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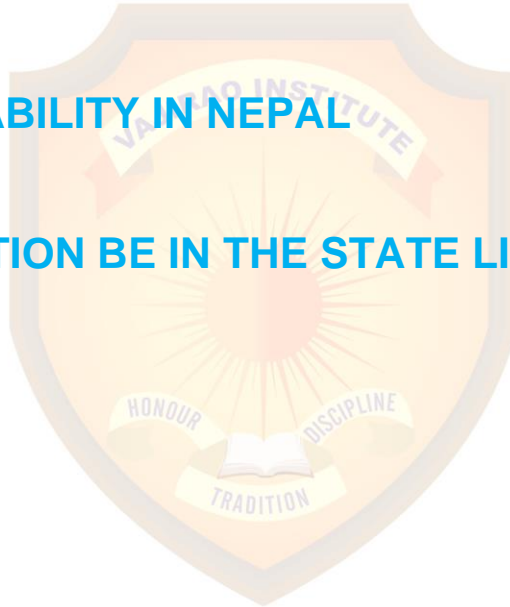
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# TODAY'S ANALYSIS

## (03 July 2024)

### TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN NEPAL
- SHOULD EDUCATION BE IN THE STATE LIST?
- MCQs



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## POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN NEPAL

### MIDNIGHT DRAMA IN KATHMANDU

# Nepali Congress, CPN-UML strike deal to oust Prachanda, propose Oli as PM

## THE NUMBERS



PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda), KP Sharma Oli and Sher Bahadur Deuba

### NUMBERS AGAINST RULING CPN(MC)

**TOTAL MEMBERS IN NEPAL PARLIAMENT: 275**

Nepali Congress	88
CPN(UML)	*79
Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre)	32
Rashtriya Swatantra party	21
Rastriya Prajatantra Party	14

\*(including speaker)

(United Socialist-10, Janata Samajwadi (Ashok Rai) -7, JSP-5, Janamat-5, Nagarik Inmukti-4, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party-4 Janamorcha and Nepal Mazdoor Kisan party - one each, Independents-2)

**138** seats in parliament  
Simple majority

**13** Nepal has had 13  
governments in the  
last 16 years

**03** Prachanda won  
three votes of  
confidence in  
Parliament during his  
one-and-a-half-year term

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## WHAT WAS THE EXISTING POLITICAL SITUATION?



## POLITICAL SITUATION IN NEPAL EARLIER (BEFORE MARCH, 2024)



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## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NEPAL (POST 2017)

**2017:** Communist Party of Nepal (formed by the merger of CPN-UML & CPN (Maoist)) came into power. KP Sharma Oli became PM.

**2020:** Protests going on by some factions to establish Nepal as a Constitutional monarchy (again) and a Hindu nation. Discontent is arising from inefficiency And corruption of the present government.

**2021:** The KP Sharma Oli government was dissolved in May 2021. Sher Bahadur Deuba of Nepali Congress became the PM on 13 July 2021. (As ordered by SC of Nepal).

**2022:** CPN (Maoist) leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal forms a coalition Government with Nepali Congress.

## HOW DOES THIS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL IMPACT INDIA?

The extraordinary political instability in Nepal is of **concern to India**.

**Oli does not enjoy a goodwill with india. But Nepali Congress does.**

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## WHY OLI IS NOT A GOOD FRIEND?

The actions and statements by Oli in **2015** during the drafting of the Nepalese constitution, which led to **protests and the infamous border blockade**, had caused a fair bit of bitterness in south Bloc. **Oli, who was Prime Minister then, portrayed India as the neighbourhood bully in his country.**

## AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Nepal, being a landlocked country is **dependant on India for its international trade.** (Politicians in Nepal have often described the country as being “india-locked”, meaning it needs India for access to ports — a fact of geography that Indian diplomats prefer to frame as being “India-open”)
- **TRADE:** The Indian foreign policy establishment points out that **India is Nepal’s largest trade partner**, with bilateral trade crossing **\$7 billion in FY 2019-20**, and that **India provides transit for almost all of Nepal’s third country trade.** Indian exports to Nepal have grown more than eight times over the past decade, while exports from Nepal have almost doubled.

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- **COOPERATION DURING COVID:** During the Covid-19 pandemic, India provided assistance of more than \$7 million to Nepal, which included the supply of more than 23 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment, more than 9.5 million doses of vaccines, and a medical oxygen plant.
- **PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONNECT:**
  - About 8 million Nepalese citizens live and work in India, and some 6 lakh Indians live in Nepal.
  - Indians are about 30% of foreign tourists in Nepal.
  - The bilateral remittance flow is estimated at \$3 billion from Nepal to India, and \$1 billion from India to Nepal.
- Cooperation in power, water, and infrastructure has been a major element of India's diplomatic toolkit with regard to Nepal.

## THE CHINA CHALLENGE FOR INDIA

Nepal is sandwiched between the two Asian giants, and the Nepalese political leadership, including the country's former monarchs, has long sought to play the China card to manage the relationship with India.

