seeking a new CA. Nepal's economy continues to be highly dependent on **remittances** from Nepali **migrants** as the **agrarian** sector and industrial growth, especially in the hydro-energy sector, have **stagnated**. For too long, political posturing and the game of thrones involving the major parties, the UML, the NC and the Maoists, in Kathmandu have become **pursuits** in themselves. With the Left Alliance promising a greater degree of **cohesion** and winning a clear victory, the sooner the process of election of a new Prime Minister is **accomplished**, the faster Nepal can get on with the business of governance.

WORD LIST

1. **Decisive** : (definite)
Synonym: conclusive, critical, crucial, definite, determined, fateful, forceful, influential, momentous, resolute, significant.
2. **Forged** : (fake)
Synonym: counterfeit, spurious, supposititious

3. **Coalition** : (allied group, association)
Synonym: affiliation, alliance, amalgam, amalgamation, block, combination, combine, compact, conduction, consolidation, conspiracy, faction, federation, merging, party, unification.
4. **Initially** : (at first)
Synonym: originally, first, at the beginning
5. **Procedural** :
 1. Relating to an established or official way of doing something.
Example : "The developers had complied with all the relevant procedural requirements"
 2. A television series, film or novel characterised by detailed, realistic treatment of professional procedures, especially police procedures.
Example : "the procedural about police officers going undercover will debut later this month"
6. **Provincial** : (countrified; limited)
Synonym: local, rural, bucolic, country, homespun, narrow, pastoral, petty, rustic, sectarian
7. **Proportional** : (equivalent, proportionate)
Synonym: commensurate, corresponding, reciprocal, comparative, correlative, equal, even, relative, symmetrical
8. **Ratify** : (affirm, authorize)
Synonym : approve, confirm, endorse, establish, okay, sign, uphold, accredit, authenticate, bind, bless, certify
9. **Ordinance** : (law, rule)
Synonym : authorization, cannon, code, command, decree, dictum, direction, edict, enactment, fiat, mandate, order, precept, prescript, regulation, ruling.
10. **Resolve** : (make up one's mind; find solution)
Synonym: agree, answer, clear up, conclude, deal with, decide, determine, fix, settle, workout, undertake, analyse
11. **Consultation** : (asking, conference)
Synonym: appointment, conference, deliberation, dialogue, discussion, examination, hearing, interview, meeting, session
12. **Convene** : (bring together; meet)
Synonym: assemble, gather, open, summon, call, congregate, muster, come together
13. **Consensus** : (general agreement)
Synonym: accord, consent, harmony, unanimity, unity, concord
14. **Intricate** : (complicated, elaborate)
Synonym: baroque, complex, difficult, sophisticated, tangled, tortuous, tricky
15. **Foregone** : (predestined)
Synonym: destined, certain, inescapable, inevitable, predictable
16. **Belie** : (disprove, deceive)
Synonym: contradict, negate, repudiate, confute, contravene, controvert, deny, disagree, explode, oppose
17. **Remittances** : (as in alimony, allowance, compensation, discharge)
(money paid in support of a former spouse)

Synonym: keep, livelihood, living, maintenance, provision, subsistence, sustenance, upkeep

18. **Migrant** : (Person who moves to a foreign place)

Synonym : emigrant, evacuee, expatriate, immigrant, traveller, gypsy.

19. **Agrarian** : (concerning land, farming)

Synonym : agricultural, rural, natural, peasant, rustic

20. **Stagnate** : (deteriorate by lack of action)

Synonym : fester, hibernate, languish, stall, stand still, constipate, decay, decline, idle

21. **Pursuit** : (chase, search)

Synonym : hunt, enquiry, quest, following, pursual, stalk, tracking, trail.

