

Course correction – RE-EXAMINE THE BILL

Concerns about the triple talaq Bill must not be dismissed as an attempt to sabotage it

The winter session of Parliament saw more political positioning than appraisal of a legislation to make instant triple talaq a criminal offence. With the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill pending in the Rajya Sabha, the best option would be to refer it to a select committee to help bring about a **consensus** on how to address the problem of talaq-e-biddat, as there is no serious opposition to the principle that it is morally **abhorrent** and legally impermissible. The **core** question is whether resorting to an illegal and **arbitrary** form of divorce should necessarily lead to a prison term for the offending husband. A three year prison term, besides a fine, also raises the issue of **proportionality**. The Opposition has raised three concerns: whether a civil wrong, mainly a breach of a marriage contract in an arbitrary manner, **ought** to be treated as a crime; whether it is not a contradiction of sorts for the law to jail a husband for pronouncing instant talaq and also **mandate** that he pay a **subsistence** allowance to the wife; and whether making it a **cognizable** and non bailable offence would lead to it being misused against Muslim men. Further, some see an internal **contradiction** in the way the law is **sought** to be framed. On the one hand it says instant triple talaq in any form is **void**, thereby declaring that the marriage continues to **subsist**; but it also talks of issues such as the **custody** of children and maintenance, which would arise only after a divorce. These are valid concerns and cannot be dismissed by the BJP as arguments aimed to **sabotage** the Bill.

The Bill is now in the Rajya Sabha, where the BJP and its allies do not have a majority. Some of its key allies, such as the AIADMK, the Telugu Desam Party and the Biju Janata Dal, are against the penal provision. The through in the Lok Sabha, but has taken the position that referring it to a parliamentary committee may help remove some **lacunae**. **Initially** the party appeared to question the prescription of a jail term, but it has raised a new question. It wants to know whether the government would take care of the **sustenance** of the woman concerned if her husband is jailed for uttering triple talaq. The **dilemma** before the Congress is that it cannot be seen as reprising the role it had played over 30 years ago in the Shah Bano episode, when it brought in legislation to **scupper** a Supreme Court verdict in favour of a Muslim woman's claim for maintenance. However, **hasty** legislation passed in the commotion of a divided House may not help the cause. A sound legal frame work to deal with all issues arising from instant talaq ought to be **crafted** after deeper consideration.

WORD LIST

1. **Consensus** : (general agreement)
Synonym : accord, consent, harmony, unanimity, unity, concord
2. **Abhorrent**: (disgusting)
Synonym : despicable, loathsome, repulsive, detestable, offensive.
3. **Core** : (centre, gist)
Synonym : basis, body, bottom line, crux, essence, focus, foundation, importance, origin, root, substance, thrust.
4. **Arbitrary** : (whimsical, chance)
Synonym : capricious, discretionary, erratic, frivolous, inconsistent, irrational, irresponsible, random, subjective, unreasonable, wilful.

5. **Proportionality** : (as in ratio, as in symmetry) (percentage, relation of part to whole)
 Synonym : proportion, quota, rate, scale, arrangement, correlation, equation, fraction
6. **Ought** : (burden)
 Synonym : concern, need, tax, care, commitment, committal, custody, duty, obligation, onus, responsibility, right, task, trust.
7. **Mandate** : (authority, order)
 Synonym : authorization, command, decree, directive, injunction, instruction, sanction.
8. **Subsistence** : (Provisions for survival)
 Synonym : livelihood, ration, sustenance, affluence, aliment, alimentation, capital, earnings.
9. **Cognizable** : (as in perceptible, as in perceivable)(noticeable, obvious)
 Synonym : appreciable, audible, detectable, discernible, distinct, distinguishable, observable, palpable
10. **Contradiction** : (variance to something)
 Synonym : conflict, difference, disagreement, discrepancy, dispute, inconsistency, confutation, defiance, denial
11. **Sought** : (wanted)
 Synonym : desired, hunted, needed, long for
12. **Void** : (empty)
 Synonym : abandoned, bare, barren, clear, deprived, drained, free, lacking, scant
13. **Subsist** : (keep going, living)
 Synonym : get along, get by, scrape by, be, breathe, continue, last, live, endure
14. **Custody** : (supervision, charge of something)
 Synonym : care, guardianship, protection, aegis, auspices, management, observation, preservation, salvation, safekeeping
15. **Sabotage** : (damage, incapacitate)
 Synonym : destruction, disruption, subversion, treachery, treason, vandalism
16. **Lacunae** (Lacuna): (pause)
 Synonym : break, cavity, depression, gap, hiatus, interim, interval, space
17. **Initially** : (at first)
 Synonym : originally, at the beginning first
18. **Sustenance** : (necessities for existence)
 Synonym : livelihood, nourishment, nutrition, subsistence, aliment
19. **Dilemma** : (crisis)
 Synonym : difficulty, embarrassment, impasse, mess, plight, predicament, problem, puzzle, quandary
20. **Scupper**: (a hole in a ship's side to carry water overboard from the deck)
 (an outlet in the side of a building for draining water)
21. **Hasty** : (speedy; without much thought)
 Synonym : abrupt, careless, expeditious, hurried, ill-advised, impulsive, quick, rapid, reckless, sudden swift, urgent.
22. **Crafted** : (conceive, dream up)
 Synonym : arrange, come up with, concoct, construct, craft, create, design, discover, forge, formulate, hatch, invent, mastermind, prepare, workout

