## Sudan's tragedy: on the power struggle between two generals <br> The feuding Generals should agree on a time-bound transition to democracy

For 30 years, Omar al-Bashir, a former military officer, ruled Sudan with an iron hand and indiscriminate violence. When he was toppled in April 2019 in a mass uprising, many hoped that the resource-rich country in the Horn of Africa would finally get a chance to move towards a freer society with a representative and responsive administration. But the tragedy of Sudan is that the monstrous regime that Mr. Bashir built outlasted his reign. Within two years of his fall, the military was back, and now, a power struggle between the top two generals has pushed Sudan to the brink of a civil war. Dozens of civilians have already been killed in fighting that broke out on Saturday in Khartoum and other parts of the country between the military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a notorious paramilitary group. Despite international calls for truce, Lt.Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the military chief as well as the head of the Sovereignty Council, the transitional administration, and his deputy, Lt.Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who commands the RSF, have refused to negotiate, blaming each other for the attacks. Mr. Dagalo, who has close ties with Russia's Wagner private military company and Saudi Arabia, claims that the RSF has taken control of the presidential palace and has vowed to bring Gen. Burhan to justice, while the military has dismissed such claims and launched air strikes against RSF sites.

Just two years ago, the two generals stood hand in hand when they ousted a civilian transition government and took over the reins of the country. Faced with international isolation and domestic pressure, they agreed to transfer power back to the civilians. But differences emerged on who should control the post-transition military. Gen. Burhan supports the integration of the RSF into the regular military and transition to civilian government to take place in two years, while Gen. Dagalo, who fears that he would lose his clout, wants to delay it by 10 years. Discord grew into mistrust and mistrust led to fighting. And the fighting could drag the country, which has a history of internal strife, into an allout civil war. Sudan's generals are known for their scant regard for the welfare of their people. The country is struggling with an economic crisis, with rocketing inflation and a burning hunger problem. The last thing Sudan wants now is a civil war. If the priority of the generals is to address Sudan's basic problems, they should pay attention to the call for a truce and dialogue, and commit themselves to a timeline-sensitive democratic transition. Decades of military rule in Sudan have resulted in a lot of atrocities. Generals Burhan and Dagalo should not tread the same course.
[Practice Exercise]

- Decade (noun) - Period of ten years दशक
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.


