



Following the House of Representative elections, Nepal has named its new Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, aka Prachanda, from the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) amidst an interesting turn of events. The Maoist Center, which participated in the elections under the political coalition led by Nepali Congress, broke the coalition and formed a government with the other Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Rashtriya Swatantra Party, Rashtriya Prajatantra Party and four other parties. The Maoist Center, which is technically leading the government, is the third largest party in the parliament, which owns 32 out of 275 seats. The party won only 11 percent of the total votes.

But even more surprising is the composition of the seven-party coalition leading the government - whose ideology and approach to running the state are entirely different. The Prime Minister's party, Maoist Center, is a flag bearer of federalism, secularism, and republicanism in Nepal. But the other party in the same coalition, Rashtriya Swatantra Party, has reservations about the provincial setup and didn't file any candidates in the Provincial Assembly elections. Similarly, the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party is known for its agenda to reinstate monarchy, scrap federalism, and declare Nepal a Hindu State. The CPN (UML) also doesn't seem to have great enthusiasm for the federal system, as observed by the party's chairman's remarks.

Considering these differences in the fundamental ideologies, it is evident that it will be complicated for the coalition to gain consensus on many important issues. Also, it will be worth watching how each party will work to deliver the promises made to the public about systemic changes. Nevertheless, if each party in the government focuses on improving areas like education, employment, governance, and the economy, keeping aside their differences in ideologies or populist agendas, the public's aspirations towards the government will definitely be fulfilled.

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Governance Issues of the Week

1. The failure to collect sufficient revenue has decreased the government's income rapidly. According to the Financial Comptroller General Office, the government has spent 300 billion till 27 December 2022, while the revenue collection until the period is 346 billion. It is 20.8% less compared to the revenue collection in the same period last year.
Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)
2. The Home Ministry has requested the incumbent and former government officials and security personnel who have kept the security personnel as their private security against the Security Management Procedure 2077 to return them to the security agencies by 29 December 2022.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. The Bagmati River Basin Improvement Project, which was supposed to complete in 1.27 billion, has incurred a cost of 1.33 billion after the modifications were made to the project design without approval. It has cost 62.5 million to the state. As per the Public Procurement Act, the design or cost revision can only be done under special circumstances with approval.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
4. President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has called the first meeting of the newly-elected House of Representatives on 9 January 2023. The most senior lawmakers will chair parliament meetings until the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the HOR are elected. The constitution mandates that the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the HOR should be elected within 15 days after the first meeting.
Read more: [Online Khabar](#)
5. The Election Commission is preparing to announce the presidential and vice-presidential elections dates, which should be announced one month before the past tenure ends. The election for the positions will be held on different dates. It is mandated that the President and Vice-President should be of different gender and ethnicity.
Read more: [Ekagaj](#)
6. An expert team from China has arrived in Nepal for the feasibility study of the Nepal-China cross-border railway. The feasibility study is being conducted through a Chinese grant, but both sides are yet to decide if the railway project, which is estimated to cost over NRs. 3 billion, will be conducted through grants or loans.
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