

Power roller-coaster: On Maoists and UML sharing power in Nepal

The **Maoists** and the UML are back to sharing power despite not winning the **mandate** for it

There seems to be no limit to the **opportunism** in Nepal's top polity. Newly **minted** Prime Minister Pushpa Kumar Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) was part of a six-party **alliance** led by the Nepali Congress that collectively finished just above the absolute majority **mark** in the parliamentary elections held in November. The CPN(M-C) won just 11.13% of the votes, getting 32 seats in the 275-member House of Representatives. The party's poor performance was **hardly** any **disincentive** for Mr. Dahal to **claim** the post of prime minister from his party's senior partner, the NC. After being denied this, **legitimately**, in his **blatant** hunger for power, he immediately took the **expedient** route of **aligning** with the leading Opposition party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) led by Khadga Prasad Oli, **securing** the Prime Minister's post, for a period of half of the term of the new government. The new **coalition** led by the UML and the Maoists **includes** the **newcomer** Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) and five smaller parties. The RSP promised a **break** in the political **wheeling-dealing** that has **characterised** Nepali politics but the **fact** that it **jumped at** the first **chance** to join an **opportunist** alliance — its leader Rabi Lamichhane is now Deputy Prime Minister and a Home Minister in the government — **would** have **belied** the hopes of its **adherents**.

The **renewal** of the alliance between the two "leftist" parties — **barely** years after the **falling out** between the UML **faction** led by Mr. Oli and the Maoists **led to** a change of government with the NC aligning with the Maoists and a smaller UML faction led by Madhav Kumar Nepal besides other parties — **suggests** that the **loaves** of power, rather than **ideology** or principle, **are** what are more **tempting** for Mr. Oli and Mr. Dahal. The "Left" alliance had after all broken up due to **legitimate grievances** with Mr. Oli's **authoritarian** attitude and his **manoeuvres** to **hold on to** power. For Mr. Dahal to repeat his habit of performing political **volte-faces** and to **join hands** with Mr. Oli despite a clear mandate for the **pre-election** coalition that he was a part of, suggests yet another period of **opportunistic** political **wrangling** that would **hamper** governance in Nepal. Mr. Oli has **managed to make the best out of an unfavourable situation** for his party by securing **nominations** to the post of President and Speaker from his party, **reportedly** as part of the **arrangement** with Mr. Dahal, besides gaining **plum** ministerial posts to help with the usual politics of **patronage**. But by **subverting** mandates for short-term gains, the Maoists and the UML are only **perpetuating instability** and lowering the trust of the people in the democratic system in a country that **endured** two **upheavals** to become a constitutional **republic**.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Minted** (adjective) – recently produced or made बनाया हुआ
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicate subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Roller-coaster** (noun) – a situation that is characterized by sudden, extreme, and often extreme changes उतार - चढ़ाव
2. **Maoist** (noun) – A follower of the communist doctrines of Mao Zedong. माओवादी
3. **Mandate** (noun) – the authority to carry out a policy, regarded as given by the electorate to a party or candidate that wins an election. जनादेश
4. **Opportunism** (noun) – expediency, exploitation, taking advantage, Machiavellianism; the practice of using situations unfairly to get an advantage for yourself without thinking about how your actions will affect other people अवसरवाद, मौकापरस्ती
5. **Alliance** (noun) – association, coalition, union, treaty, pact गठबंधन
6. **Mark** (noun) – level, point, stage स्तर
7. **Hardly** (adverb) – scarcely, barely, only just, not much शायद ही
8. **Disincentive** (noun) – Deterrent, discouragement, hindrance, impediment, encumbrance, lack of encouragement निरुत्साहन/निराशाजनक
9. **Claim** (verb) – assert, demand, request, declare, state दावा करना
10. **Legitimately** (adverb) – legally, rightfully, justifiably वैध रूप से
11. **Blatant** (adjective) – flagrant, glaring, obvious, undisguised, unconcealed, जबरदस्त, सुस्पष्ट
12. **Expedient** (adjective) – (used about an action) convenient or helpful for a purpose, but possibly not completely honest or moral उचित, वांछनीय
13. **Align** (with) (verb) – To support, agree with, or form an alliance with a particular person or idea. के साथ तालमेल बिठाना
14. **Secure** (verb) – obtain, acquire, gain, get, find हासिल करना
15. **Coalition** (noun) – alliance, union, partnership, affiliation, bloc गठबंधन
16. **Newcomer** (adjective) – Any new participant in some activity नवागंतुक
17. **Break** (noun) –disruption, breakdown, pause, halt विराम
18. **Wheeling-dealing** (noun) – engage in commercial or political scheming/treacherous, especially unscrupulously राजनीतिक साजिश
19. **Characterise** (verb) – describe, distinguish, mark चिह्नित करना, वर्णन करना

