International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of coalition politics in parliamentary democracies. How can smaller parties and minority political groups influence government formation and policymaking?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 28/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Fragmented electoral mandates; coalition bargaining; legislative majority; minority representation; policy compromises; political stability and accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Coalition politics emerges when no single party secures sufficient legislative strength to govern independently. It is a feature of parliamentary democracies with fragmented electoral mandates.

Role in government formation

Parties negotiate common programmes, distribute ministerial responsibilities and establish arrangements for legislative support. Smaller parties may become pivotal when their seats determine whether a government can command a majority. Their participation can broaden representation and bring regional or minority concerns into national policymaking.

Influence and challenges

Coalition partners may influence budgets, social policies, security priorities and legislative reforms. Minority political groups can use parliamentary negotiations to demand greater attention to discrimination, public services and political inclusion.

However, competing demands may delay decisions, weaken policy coherence or make governments vulnerable to the withdrawal of support. Coalition stability depends on mutual trust, clear agreements and effective legislative coordination.

Way Forward

Transparent coalition agreements, regular consultation, parliamentary debate and respect for constitutional procedures can improve accountability. Electoral outcomes should be translated into government formation through established democratic rules rather than assumptions based solely on which party wins the most seats.

Conclusion

Coalition politics can deepen representation and encourage consensus, but its success depends on balancing diverse interests with stable and accountable governance.

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