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

SOME IMPORTANT ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

<u>PHRASE</u>	<u>ONE WORD</u>
1. One who is not sure about God's existence	Agnostic
2. A person who deliberately sets fire to a building	Arsonist
3. One who does a thing for pleasure and not as a profession	Amateur
4. One who can use either hand with ease	Ambidextrous
5. One who makes an official examination of accounts	Auditor
6. A person who believes in or tries to bring about a state of lawlessness	Anarchist
7. A person who has changed his faith	Apostate
8. One who does not believe in the existence of God	Atheist
9. A person appointed by two parties to solve a dispute	Arbitrator
10. One who leads an austere life	Ascetic
11. One who does a thing for pleasure and not as a profession	Amateur
12. One who can either hand with ease	Ambidextrous
13. An unconventional style of living	Bohemian
14. One who is bad in spellings	Cacographer
15. One who feeds on human flesh	Cannibal
16. A person who is blindly devoted to an idea/ A person displaying aggressive or exaggerated patriotism	Chauvinist
17. A critical judge of any art and craft	Connoisseur
18. Persons living at the same time	Contemporaries
19. One who is recovering health after illness	Convalescent
20. A girl/woman who flirts with man	Coquette
21. A person who regards the whole world as his country	Cosmopolitan
22. One who is a centre of attraction	Cynosure
23. One who sneers at the beliefs of others	Cynic
24. A leader or orator who espoused the cause of the common people	Demagogue
25. A person having a sophisticated charm	Debonair
26. A leader who sways his followers by his oratory	Demagogue

27. A dabbler (not serious) in art, science and literature	Dilettante
28. One who is for pleasure of eating and drinking	Epicure
29. One who often talks of his achievements	Egotist
30. Someone who leaves one country to settle in another	Emigrant
31. A man who is womanish in his habits	Effeminate
32. One hard to please (very selective in his habits)	Fastidious
33. One who runs away from justice	Fugitive
34. One who is filled with excessive enthusiasm in religious matters	Fanatic
35. One who believes in fate	Fatalist
36. A lover of good food	Gourmand
37. Conferred as an honour	Honorary
38. A person who acts against religion	Heretic
39. A person of intellectual or erudite tastes	Highbrow
40. A patient with imaginary symptoms and ailments	Hypochondriac
41. A person who is controlled by wife	Henpeck
42. One who shows sustained enthusiastic action with unflagging vitality	Indefatigable
43. Someone who attacks cherished ideas or traditional institutions	Iconoclast
44. One who does not express himself freely	Introvert
45. Who behaves without moral principles	Immoral
46. A person who is incapable of being tampered with	Impregnable
47. One who is unable to pay his debts	Insolvent
48. A person who is mentally ill	Lunatic
49. A person who dislikes humankind and avoids human society	Misanthrope
50. A person who primarily concerned with making money at the expense of ethics	Mercenary
51. Someone in love with himself	Narcissist
52. One who collect coins as hobby	Numismatist
53. A person who likes or admires women	Philogynist
54. A lover of mankind	Philanthropist

55. A person who speaks more than one language	Polyglot
56. One who lives in solitude	Recluse
57. Someone who walks in sleep	Somnambulist
58. A person who is indifferent to the pains and pleasures of life	Stoic
59. A scolding nagging bad-tempered woman	Termagant
60. A person who shows a great or excessive fondness for one's wife	Uxorious
61. One who possesses outstanding technical ability in a particular art or field	Virtuoso
62. A group of guns or missile launchers operated together at one place	Battery
63. A large bundle bound for storage or transport	Bale
64. A large gathering of people of a particular type	Bevy
65. An arrangement of flowers that is usually given as a present	Bouquet
66. A family of young animals	Brood
67. A group of things that have been hidden in a secret place	Cache
68. A group of people, typically with vehicles or animals travelling together	Caravan
69. A closed political meeting	Caucus
70. An exclusive circle of people with a common purpose	Clique

"Don't let the fear of losing be greater than winning"