20. **Jump at the chance of** (phrase) – To immediately accept an offer; to seize an opportunity मौका का फायदा उठाना
21. **Opportunist** (adjective) – exploiting immediate opportunities, especially regardless of planning or principle. अवसरवादी
22. **Belie** (verb) – to give an idea of something that is false or not true झुठलाना
23. **Adherent** (noun) – Supporter, believer, devotee, follower अनुयायी/ समर्थक
24. **Barely** (adverb) – hardly, scarcely, just मुश्किल से
25. **Fall out** (phrasal verb) – quarrel, argue, row, fight, have a row, have a fight मतभेद होना
26. **Faction** (noun) – clique, bloc, group, party, section गुट
27. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
28. **Loaf** (noun) – share, portion. हिस्सा
29. **Ideology** (noun) – philosophy, creed, credo, belief, doctrine विचारधारा
30. **Tempting** (adjective) – enticing, alluring, seductive, attractive मोहक/आकर्षक
31. **Legitimate** (adjective) – valid, reasonable, reliable. वैध, उचित
32. **Grievance** (noun) – complaint, criticism, objection, protestation शिकायत
33. **Authoritarian** (adjective) – despotism, dictatorship, tyranny, absolutism, totalitarianism सत्तावाद
34. **Manoeuvre** (noun) – something clever that you do in order to win something, trick somebody, etc. कुछ हासिल करने, किसी को ठगने आदि के लिए चालाकी भरी हरकत; चालबाज़ी
35. **Hold on to** (phrase) – hold something tightly or carefully पकड़कर रखना (सत्ता)
36. **Volte-face** (noun) – a sudden change from one set of beliefs or plan of action to the opposite उलटफेर
37. **Join hands with** (phrase) – work together हाथ मिलाना
38. **Pre-election** (noun) – before election चुनाव से पहले
39. **Opportunistic** (adjective) – exploiting immediate opportunities, especially regardless of planning or principle. अवसरवादी
40. **Wrangling** (noun) – engagement in a long, complicated dispute; Internal strife तकरार
41. **Hamper** (verb) – hinder, obstruct, impede, inhibit, foil, curb, delay, restrict, block बाधित करना

42. **Manage** (to) (verb) – succeed in, accomplish, achieve, be able to कामयाब होना
43. **Make the best out of a bad/unfavourable situation** (phrase) – to make an unsatisfactory situation as pleasant as possible एक असंतोषजनक स्थिति को यथासंभव सुखद बनाना
44. **Nomination** (noun) – an official suggestion of someone as a candidate in an election नामांकन, नाम निर्देशन
45. **Reportedly** (adverb) – supposedly, seemingly, apparently, allegedly कथित तौर पर
46. **Arrangement** (noun) – agreement, deal, settlement, understanding. व्यवस्था
47. **Plum** (noun) – excellent, best, very good, great.
48. **Patronage** (noun) – support, backing, protection. संरक्षण
49. **Subvert** (verb) – undermine, destabilize, disrupt, sabotage नष्ट करना
50. **Perpetuate** (verb) – preserve, conserve, sustain, maintain, continue, extend, carry on स्थिर रखना
51. **Instability** (noun) – unpredictability, variability, unsteadiness, volatility, flux, wavering अस्थिरता
52. **Endure** (verb) – to continue to exist for a long time सहन करना
53. **Upheaval** (noun) – turmoil, disturbance, turbulence, disorder, convulsion उथल-पुथल
54. **Republic** (noun) – a political system or form of government in which people elect representatives to exercise power for them गणतंत्र

