

Bad to worse: On Benjamin Netanyahu's return

Benjamin Netanyahu will **quicken** Israel's **fall** into a **repressive theocracy**

The **return** of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's Prime Minister for a sixth time **marks** a **decisive shift** in its domestic politics and its relationship with the Palestinians. In the past his **right-wing** Likud party had formed **diverse governing coalitions** with **centrist** and relatively **moderate** parties, in the current six-party right-wing coalition, five are **ultra-orthodox** and **far-right** Jewish nationalist parties that make even Likud look moderate. **The coalition agreement**, a document that determines governing **agendas**, **suggests** that Mr. Netanyahu's government would **pursue radical** right-wing policies, **seeking to expand** illegal Jewish **settlements** in the **occupied** West Bank and East Jerusalem, remake the judicial system by **handing** more powers to Parliament **over** courts, and **amend** the Basic Law, removing **hurdles** for those with **extremist** views from **contesting** elections. **Itamar Ben-Gvir**, a far-right politician **convicted** for Jewish terror links and **inciting racism** in 2007, **is** the Security Minister, with powers over Israel's police force. **Bezalet Smotrich**, leader of the **ultranationalist** Religious Zionism Party, and now the new Finance Minister, **wants** to **fund** more Jewish settlements. **Some** of Mr. Netanyahu's coalition members **are** also known for their anti-LGBT positions.

For Mr. Netanyahu and Likud, the **formation** of Israel's most right-wing coalition **is** a natural **progression** of the politics they have followed. In the past, Mr. Netanyahu **embraced** ultra-orthodox and right-wing parties, pursued conservative agendas, **walked back** from peace and **cracked down on** the Palestinians, and **deepened** the **occupation**. It helped him become Israel's longest serving PM. But the Netanyahu **era** also reshaped Israel's politics, pushing it to the extreme right. The Prime Minister has dismissed **criticism** that his coalition would **endanger** Israel's democracy. At the same time, he has **projected** himself as a tough Prime Minister who would implement the coalition's agenda. "The Jewish people have an exclusive and **indisputable** right to the entire land of Israel," he said on Wednesday, referring to **historical** Palestine and suggesting that settlements would continue **unabated**. If the **Knesset passes** judicial reforms, the **government**, with the support of 64 MPs in the 120-member Parliament, **can override** even Supreme Court **rulings**. Besides, **parties** such as the Shas, the United Torah Judaism and Religious Zionism **will** influence the government's decisions that could **alter** the state-religion balance in a country where over 20% of the population are minorities. As Mr. Netanyahu's coalition seems **determined** to remake Israel's politics internally and deepen the occupation and **subjugation** of the Palestinians externally, it could also quicken the country's fall into an elected Jewish theocracy.

[Practice Exercise]

- **LGBT** (noun) – LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender/transsexual people.
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Quicken** (verb) – Accelerate, pick up speed, speed up, increase की गति बढ़ाना
2. **Fall** (noun) – a sudden decline in strength or number or importance पतन
3. **Repressive** (adjective) – Oppressive, exploitive, suppressive, cruel, brutal, authoritarian दमनकारी
4. **Theocracy** (noun) – a system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god. धर्मतन्त्र
5. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, show, demonstrate, denote, evidence, exhibit संकेत देना
6. **Decisive** (adjective) – deciding, conclusive, determining, final, settling, key निर्णायक
7. **Shift** (noun) – change, alteration, adjustment, adaptation, amendment परिवर्तन
8. **Right-wing** (adjective) – The conservative or reactionary faction of a group दक्षिणपंथी
9. **Diverse** (adjective) – various, sundry, manifold, multiple, varied, varying विविध
10. **Governing** (adjective) – Ruling, overseeing, administering, directing, regulating
11. **Coalition** (noun) – alliance, union, partnership, affiliation, bloc, गठबंधन
12. **Centrist** (adjective) – having moderate political views or policies. मध्यमार्गी
13. **Moderate** (adjective) – having or showing opinions, especially about politics, that are not extreme उदारवादी
14. **Ultra-orthodox** (adjective) – extremely or excessively orthodox, esp with regards to religion अतिरूढ़िवादी, कट्टरपंथी
15. **Far-right** (adjective) – belonging to or representing the views of the extreme right wing of a political party or group.
16. **Agenda** (noun) – a plan of things to be done, or problems to be addressed
17. **Pursue** (verb) – Carry out or participate in an activity; be involved in पीछा करना
18. **Radical** (adjective) – revolutionary, extremist, extreme, fanatic, progressive कट्टरपंथी
19. **Seek** (verb) – try, attempt, endeavour, strive प्रयास करना
20. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden बढ़ाना /विस्तार करना