22. **Cohesion** : (union)

Synonym : coherence, adherence, attachment

23. **Accomplished** : (skilled in activity)

Synonym : adept, consummate, gifted, polished, proficient, skilful, talented, cultivated, savvy

Course correction – All gore

Regulating jallikattu remains an impossible challenge for district authorities in Tamil Nadu

With animal rights activists at the head of the campaign against jallikattu, more attention seems to have been paid to cruelty to the bulls than the **inherently** dangerous nature of the bull taming event, that puts both spectators and participants at risk. Two **onlookers** have died in the space of two days in the jallikattu events in Palamedu and Avvarangadu in Tamil Nadu as the barricades separating the spectators from the arena were **inadequate**. Two others were killed in the manjuvirattu (a variant of jallikattu) at Siravayal when the bulls were **unleashed** outside the **earmarked arena**, a violation of due procedure. Clearly the safety arrangements **monitored** by the district administration at these annual events in the Pongal Season failed to prevent death and injury. With some of the events inducting more than 400 bulls and almost twice as many **tamers**, jallikattu has become a disorderly spectacle, making a **mockery** of even well laid out plans. The Animal Welfare Board of India, which was earlier in the **forefront** of documenting instances of mismanagement in the organising of jallikattu events, seems to have shifted its **stance** with a change of office bearers. Other than spotting some "small mistakes" and "human errors", the AWBI team's convener, S. K. Mittal, found little **amiss** in the Palamedu event. The concern, instead, was on preserving "native breeds" of bulls. After last year's protests against the Supreme Court ban on jallikattu, when thousands of people gathered in public places in Tamil Nadu demanding a revival of the sport, the authorities have been **wary** of **condemning** bull taming during Pongal. They now speak the language of custom and tradition, one that is similar to that of the jallikattu enthusiasts.

When the Supreme Court banned jallikattu on the basis of submissions made by the AWBI, which recorded instances of cruelty to animals in regulated events, it did so on the ground that regulations were not working. Following public protests and political pressure, and on the strength of hurriedly drafted legislation, jallikattu is now back on the Pongal calendar.

But nothing much has changed on the ground. Of course, participants and bulls are screened before being allowed into the arena. But the bulls do not **heed** the barricades that are meant to **fence** off spectators from the arena. Also, there is the risk of hyper excited **miscreants** releasing the bulls outside the arena: this is what happened in Siravayal. District authorities have so far failed to find better ways to regulate the events but more than the size of an event, the scale is the challenge. In short, there are too many events in too many places within a period of a few days, making regulation next to impossible. It is one thing to have well regulated jallikattu. But we are far from staging it in a manner that leaves nothing to chance and that is insured against damage **wreaked** by a **rampaging** bull.

WORD LIST

1. **Inherently** : (innately)
Synonym : constitutionally, genetically, intrinsically, naturally, congenitally, natively
2. **Onlooker** : (Person observing an event)
Synonym : bystander, observer, sightseer, spectator, viewer, watcher, beholder, eyewitness, looker on
3. **Inadequate** : (defective, insufficient, incompetent)
Synonym : deficient, faulty, lacking, meagre, poor, scarce, skimpy, unequal, weak
4. **Unleash** : (let loose)
Synonym : discharge, free, release, vent
5. **Earmark** : (reserve)
Synonym : allocate, designate, set aside, label, maintain, name, slot, tab, tag
6. **Arena** : (building or enclosure for entertainment or sports)
Synonym : field, gym, gymnasium, park, ring, rink, square, stadium, stage
7. **Monitor** : (listen, watch carefully)
Synonym : audit, check, control, follow, keep an eye on, observe, oversee, scan, supervise, survey, track
8. **Tame** : (adj. Tamer, tamest) (changed from the wild or savage state; domesticated)
Example : a tame bear.
9. **Mockery** : (joke, parody) (insult, disrespect)
Synonym : farce, sham, travesty, butt, caricature, deception, imitation, jest, mimicry, mock spoof.
10. **Forefront** : (Prominence)
Synonym : Cutting edge, fore, leading edge, limelight, vanguard, beginning, foreground, front, lead
11. **Stance** : (position, posture)
Synonym : attitude, posture, stand, viewpoint
12. **Amiss** : (wrong, defective)
Synonym : awry, improper, untoward, confused, crooked, erring, erroneous, faulty
13. **Wary** : (careful, cautious)
Synonym : attentive, circumspect, considerate, distrustful, frugal, leery, prudent, suspicious, vigilant, watchful, alert, cagey, canny