Practice Exercise

Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words Editorial page

1. The “Left” alliance had after all broken up due to **legitimate** grievances with Mr. Oli’s authoritarian attitude and his manoeuvres to hold on to power.
 - A. Eccentric
 - B. Valid
 - C. Mendacious
 - D. Profane
2. But by subverting mandates for short-term gains, the Maoists and the UML are only **perpetuating** instability.
 - A. Agenda
 - B. Complement
 - C. Preserve
 - D. Capricious
3. Lowering the trust of the people in the democratic system in a country that endured two **upheavals** to become a constitutional republic.
 - A. Disparage
 - B. Disturbance
 - C. Epitome
 - D. Circumlocution
4. **Idioms & Phrase**
I'm going to have to **crack the whip** to get these kids to study more before finals.
 - A. to open a book and read it; study
 - B. to suffer most as a result of a problem or difficult situation
 - C. to make people work very hard and treat them strictly and perhaps harshly
 - D. to remove some integral piece, element of something
5. **Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**
 - (i) India has the largest diaspora population(A)/, with nearly 1.35 crore non-resident(B)/ Indians spread across the globe.(C)/
 - (ii) some of their rights such as registering their vote(D)/ Many of them leave the country for short-term work (E)/ and could miss out on exercising(F)/ in India’s Assembly or parliamentary elections.(G)/
 - A. ABC, EFDG
 - B. DGFE, BAC
 - C. BAC, FDEG
 - D. FDGE, CBA
 - E. None of the above

Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. When I shall see him, (A)/ I shall tell him (B)/ the truth. (C)/ No Error. (D)
7. In any case no disciplinary action (A)/ are required (B)/ to be taken. (C)/ No Error. (D)
8. Two and two (A)/ makes (B)/ four. (C)/ No Error. (D)
9. He is (A)/ best player (B)/ in India. (C)/ No Error. (D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Occurred
 - B. Necessary
 - C. Liaison
 - D. Committed

Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Trade tumult – Nov 18, 2022)

Most sectors were hit hard: engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals and employment-intensive gems and jewellery, textiles and handlooms.**(1)**/ Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year, expanding the country's trade deficit over 50% to \$26.9 billion.**(2)**/ For the first time since February 2021, India's goods exports shrank this October, dropping 16.7% from last year (and 16% from September 2022) to slip below \$30 billion after a 20-month-streak above that mark.**(3)**/ Just six sectors recorded an uptick, with electronics goods being the only manufacturing segment.**(4)**/ This is the fourth straight month of a \$25 billion-plus goods trade deficit that hit a record \$30 billion in July. To be sure, imports have now been moderating sequentially for four straight months and dropped 7.3% from September to an eight-month low of \$56.7 billion. But a marginal dip in petroleum imports, along with a 10.3% shrinking of non-oil, non-gold imports from September, can also be _____(a)_____ as a sign of slackening domestic demand. India's trade deficit so far this year is now over \$175 billion, from \$94.2 billion a year ago. With high energy prices likely to escalate with winter's onset, a significant easing in deficit levels is not on the _____(b)_____ yet.

While the Government acknowledged forecasts of a slump in global shipments growth to just 1% in 2023, it attributed the October trade blip _____(c)_____ a seasonal Deepavali effect — production dips as workers go on leave and imports rise with festive demand. Though the pre-Deepavali and Deepavali month exports did have a \$5 billion gap in 2021, this was not the case in pre-COVID 2019. Officials conveyed there is no need to be 'overly depressed' as India has a very low share of global trade which can only grow. But that growth will not _____(d)_____ automatically — in a shrinking buyer's market, rivals such as Vietnam cannot be expected to simply wait out the slump. In contrast, a new Foreign Trade Policy to replace the current policy from 2015, was recently deferred yet again till April 2023 for reasons that included waiting out the current global **turmoil**. If anything, the tumult in trade flows will be much worse by then. Policymakers must stop **recalibrating(A)** and be more proactive in **dithering(B)** their stance — for instance, the steel export duty amid lower global prices has **triggered(C)** higher imports, while exports, including those of engineering goods, have **collapsed(D)**.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words

11. But a marginal dip in petroleum imports, along with a 10.3% shrinking of non-oil, non-gold imports from September, can also be _____ as a sign of slackening domestic demand.

Fill the most appropriate option in (a)

(i) Fading

(ii) Interpreted

(iii) Construed

(iv) Choppy

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (v) D. Both (ii) and (iii) E. None of the above

12. With high energy prices likely to escalate with winter's onset, a significant easing in deficit levels is not on the _____ yet.

Fill the most appropriate option in (b)

(i) Demand

(ii) Pressure

(iii) Horizon

(iv) Command

(v) Challenge

A. Only (i) B. Only (iii) C. Only (v) D. Both (v) and (iv) E. None of the above

13. While the Government acknowledged forecasts of a slump in global shipments growth to just 1% in 2023, it attributed the October trade blip _____ a seasonal Deepavali effect — production dips as workers go on leave and imports rise with festive demand.