21. **Settlement** (noun) – the establishment of a new region; colonization बस्तिया
22. **Occupied** (adjective) – (used about a country or a piece of land) under the control of another country अधिकृत
23. **Hand over** (phrasal verb) – Pass responsibility to someone else. सौंपना
24. **Amend** (verb) – revise, alter, change, modify, qualify संशोधन करना
25. **Hurdle** (verb) – obstacle, hindrance, barrier, obstruction, impediment बाधा
26. **Extremist** (adjective) – fanatic, radical, zealot, fundamentalist, hardliner चरमपंथी
27. **Contest** (verb) – to take part in a competition or try to win something चुनाव लड़ना
28. **Convict** (verb) – declare guilty, find guilty, pronounce guilty दोषी ठहराना
29. **Incite** (verb) – ignite, inflame, stimulate, instigate, provoke, excite भड़काना
30. **Racism** (noun) – prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized. जातिवाद
31. **Ultrnationalist** (adjective) – having an extreme belief in nationalism (= a very great love for your country and a belief that it is better than others) अति-राष्ट्रवादी
32. **Fund** (verb) – finance, back, subsidize, sponsor, support आर्थिक सहायता देना
33. **Progression** (noun) – movement forward or a development from one stage to another प्रगति
34. **Embrace** (verb) – Accept, include, encompass, incorporate, contain अपनाना
35. **Walk back** (phrasal verb) – retract a statement or reverse an action or decision.
36. **Crack down on** (phrase) – to take strong action to stop something पर कड़ी कार्यवाही करना
37. **Deepen** (verb) – intensify, heighten, strengthen, increase, enhance गहरा करना
38. **Occupation** (noun) – Conquest, capture, invasion, seizure, takeover कब्जा, आक्रमण
39. **Era** (noun) – Period, age, time युग
40. **Criticism** (noun) – censure, condemnation, critique, disapproval आलोचना

41. **Endanger** (verb) – jeopardize, threaten, risk, imperil, menace जोखिम में डालना
42. **Project** (verb) – Present, show, pose, represent पेश करना
43. **Indisputable** (adjective) – unable to be challenged or denied निर्विवाद
44. **Historical** (adjective) – of or concerning history or past events. इतिहासपरक
45. **Unabated** (adjective) – without becoming weaker; persistent, undiminished, relentless, unrelenting, बिना कमज़ोर हुए; निरंतर प्रचंड
46. **Knesset** (noun) – unicameral parliament of Israel and supreme authority of that state.
47. **Pass** (verb) – (of a legislative or other official body) approve or put into effect
- (a proposal or law) by voting on it.
पारित करना
48. **Override** (verb) – Overrule, Countermand, Reverse, Ignore, Disregard, Defy, Flout रद्द करना
49. **Ruling** (noun) – decision, judgment, decree फैसला
50. **Alter** (verb) – change, make changes to, make different, make alterations to बदलना
51. **Determined** (adjective) – resolute, firm, stubborn, fixed, unyielding दृढ
52. **Subjugation** (noun) – the act, fact, or process of subjugating, or bringing under control; enslavement अधीनता, दमन

Practice Exercise

Direction: (Q1 – Q5): In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Most of the valley had been (1)_____ over the ages by the river waters, (2)_____ rainfall, and fierce winds. All except for one giant monolith, a (3)_____ tower-like mountain of a single rock. It stood at a proud (4)_____ of eight hundred and fifty metres from the valley floor, towering well above the (5)_____ shoulders.

1. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. dried
 - B. decoded
 - C. eroded
 - D. wiped
2. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. empty
 - B. heavy
 - C. less
 - D. scanty
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. humongous
 - B. small
 - C. neat
 - D. tiny
4. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. weight
 - B. height
 - C. length
 - D. width
5. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. shelf's
 - B. mountain
 - C. valley
 - D. valley's

Directions (Q6–Q7): In the following questions, four words are given in each question, out of which only one word is rightly spelt. Find the correctly spelt word.

6.
 - A. colossal
 - B. ginoarmous
 - C. frivolous
 - D. bequeath
7.
 - A. manoeuvre
 - B. inadeuqate
 - C. libearalized

D. unparturbed

Directions (Q8–Q9): In the following questions, the 1st and the last sentence are numbered 1 and 6. The rest of the sentences/passage is split into four parts and named P, Q, R and S. These four sentences/ parts are not given in their proper order. Read the sentences/passage and find out which of the four combinations is correct. Then find the correct answer.

8. S1. Historians have often explained religious and social reform in India in the nineteenth century As a result of the Western impact upon the minds of men.

P. With that purpose, we seek to analyze the thoughts and activities of individuals who were both religious reformers and vernacular publicists.

Q. The equation of westernization and modernization has given way to a search for the indigenous sources of social changes.

R. Recognizing the modernity of tradition is one thing however, whereas understanding the intellectual processes that produced indigenously generated change is another.

S. Others have recognized that this was entirely too simple an explanation for the intellectual and social changes that took place in India and other places that fell under the foreign colonial rule.

S6. Each of these vernacular-using reformers derived his arguments from within his own tradition.

A. QRSP

B. RQPS

C. SQRP

D. SPRQ

9. S1. The availability of electric power

P. would make a tremendous difference

Q. to be improved

R. to the countryside

S. and enable rural economy

S6. in various directions.

A. PRSQ

B. RQSP

C. QRPS

D. RSQP

Directions (Q10–Q12): In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

10. I shall have written the letter.

A. The letter is being written by me.

B. The letter will have been written by me.

C. The letter will be written by me.

D. The letter has been written by me.

11. Then her face was bowed.

A. Then she bowed her face.

B. Then her face has been bowed.

C. Then she was being bowed her face.

D. Her face was bowed by then.

12. The walls had not been decorated by us.

A. We have not decorated the walls.

- B. We had not decorated the walls.
- C. We have not been decorating the walls.
- D. We had not been decorating the walls.

Directions (13-14): In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

13. Study of insects is

- A. etymology
- B. entomology
- C. ecology
- D. embryology

14. Careful in the spending of money, time, etc.

- A. punctual
- B. economical
- C. miserly
- D. calculative

Directions (15 – 16): Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. At last the rioters fell back.

- A. fell on the ground
- B. yielded
- C. ran back
- D. turned back

16. The Madagascar Coup attempt ended in a fiasco.

- A. had no effect
- B. was an utter failure
- C. resulted in blood-shed
- D. was a disaster

Directions (17-18): choose the word opposite in meaning to the given word.

17. REPRESSIVE

- A. Occupation
- B. Corroborate
- C. Extrovert
- D. Liberal

18. INCITE

- A. Suppress
- B. Antipathy
- C. Determined
- D. Euphemism

Direction: (19-20): In the following question, out of the four alternatives, choose the word which best expresses the meaning of the given word.

19. CRITICISM

- A. Wanton

- B. Ebullient
- C. Condemnation
- D. Ramification

20. **EMBRACE**

- A. Accept
- B. Adage
- C. Acrimonious
- D. Incongruous

Directions (21 – 22): In the following questions, some part of the sentence is underlined. Which of the options given below the sentence should replace the part underlined to make the sentence grammatically correct. If the sentence is correct as it is given then choose option D 'No Correction required' as the answer.