14. **Condem** : (blame, convict)
Synonym : castigate, censure, chide, criticize, decry, denounce, punish, sentence, adjudge, belittle, damn, deprecate
15. **Heed** : (care, thought)
Synonym : attention, application, carefulness, caution, cognizance, concentration, concern, consideration, deliberation, heedfulness.
16. **Fence** : (barrier used to enclose a piece of land)
Synonym : barricade, block, dike, net, rail, railing, roadblock, wall.
17. **Hyper** : (as in active, anxious, beyond, distressed)
Synonym : aggressive, alive, bold, busy, determined, diligent, dynamic, eager, energetic, engaged, enthusiastic, forceful, intense, keen, lively, quick, ready, resolute.
18. **Miscreant** : (evil, immoral)
Synonym : criminal, degenerate, reprobate, corrupt, depraved, infamous, rascally
19. **Wreak** : (force, cause)
Synonym : bring about, inflict, unleash, wreck, create, effect, execute, exercise
20. **Rampage** : go crazy; storm
Synonym : rage, tear, run wild, run riot, run amuck

SOME IMPORTANT ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

PHRASE	ONE WORD
1. A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body	Drove
2. A small fleet of ships or boats	Flotilla
3. A small growth of trees without underbrush	Grove
4. A community of people smaller than a village	Hamlet
5. A group of cattle or sheep or other domestic mammals	Herd
6. A large group of people	Horde
7. A temporary police force	Posse
8. A large number of fish swimming together	Shoal

9. A strong and fast-moving stream of water or other liquid	Torrent
10. The medieval forerunner of chemistry	Alchemy
11. A person who presents a radio/television programme	Anchor
12. One who studies the evolution of mankind	Anthropologist
13. A person who is trained to travel in a spacecraft	Astronaut
14. The scientific study of the physiology, structure, genetics, ecology, distribution, classification, and economic importance of plants	Botany
15. A person who draws or produces maps	Cartographer
16. A person who writes beautiful writing	Calligrapher
17. A person who composes the sequence of steps and moves for a performance of dance	Choreographer
18. A person employed to drive a private or hired car	Chauffeur
19. A person who introduces the performers or contestants in a variety show	Compere
20. A keeper or custodian of a museum or other collection	Curator
21. The branch of biology concerned with cyclical physiological phenomena	Chronobiology
22. A secret or disguised way of writing	Cypher
23. The study of statistics	Demography
24. The use of the fingers and hands to communicate and convey ideas	Dactylology
25. A person who sells and arranges cut flowers	Florist
26. A line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor	Genealogy
27. The therapeutic use of sunlight	Heliotherapy
28. The art or practice of garden cultivation and management	Horticulture
29. One who supervises in the examination hall	Invigilator
30. The theory or philosophy of law	Jurisprudence
31. A person who compiles dictionaries	Lexicographer
32. The scientific study of the structure and diseases of teeth	Odontology

33. One who presents a radio programme	Radio Jockey
34. The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing	Rhetoric
35. The branch of science concerned with the origin, structure, and composition of rocks	Petrology
36. One who study the elections and trends in voting	Psephologist
37. An artist who makes sculptures.	Sculptor
38. The scientific study of the behaviour, structure, physiology, classification, and distribution of animals	Zoology
39. A collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people	Archives
40. A large cage, building, or enclosure for keeping birds in	Aviary
41. A building where animals are butchered	Abattoir
42. A place where bees are kept; a collection of beehives	Apiary
43. A building containing tanks of live fish of different species	Aquarium
44. A place or scene of activity, debate, or conflict	Arena
45. A collection of weapons and military equipment	Arsenal
46. An institution for the care of people who are mentally ill	Asylum
47. A hole or tunnel dug by a small animal, especially a rabbit, as a dwelling	Burrow
48. A collection of items of the same type stored in a hidden or inaccessible place	Cache
49. A public room or building where gambling games are played	Casino
50. A large burial ground, especially one not in a churchyard	Cemetery
51. A room in a public building where outdoor clothes or luggage may be left	Cloakroom
52. A place where a dead person's body is cremated	Crematorium
53. A Christian community of nuns living together under monastic vows	Convent

54. Nursery where babies and young children are cared for during the working day Creche
55. A stoppered glass container into which wine or spirit is decanted Decanter
56. A large bedroom for a number of people in a school or institution Dormitory
57. The nest of a squirrel, typically in the form of a mass of twigs in a tree Drey
58. A room or building equipped for gymnastics, games, and other physical exercise Gymnasium
59. A storehouse for threshed grain Granary
60. A large building with an extensive floor area, typically for housing aircraft. Hangar

**SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
DO NOT VARY GREATLY IN THEIR ABILITIES.
THEY VARY IN THEIR DESIRES
TO REACH THEIR POTENTIAL.**
