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## Parliament dissolved, Nepal sets poll dates



### OLI HAD NO CHOICE

Oli has gradually lost his majority in Parliament, and in the party. So he did not have many options, said Dr Nihar R Nayak, a fellow at MP-IDSA

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi *21/12*

PUSHED to the wall by rebellion within his party, Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli Sharma on Sunday recommended the dissolution of Parliament and snap polls. Soon, President Bidya Devi Bhandari complied and announced that the first phase of general elections will be held on April 30, followed by the second phase on May 10.

According to sources, the immediate reason for the dissolution was an ordinance introduced by Oli this month on the Constitutional Council, which his rival within the party, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' said will weaken the country's checks and balances. The council, headed by the prime minister, has the leader of opposition as one of the members. It recommends appointments to various constitutional bodies.

Among Oli's strengths was solid support from the Chinese envoy. He seems to have lost it now, said sources in the Himalayan country.

"There are multiple reasons behind Oli recommending the dissolution of Parliament, but the main problem was his autocratic style as he took all decisions on his own," said a Kathmandu-based journalist.