21. **No sooner had the dividend been declared, the notices were sent out.**

- A. The company had hardly declared the dividend till the notices were sent for mailing.
- B. They had no sooner declared the dividend then the notices were sent out.
- C. Hardly had the dividend been declared when the notices were sent out.
- D. No improvement

22. **Riding upon his horse, the tiger jumped at him.**

- A. Riding upon the tiger, the horse jumped at him.
- B. The tiger jumped at him while he was riding upon his horse.
- C. The tiger rode at him while he was jumping upon his horse.
- D. No improvement

Directions (Q23– Q25): Find out the error, if any –

- 23. Each one of you (A)/ must make up his mind (B)/ as I did (C)/ No Error (D)
- 24. Sudoku was first designed in the 1970s (A)/ by a retired architect (B)/ and freelance puzzle constructor. (C)/ No Error(D)
- 25. During the last few years (A)/ the company works hard (B)/ to modernise its image. (C)/ No Error (D)

Answers

1. C 2.B 3.A 4.B 5.D 6. D 7. A 8.C 9.A 10.B 11.A 12.B
 13. B 14.B 15.D 16.B 17. D 18. A 19. C 20. A 21.A 22.B 23.D 24.C
 25. B

Explanations

- Erode** (verb) – To wear (something) away by erosion नष्ट करना
- Heavy** (adjective) – of great amount, or degree, or force अधिक
- Humungous** (adjective) – huge; enormous विशालकाय
- दिए गए रिक्त स्थान के लिए उपयुक्त शब्द ' Height ' है।
- Valley's का प्रयोग होगा !
- Bequeath** (verb) – to hand down; pass on. देना, सौंपना
- Manoeuvre** (verb) – manipulate a situation to achieve an goal/aim चतुराई से साथ प्रबंध करना

8. SQRP

Historians have often explained religious and social reform in India in the nineteenth century As a result of the Western impact upon the minds of men. Others have recognized that this was entirely too simple an explanation for the intellectual and social changes that took place in India and other places that fell under the foreign colonial rule. The equation of westernization and modernization has given way to a search for the indigenous sources of social changes. Recognizing the modernity of tradition is one thing however, whereas understanding the intellectual processes that produced indigenously generated change is another. With that purpose, we seek to analyze the thoughts and activities of individuals who were both religious reformers and vernacular publicists. Each of these vernacular-using reformers derived his arguments from within his own tradition

9. PRSQ

The availability of electric power would make a tremendous difference to the countryside and enable rural economy to be improved in various directions.

10. The letter will have been written by me.

11. Then she bowed her face.

12. We had not decorated the walls.

13. **Entomology** – Study of insects कीटविज्ञान

- **Etymology** – the study of the origin and history of words and their meanings व्युत्पत्ति
- **Ecology** – the study of the relation of plants and living creatures to each other and to their environment पारिस्थितिकी
- **Embryology** – the scientific study of the development of embryos-young animals and plants before birth भ्रूणविज्ञान

14. **Economical** – Careful in the spending of money, time, etc. किफ़ायती

- **Punctual** – Not late; happening or doing at the arranged/correct time समयनिष्ठ
- **Miserly** – hating to spend money कंजूस
- **Calculative** – used of person-the most calculating and selfish men; shrewd मतल्बी

15. **Fell back** (Phrase) – move or turn back; retreat. पीछे हटना

16. **Ended in a fiasco** (Phrase) – a complete failure पूरी तरह से विफलता

17. **Repressive** (adjective) – Oppressive, exploitive, suppressive, cruel, brutal, authoritarian दमनकारी

Antonym – Liberal

- **Corroborate** (verb) To confirm; to back up with evidence पुष्ट करना
- **Occupation** (noun) – Conquest, capture, invasion, seizure, takeover कब्ज़ा, आक्रमण
- **Extrovert** (noun) – An open, outgoing person; a person whose attention is focused on other rather than on himself or herself बहिर्मुखी, बहिर्मुख