Fill the most appropriate option in (c)

(i) On

(ii) By

(iii) To

(iv) with

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (i) and (ii) E. None of the above

14. But that growth will not _____ automatically — in a shrinking buyer's market, rivals such as Vietnam cannot be expected to simply wait out the slump.

Fill the most appropriate option in (d)

(i) Appropriate

(ii) Accrue

(iii) Pose

(iv) Shape

A. Only (i) B. Only (ii) C. Only (iii) D. Both (iii) and (ii) E. None of the above

15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**

In contrast, a new Foreign Trade Policy to replace (A)/ the current policy from 2015, (B)/ was recently deferred yet again till April 2023 (C)/ for reasons that included waiting out the current global turmoil.(D)

A. (A)

B. (B)

- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. No Error

16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

Most sectors were hit hard: engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals and employment-intensive gems and jewellery, textiles and handlooms. **(1)**/ Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year, expanding the country's trade deficit over 50% to \$26.9 billion.**(2)**/ For the first time since February 2021, India's goods exports shrank this October, dropping 16.7% from last year (and 16% from September 2022) to slip below \$30 billion after a 20-month-streak above that mark.**(3)**/ Just six sectors recorded an uptick, with electronics goods being the only manufacturing segment.**(4)**/

- A. 2341
- B. 1234
- C. 3142
- D. 2143
- E. 4321

17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

TURMOIL

- (i) A really good question speaks from common sense and, because it does, the results can be expected to produce vast social **turmoil**.
 - (ii) Instead, it was a series of ad hoc measures implemented in a struggle to prevent chaos and to stop revolutionary **turmoil**.
 - (iii) I reached this conclusion with substantial unease and **turmoil**.
- A. Only (i)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. Only (iii)
 - D. (i), (ii)
 - E. (i), (ii), (iii)

18. **In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.**

Policymakers must stop **recalibrating(A)** and be more pro-active in **dithering(B)** their stance — for instance, the steel export duty amid lower global prices has **triggered(C)** higher imports, while exports, including those of engineering goods, have **collapsed(D)**.

- A. A – D
- B. B – A
- C. D – B

- D. A – C
E. No arrangement
19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.
- (i) Farmers next year will have a good corn harvest this year.
(ii) It rains a lot and prevents them from harvesting their crops.
- A. Unless
B. Though
C. Yet
D. While
E. None of these
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks
The enemy overwhelmed _____ our army.
- A. Of
B. In
C. BY
D. To

Answers

1. B 2.C 3.B 4. C 5. A 6.A 7. B 8.D 9.B 10.D 11. D
 12. B 13.C 14. B 15. D 16. C 17.E 18. B 19.A 20.C

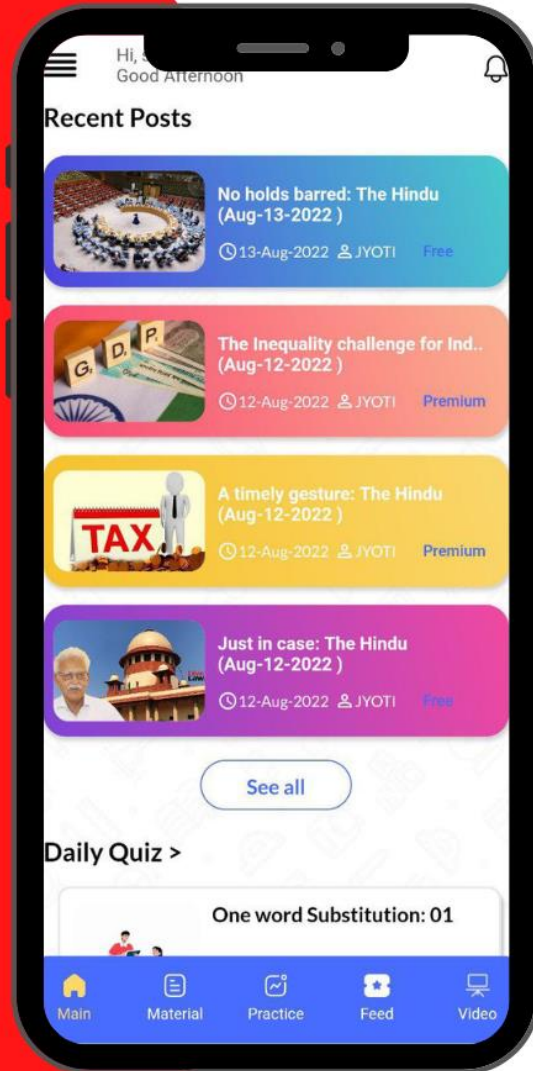
[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