## Vocabulary

1. Tragedy (noun) - Calamity, disaster, catastrophe, misfortune त्रासदी
2. Feuding (adjective) - Quarreling, bickering, disputing, clashing झगड़ते
3. Time-bound (adjective) - Time-limited, scheduled, time-sensitive, deadline-driven समयबद्ध
4. Transition (noun) - Shift, change, transformation, metamorphosis परिवर्तन
5. Rule (verb) - Govern, control, dominate, preside शासन करना
6. Iron hand (phrase) - Firm control, strictness, authoritarianism, heavyhandedness कड़ाई
7. Indiscriminate (adjective) - Random, haphazard, arbitrary, unselective अंधाधुंध
8. Topple (verb) - Overthrow, oust, unseat, bring down गिराना, बेदख़ करना
9. Mass (adjective) - Widespread, large-scale, extensive, sweeping सामूहिक; व्यापक
10. Uprising (noun) - Rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny विद्रोह
11. Resource-rich (adjective) - Abundant, wealthy, well-endowed, prosperous संसाधन संपन्न
12. The Horn of Africa (noun) - Northeast Africa, the Somali Peninsula, Eastern Africa region
13. Representative (noun) - Delegate, spokesperson, envoy, emissary प्रतिनिधि
14. Monstrous (adjective) - Horrifying, appalling, dreadful, heinous दैत्याकार
15. Regime (noun) - Administration, government, ruling authority, establishment शासन
16. Outlast (verb) - Endure, outlive, survive, persist beyond अधिक ठहरना
17. Reign (noun) - Rule, dominion, control, tenure शासन
18. Brink (noun) - Edge, verge, threshold, precipice कगार पर
19. Civil war (noun) - Internal conflict, domestic war, strife, insurrection गृहयुद्घ
20. Civilian (noun) - Noncombatant, nonmilitary personnel, citizen, inhabitant नागरिक
21. Break out (phrasal verb) - Erupt, begin suddenly, flare up, burst forth अचानक शुरू होना
22. Notorious (adjective) - Infamous, disreputable, ill-famed, scandalous कुख्यात
23. Call (noun) - Demand, Appeal, request, plea, entreaty माँग
24. Truce (noun) - Ceasefire, armistice, peace agreement, suspension of hostilities युद्धविराम
25. Sovereignty (noun) - Autonomy, selfgovernment, independence, self-rule संप्रभुता
26. Transitional (adjective) - Interim, temporary, provisional, changeover परिवर्ती/ अस्थायी
27. Administration (noun) - Management, governance, leadership, authority प्रशासन
28. Command (verb) - Control, direct, oversee, govern नियंत्रण करना
29. Negotiate (verb) - Discuss, bargain, compromise, parley बातचीत
30. Ties (noun) - Connections, relationships, links, associations संबंधों
31. Claim (verb) - Assert, state, declare, maintain दावा करना
32. Palace (noun) - Residence, mansion, castle, chateau महल
33. Vow (verb) - Pledge, promise, swear, commit प्रतिज्ञा करना
34. Dismiss (verb) - Reject, disregard, ignore, brush off नकार देना
35. Strike (noun) - Attack, assault, offensive, raid हमला
36. Hand in hand (phrase) - Side by side, closely cooperating, in unison, in collaboration, jointly साथ-साथ
37. Oust (verb) - Remove, overthrow, expel, depose, displace हटा देना
38. Take over the reins of (phrase) - to take control of something, especially an organization or a country बागडोर संभालना
39. Isolation (noun) - Separation, detachment, seclusion, solitude, alienation अलगाव
40. Differences (noun) - Disagreements, disputes, conflicts, divergences, disparities मतभेद
41. Emerge (verb) - Appear, come forth, arise, surface, materialize उभरना
42. Post-transition (noun) - After the change, following transformation, subsequent to alteration, ensuing adjustment परिवर्तन के बाद
43. Take place (phrase) - Occur, happen, transpire, unfold, come about होना
44. Clout (noun) - Influence, power, sway, authority, leverage प्रभाव
45. Discord (noun) - Disagreement, conflict, friction, disharmony, tension असहमति
46. Mistrust (noun) - Distrust, suspicion, doubt, skepticism, wariness अविश्वास
47. Lead (to) (verb) - Cause, result in, bring about, give rise to, produce वजह बनना
48. Drag into (phrasal verb) - Involve, entangle, embroil, implicate, draw into खींचना, घसीटना
49. Strife (noun) - Conflict, struggle, contention, discord, rivalry लडाई
50. All-out (adjective) - Total, full-scale, complete, wholehearted, unreserved कुल
51. Scant (adjective) - Insufficient, meager, inadequate, sparse, limited अपर्याप्त
52. Regard (noun) - Consideration, concern, attention, heed, thought ध्यान, विचार
53. Struggle (verb) - Grapple, battle, wrestle, strive, contend संघर्ष करना
54. Rocketing (adjective) - Soaring, escalating, surging, skyrocketing, rapidly increasing तेजी से बढ़ते
55. Inflation (noun) - Price increase, rise in prices, escalating costs, devaluation, erosion of purchasing power मुद्रास्फीति
56. Burning (adjective) - Pressing, urgent, critical, crucial, acute तीव्र
57. Address (verb) - Tackle, deal with, attend to, confront, resolve सुलझाना, निपटाना
58. Pay attention to (phrase) - Heed, focus on, be attentive to, consider, take into account ध्यान देंना
59. Dialogue (noun) - Conversation, discussion, discourse, exchange, communication बातचीत
60. Commit (verb) - Pledge, promise, bind, obligate, devote प्रतिबद्ध करना
61. Timeline-sensitive (adjective) - Timebound, time-conscious, deadline-oriented, schedule-aware, time-specific समयबद्ध
62. Result in (phrasal verb) - Lead to, cause, bring about, produce, engender परिणाम होना
63. Atrocity (noun) - Horror, outrage, cruelty, barbarity, brutality अत्याचार
64. Tread (verb) - Walk, step, stride, trample, march चलना
65. Course (noun) - Path, route, direction, trajectory, way पथ, मार्ग