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- China has been pouring aid and investment in infrastructure to wean Kathmandu away from New Delhi. Nepalese imports from China almost tripled from (Indian) Rs 49.5 billion in 2013-14 to Rs 138.75 billion (\$1.67 billion) in 2022-23.
- With Oli, who has clear China leanings, back in government in Kathmandu, New Delhi would be keenly watching the expected efforts by Beijing to play a more active and influential role in Nepal's domestic affairs.



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# SHOULD EDUCATION BE IN THE STATE LIST?

The **NEET-UG exam** has been embroiled in controversies over the award of grace marks, allegation of paper leaks and other irregularities.

The government also **cancelled the UGC-NET exam** after it was held, while the **CSIR-NET** and **NEET-PG exams** have been postponed.

**Education**, an important public good is now part of the **concurrent list**.

## THE BACKGROUND

The **Government of India Act, 1935** during the British rule created a **federal structure for the first time in our polity**. The legislative subjects were distributed between the federal legislature (present day Union) and provinces (present day States).

## WHERE WAS EDUCATION PLACED?

Education which is an important public good was kept under the **provincial list**. After **independence**, this continued and **education was part of the 'State list'** under the **distribution of powers**.

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## WHEN WAS EDUCATION BROUGHT IN THE CONCURRENT LIST?

During the Emergency, the Congress party constituted the **Swaran Singh Committee** to provide recommendations for **amendments to the Constitution**. One Of the recommendations of this committee was to **place 'education' in the concurrent list** in order to evolve all-India policies on the subject.

### WAS CONSTITUTION AMENDED?

This was implemented through the **42nd constitutional amendment (1976)** by shifting 'education' from the State list to the concurrent list.

### WAS THERE DEBATE AROUND THE ISSUE?

There was **no detailed rationale** that was provided for this switch and the amendment was **ratified by various States without adequate debate**.

## THE AFTERMATH OF EMERGENCY

The **Janata Party government** led by **Morarji Desai** that came to power after Emergency passed the **44th constitutional amendment (1978)** to reverse many of the controversial changes made through the 42nd amendment.

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## WERE THERE ANY AMENDMENT PROVISIONS WRT EDUCATION?

One of these amendments that was **passed in the Lok Sabha but not in the Rajya Sabha** was to **bring back 'education' to the state list.**

## INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES

- In the **U.S.**, **State and local governments set the overall educational standards, mandate standardised tests and supervise colleges and universities.**
  - The **federal education department's functions** primarily include **policies for financial aid, focussing on key educational issues and ensuring equal access.**
- In **Canada**, education is **completely managed by the provinces.**
- In **Germany**, the constitution vests **legislative powers for education with landers (equivalent of States).**
- In **South Africa**, on the other hand, **education is governed by two national departments for school and higher education.**
  - The provinces of the country have their own education departments for Implementing policies of the national departments and dealing with local issues.

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## WHAT SHOULD BE THE WAY FORWARD?

### THE ARGUMENTS

Education in state list	Education in concurrent list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>85% Expenditure</b> on Education is done by the <b>states &amp; 15% by the center.</b></li><li>• <b>'One size fits all'</b> approach is <b>Not feasible</b> neither desirable in A diverse country like India.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>uniform education policy</b>, Improvement in <b>standards and synergy</b> between <b>Centre and States.</b></li><li>• <b>Corruption &amp; lack of Professionalism</b> in states.</li></ul>

There needs to be a **productive discussion** towards moving **'education'** back to the **State list**. This would enable them to frame **tailor-made policies for syllabus, testing and admissions** for higher education including professional courses like medicine and engineering. **Regulatory mechanisms for higher education** can continue to be governed by **central institutions** like the National Medical Commission, University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education.

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## MCQs

1. Consider the statements and mark the correct one:
    1. Nepal adopted its latest constitution in 2015.
    2. There has not been a single party majority government in Nepal since 2022.
- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans. (C)**

2. Which of the following statement/s is/are true?
    1. India & Nepal broke off diplomatic ties during the 2015 episode when Nepal was passing its Constitution.
    2. The Madhesia Community was at the center of the conflict between India & Nepal in 2015.
    3. India is Nepal's largest trading partner presently.
- (A) Only 1 & 3  
(B) Only 3  
(C) Only 2 & 3  
(D) All of the above

**Ans. (C)**

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3. Which of the following were changes happened on the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee?

1. Shifting of Education from Union list to Concurrent List.
2. Introduction of Fundamental Duties in the Constitution.

- (A) Only 1  
(B) Only 2  
(C) Both 1 & 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2



**Ans. (B)**

4. Which of the following acts (before independence) created the federal structure for India?

- (A) Gol Act, 1909  
(B) Gol Act, 1919  
(C) Gol Act, 1935  
(D) None of the above

**Ans. (C)**

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5. In which of the countries, Education is governed by two national departments for school and higher education & the provinces have two departments to implement the policies & laws made by the center?

- (A) USA
- (B) Germany
- (C) Canada
- (D) South Africa

**Ans. (D)**



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