- Legitimate** (adjective) – reasonable and acceptable वैध, कानूनी
 - Eccentric** (adjective) –Not conventional; a little kooky; irregular सनकी, उत्केन्द्र
 - Mendacious** (adjective) –Lying; dishonest मिथ्या
 - Profane** (adjective) –Not having to do with religion; irreverent; blasphemous अपवित्र
- Perpetuate** (verb) – to cause something to continue चिरायु बनाना, स्थिर करना
 - Agenda** (noun) –Program; the thing to be done कार्यसूची
 - Complement** verb To complete or fill up; to be the perfect counterpart जोड़ना, पूरक जोड़ना
 - Capricious** (adjective) –Unpredictable; likely to change at any moment मनमौजी
- Upheaval** (noun) – turmoil, disturbance, turbulence, disorder, convulsion उथल-पुथल
 - Disparage** (verb) –To belittle; to say uncomplimentary things about, usually in a somewhat indirect way. नीचा दिखाना, उपेक्षा करना
 - Epitome** (noun) –A brief summary that captures the meaning of the whole; the perfect example of something; a paradigm.
 - Circumlocution** (noun) –An indirect expression; use of wordy or evasive language कपटपूर्ण बातें
- Crack the whip** (Phrase)– to make people work very hard and treat them strictly and perhaps harshly
- ABC, EFDG**

India has the largest diaspora population, with nearly 1.35 crore non-resident Indians spread across the globe. Many of them leave the country for short-term work and could miss out on exercising some of their rights such as registering their vote in India's Assembly or parliamentary elections.
- (A) 'shall see' के बदले 'see' का प्रयोग होगा।
 - 'see' will be used instead of 'shall see'.
- (B) 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का Subject 'action' Singular है, जिसके लिए Singular Verb का प्रयोग होगा।
 - 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because the subject 'action' of the sentence is singular, for which Singular Verb will be used
- No error

9. (B) 'best' के पहले 'the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी Superlative Adjective के पहले 'the' का प्रयोग होता है।
- 'the' will be used before 'best' because 'the' is used before a Superlative Adjective.
10. **Committed** (adjective) – Dedicated, loyal, devoted, steadfast, unswerving, faithful समर्पित
11. **Construed** (adjective) – interpreted, read, taken, understood by के रूप में समझना
- **Fading** (adjective) – Disappearing, declining, vanishing, waning लुप्त होती
 - **Choppy** (adjective) – Uneven, rough, tempestuous कठिन
12. **On the horizon** (phrase) – imminent, impending; likely to happen soon आसन्न
13. **Attribute** (to) (verb) – to believe that something was caused or done by somebody/something के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराना
14. **Accrue** (verb) – accumulate, amass, grow, collect, receive (benefits) over time. प्राप्त करना
- **Appropriate** (verb) – To take without permission; to set aside for a particular use अपनाना, बचा रखना
 - **Pose** (verb) – constitute, present, create, cause, produce, give rise to, खड़ा करना (चुनौती)
 - **Shape** (verb) – to make something into a particular form आकार देना
15. No Error
16. (C) **3142**
- For the first time since February 2021, India's goods exports shrank this October, dropping 16.7% from last year (and 16% from September 2022) to slip below \$30 billion after a 20-month-streak above that mark. Most sectors were hit hard: engineering goods, pharmaceuticals and chemicals and employment-intensive gems and jewellery, textiles and handlooms. Just six sectors recorded an uptick, with electronics goods being the only manufacturing segment. Imports grew 5.7% year-on-year, expanding the country's trade deficit over 50% to \$26.9 billion.
17. **Turmoil** (noun) – Chaos, Disorder, confusion, uproar, tumult, commotion उथल-पुथल
According to the given options (i), (ii) AND (iii) are contextually correct.
18. Policymakers must stop dithering and be more pro-active in recalibrating their stance — for instance, the steel export duty amid lower global prices has triggered higher imports, while exports, including those of engineering goods, have collapsed.
19. Farmers next year will have a good corn harvest this year **unless** it rains a lot and prevents them from harvesting their crops.



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