## Summary of the Editorial

1. Sudan faced a power struggle between two generals after the fall of Omar al-Bashir's regime in 2019.
2. The country had hoped for a transition to democracy after Bashir's ousting.
3. Instead, a feud between Lt. Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Lt. Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo has escalated.
4. Clashes between the military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have led to civilian casualties.
5. Both generals have refused to negotiate and blamed each other for the attacks.
6. Dagalo, with ties to Russia's Wagner and Saudi Arabia, claims control of the presidential palace.
7. The military has dismissed this claim and launched airstrikes against RSF sites.
8. Both generals initially agreed to transfer power back to civilians but disagreed on posttransition military control.
9. Gen. Burhan supports RSF integration into the regular military and a two-year transition, while Gen. Dagalo wants a 10-year delay.
10. The discord between the two generals has led to mistrust and fighting.
11. The situation threatens to push Sudan into an all-out civil war.
12. Sudan already faces an economic crisis, high inflation, and widespread hunger.
13. International calls for a truce and dialogue have gone unheeded.
14. A timeline-sensitive democratic transition is urgently needed.
15. Generals Burhan and Dagalo must avoid repeating the atrocities of past military rule in Sudan.

## Practice Exercise

1. What is the main reason behind the current crisis in Sudan as described in the passage?
A. The mass uprising against Omar al-Bashir's regime
[Editorial Page]
B. A power struggle between two top generals
C. The influence of Russia's Wagner private military company and Saudi Arabia
D. The military's return to power within two years of al-Bashir's fall
2. What is the primary cause of disagreement between Gen. Burhan and Gen. Dagalo in Sudan's power struggle?
A. Integration of RSF into the regular military
B. The timeline for transition to civilian government
C. The priority of addressing Sudan's basic problems
D. The welfare of the Sudanese people
3. What is the overall tone of the passage regarding the situation in Sudan?
A. Optimistic
B. Neutral
C. Pessimistic
D. Unconcerned
4. Which idiom best describes the situation in Sudan as a result of the power struggle between the two generals?
A. Bury the hatchet
B. Out of the frying pan and into the fire
C. Bite the bullet
D. Cry over spilt milk
5. Which of the following statements about the situation in Sudan is INCORRECT?
A. Gen. Burhan and Gen. Dagalo initially agreed to transfer power back to civilians after facing international isolation and domestic pressure.
B. Gen. Burhan wants to integrate the RSF into the regular military and transition to a civilian government within two years.
C. Gen. Dagalo has no connections with foreign entities, such as Russia's Wagner private military company and Saudi Arabia.
D. The power struggle between the two generals has led to a possibility of an all-out civil war in Sudan.
6. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph
P. The reasons are direct enough - sea-facing properties are among the most expensive here, infrastructure projects block out the view, and most of the public spaces reek of ableism.
Q. The viewing deck will come up on an existing strip at Nariman Point, which was earlier open to the public but closed on account of safety issues.
R. So a new viewing deck at Marine Drive - one that promises a safe, accessible and unhindered view of the sea - is a welcome addition to a city that has not lived up to the grand imaginations of other coastal cities across the world.
S. Mumbaikars often forget they live in a coastal city.
A.SPQR
B.PQSR
C.RPSQ
D.SPRQ
7. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph
P. On Wednesday, the Indian rupee fell 66 paise, breaching the psychological level of 83 against the dollar.
Q. While the fall continued during early trading on Thursday, the currency thereafter pared down its losses.
R. However, the Indian rupee is not an outlier as currencies of most advanced and emerging economies have fallen
S. Since the beginning of this year, the currency has fallen by around 12 per cent against the greenback.
A.PQRS
B.PQSR
C.RPSQ
D.SPRQ
8. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph
P. In recent years, with the availability of translations of her most well-known works, she has been "discovered" with equal felicity in the English-speaking world, a testament to the universality of the feminine experience and the popularity of memoir as a genre
Q. Turning the odds against the bookies yet again, this year's Nobel Prize for Literature recipient is the French memoirist Annie Ernaux, whose visceral exploration of the self and its potential implications on social and political life has long made her a champion of,
R. Yet, Ernaux, 82, does not speak only for her nation.
S. what French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted after her win, "the collective and intimate memory" of France
A.PQRS
B.QPSR
C.QSRP
D.SPRQ
9. Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph
P. And the answer - wrapped in tales, texts, myths and history - so often ends up being about the symbolic "triumph of good over evil".
Q. From the very first textbooks, that's what children are taught - Ram vs Ravan, Durga vs Mahishasur.
R. The stranger is bound to ask: What are you celebrating?
S. Imagine, for a minute, an extra-terrestrial alien, or even an ill-informed American, lands up at a Durga puja pandal, or the final day of Ram Leela, or the celebrations for Dashain.
A.SRPQ
B.QPSR
C.SRQP
D.SPRQ
10. 