18. **Incite** (verb) – ignite, inflame, stimulate, instigate, provoke, excite भड़काना

Antonym – suppress

- **Antipathy** (noun) – Firm dislike; a dislike घृणा, चिढ़
- **Determined** (adjective) – resolute, firm, stubborn, fixed, unyielding दृढ़
- **Euphemism** (noun) – Pleasant or inoffensive expression used in place of unpleasant or offensive one प्रयोक्ति, व्यंजना

19. **Criticism** (noun) – censure, condemnation, critique, disapproval आलोचना

- **Wanton** (adjective) – Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious प्रचंड, अकारण; प्रबल
- **Ebullient** (adjective) – Boiling; bubbling with excitement; exuberant उत्तेजित, जोशीला
- **Ramification** (noun) – A consequences; a branching out शाखा विस्तार

20. **Embrace** (verb) – Accept, include, encompass, incorporate, contain अपनाना

- **Adage** (noun) – An old saying; a familiar bit of wisdom कहावत
- **Acrimonious** (adjective) – Full of spite; bitter; nasty उग्र, रूखा, चिड़चिड़ापन
- **Incongruous** (adjective) – Not harmonious; not consistent; not appropriate; not fitting in बेमेल

21. The company had hardly declared the dividend till the notices were sent for mailing

Hardly (Adv.): used for saying that something has just begun, happened etc.

22. The tiger jumped at him while he was riding upon his horse.

The tiger jumped at him while he was riding upon his horse is the right option

23. (D) No error.

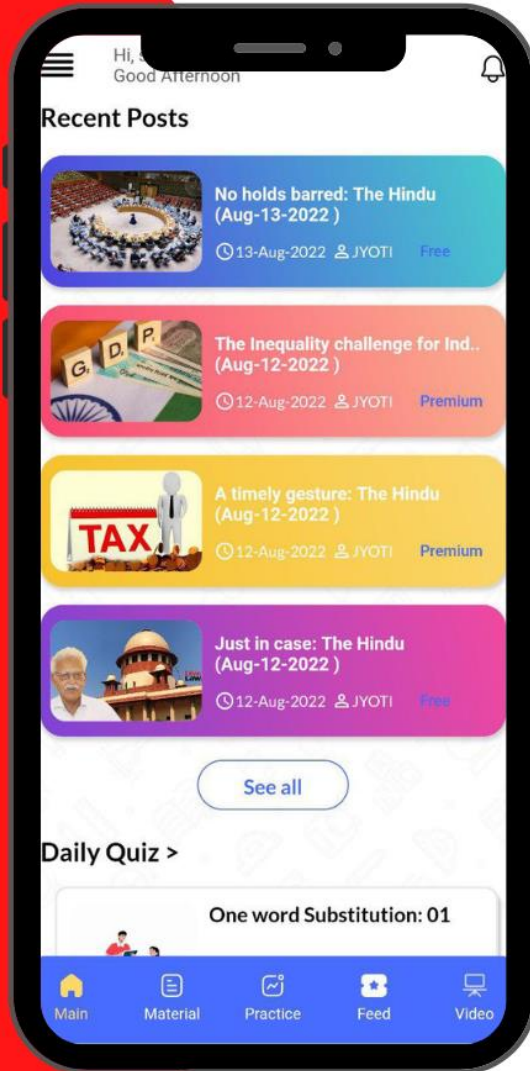
24. (C) 'constructor' के बदले 'designer' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'puzzle' को 'design' करनेवाला 'puzzle designer' कहलाएगा।

- 'designer' will be used instead of 'constructor' because 'designer' of 'puzzle' will be called 'puzzle designer'.

25. (B) 'works' के बदले 'has worked' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'During + Period of Time' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः Present Perfect Tense में होता है; जैसे-

i. During the last five years he has progressed a lot.

- 'has worked' will be used instead of 'works' because 'During + Period of Time' is generally used in Present Perfect Tense; As-
- During the last five years he has progressed a lot.



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