

**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

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**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

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