P. Air Force and five for the Army, is a timely boost to the country's atmanirbharta goals in defence hardware
Q. The induction of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited-made Light Combat Helicopter into the Indian Air Force, the first of an initial order of 10 for the
R. Named Prachand, or fearless, this versatile 5.8 tonner is said to be the only helicopter that can land and take off at heights of $15,000 \mathrm{ft}$, loaded with weapons and fuel.
S. The aircraft, arguably the lightest fighter helicopter in the world, is 45 per cent indigenous right now, but will become more Indian in the years to come.
A.QRSP
B.QPSR
C.QSRP
D.SPRQ

## Comprehension

A little over two years after it turned its back at the last minute on a major multilateral trade agreement it had spent years negotiating, India last week announced the signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The free trade pact is a $\qquad$ 1 $\qquad$ acknowledgment that India needs to strengthen its trade ties with existing partners by lowering tariff walls and obtaining more favourable access for its exports in order to boost trade and economic output. With the COVID-19 pandemic having thrown
$\qquad$ 2 $\qquad$ sharp relief the public health and economic vulnerabilities of an increasingly interconnected world, a $\qquad$ 3 $\qquad$ urge to turn inward was $\qquad$ 4 $\qquad$ in the last two years as nations imposed tight travel and entry restrictions in a bid to protect their populations. And $\qquad$ 5 $\qquad$ , even as India sought to promote atmanirbharta or self-reliance, the pandemic also depressed domestic consumption demand, dragging down overall economic output.
Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words
11. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 1
A. Strident
B. Apparent
C. Tacit
D. Buoyant
12. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 2
A. Into
B. On
C. Up
D. Out
13. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 3
A. Excessive
B. Oppressive
C. Ruminative
D. Reflexive
14. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 4
A. Pertinent
B. Competent
C. Evident
D. Expedient
15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank 5
A. Eventually
B. Ironically
C. Sequentially
D. Essentially

## Find out the error, if any:

16. The doctor advised MR. Navin that, (A)/ because of his severe cramps, (B)/ he should lay in the bed for a few days. (C)/ no error(D)
17. A variety of pleasant items in the shop (A)/ attract (B)/ everybody. (C)/no error(D)
18. The table's legs (A)/ have been (B)/ elaborately carved. (C)/ no error(D)
19. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.

## Indifferent to pleasure and pain

A. Cynic
B. Stoic
C. Prudent
D. Lusty
20. Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word
A. Progress
B. Mystery
C. Pilgrim
D. Symtoms

## Answers

1. B
2.B 3.C
2. B 5. C
3. D
4. B
8.C 9.A
10.B
5. C
6. A
13.D 14.C
7. B 16.C
17.B 18.A $\quad$ 19.B $\quad$ 20.D
[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. Answer: B) A power struggle between two top generals

Explanation: The passage states that the power struggle between Lt.Gen. Abdel Fattah alBurhan and Lt.Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo has pushed Sudan to the brink of a civil war, indicating that this conflict is the main reason behind the current crisis. While the other options may be contributing factors, the primary issue according to the passage is the struggle between the two generals.
2. Answer: B) The timeline for transition to civilian government

Explanation: The passage highlights that the main disagreement between the two generals is about the timeline for the transition to a civilian government. Gen. Burhan supports a transition in two years, while Gen. Dagalo wants to delay it by 10 years. This difference in opinion has led to growing discord and the potential for an all-out civil war in Sudan.
3. c) Pessimistic

Explanation: The passage highlights the tragic situation in Sudan due to the power struggle between two generals, with the country on the brink of civil war. It also emphasizes the suffering of the Sudanese people due to ongoing economic and political issues. The tone is pessimistic as it portrays a bleak outlook for the country.
4. Answer: B. Out of the frying pan and into the fire

Out of the frying pan into the fire (phrase) - from a bad situation to one that is worse. बुरी स्थिति से बुरी स्थिति तक
Explanation: The idiom "out of the frying pan and into the fire" is most fitting for the situation in Sudan as it describes a scenario where one escapes a bad situation only to end up in a worse one. In this case, Sudan moved from the oppressive rule of Omar al-Bashir to the power struggle between the two generals, which has pushed the country to the brink of a civil war
5. c) Gen. Dagalo has no connections with foreign entities, such as Russia's Wagner private military company and Saudi Arabia.
Explanation: The passage explicitly states that Gen. Dagalo has close ties with Russia's Wagner private military company and Saudi Arabia, making statement c) incorrect. All other statements are supported by the information provided in the passage.
6. SPRQ

Mumbaikars often forget they live in a coastal city. The reasons are direct enough - sea-facing properties are among the most expensive here, infrastructure projects block out the view, and most of the public spaces reek of ableism. So a new viewing deck at Marine Drive - one that promises a safe, accessible and unhindered view of the sea - is a welcome addition to a city that has not lived up to the grand imaginations of other coastal cities across the world. The viewing deck will come up on an existing strip at Nariman Point, which was earlier open to the public but closed on account of safety issues.
7. PQSR

On Wednesday, the Indian rupee fell 66 paise, breaching the psychological level of 83 against the dollar. While the fall continued during early trading on Thursday, the currency thereafter pared down its losses. Since the beginning of this year, the currency has fallen by around 12 per cent against the greenback. However, the Indian rupee is not an outlier as currencies of most advanced and emerging economies have fallen.
8. QSRP

Turning the odds against the bookies yet again, this year's Nobel Prize for Literature recipient is the French memoirist Annie Ernaux, whose visceral exploration of the self and its potential implications on social and political life has long made her a champion of, what French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted after her win, "the collective and intimate memory" of France. Yet, Ernaux, 82, does not speak only for her nation. In recent years, with the availability of translations of her most well-known works, she has been "discovered" with equal felicity in the English-speaking world, a testament to the universality of the feminine experience and the popularity of memoir as a genre
9. SRPQ

Imagine, for a minute, an extra-terrestrial alien, or even an ill-informed American, lands up at a Durga puja pandal, or the final day of Ram Leela, or the celebrations for Dashain. The stranger is bound to ask: What are you celebrating? And the answer - wrapped in tales, texts, myths and history - so often ends up being about the symbolic "triumph of good over evil". From the very first textbooks, that's what children are taught - Ram vs Ravan, Durga vs Mahishasur.
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The induction of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited-made Light Combat Helicopter into the Indian Air Force, the first of an initial order of 10 for the Air Force and five for the Army, is a timely boost to the country's atmanirbharta goals in defence hardware. The aircraft, arguably the lightest fighter helicopter in the world, is 45 per cent indigenous right now, but will become more Indian in the years to come. Named Prachand, or fearless, this versatile 5.8 tonner is said to be the only helicopter that can land and take off at heights of $15,000 \mathrm{ft}$, loaded with weapons and fuel
11. Tacit (adjective) - implicit, understood, implied, inferred, hinted निहित

- Strident (adjective) - shrill, harsh, raucous, grating, loud कठोर
- Apparent (adjective) - obvious, evident, clear, manifest, plain स्पष्ट
- Buoyant (adjective) - increasing or staying at a high level तेजी से बढ़ते

12. Throw something into sharp relief (phrase) - highlight, spotlight, emphasize, underline (very noticeable ) रोशनी डालना
13. Reflexive (adjective) - instinctive, automatic, unconscious, unthinking बिना सोचे-समझे

- Excessive (adjective) - Extreme, unnecessary, intemperate, too much अत्यधिक
- Oppressive (adjective) -Highly stressful; worrying, burdensome pressure दमनकारी/ उत्पीड़क
- Ruminative (adjective) - expressing or involving deep thought; Thoughtful ध्यानमग्न

14. Evident (adjective) - obvious, clear, apparent, noticeable स्पष्ट

- Pertinent (adjective) - relevant, to the point, apposite, appropriate, suitable उचित/ मुनासिब
- Competent (adjective) - capable, able, proficient, adept, expert, fit सक्षम
- Expedient (adjective) - (of an action) suitable or appropriate. उचित

15. Ironically (adverb) - paradoxical, unexpected, coincidental situation विडंबनापूर्ण रूप से

- Eventually (adverb) - in the end, in due course, by and by, in time अंततः/ आखिरकार
- Sequentially (adverb) -successively, consecutively, consecutive, progressively क्रमिक रूप से
- Essentially (adverb) - Fundamentally, basically, really, in essence दर असल, वास्तव में

16. (C) ‘lay in the bed' के बदले ‘lie in bed' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘बिछावन पर लेटना’ अर्थात् ‘सोना’ के लिए ‘lie in bed' का प्रयोग idiomatic है; जैसे-
(i) She is still lying in bed.
(ii) Now you should lie in bed.

- 'lie in bed' will be used instead of 'lay in the bed' because the use of 'lie in bed' is idiomatic for 'lying on the bed' i.e. 'sleeping'; like-
(i) She is still lying in bed.
(ii) Now you should lie in bed.

17. (B) 'attract' के बदले 'attracts' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का subject ' $A$ variety' singular है जिसके लिए singular verb का प्रयोग होगा।

- 'attracts' will be used instead of 'attract' because the subject of the sentence is 'A variety' singular for which singular verb will be used.

18. (A) 'The table's legs' के बदले 'the legs of the table' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'table' एक non-living things है जिसका possessive 'of' का प्रयोग का बनाया जाता है, न कि apostrophe ['s] का प्रयोग कर।

- 'The table's legs' will be replaced with 'the legs of the table' because 'table' is a non-living things made using the possessive 'of' and not the apostrophe ['s] using.

19. Stoic (noun) - Indifferent to pleasure and pain साधु, बैरागी

- Cynic (noun) - a person who questions whether something will happen or whether it is worthwhile. निंदक, मानवद्वेषी
- Prudent (adjective) - acting with or showing care and thought for the future विवेकी
- Lusty (adjective) - healthy and strong; full of vigour. मोटा- ताजा

20. Symptom - Indication, sign, indicator, warning, sign लक्षण

- Progress - Development, growth, advancement, improvement प्रगति
- Mystery - Secrecy, anonymity, obscurity, ambiguity, inscrutability रहस्य
- Pilgrim - Traveller, hajji, tourist, visitor, wayfarer तीर्थयात्री


