International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of coalition politics and smaller political parties in government formation in parliamentary democracies, with reference to Israel.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 01/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary democracy; coalition government; electoral fragmentation; kingmaker parties; political bargaining; government stability

Model Answer

Introduction:

In parliamentary democracies, government formation depends on the ability of a party or coalition to secure sufficient legislative support. Israel’s multiparty system illustrates the importance of coalition negotiations.

Role of smaller parties

- **Majority formation:** Smaller parties can provide the seats required for a governing coalition to cross the parliamentary majority threshold.
- **Policy influence:** Their support may give them bargaining power over policy priorities and ministerial positions.
- **Representation:** Coalition negotiations can bring diverse social, religious and political interests into the governing process.
- **Opposition strategy:** Parties may also support a government from outside a coalition or coordinate with opposition groups on specific issues.

Challenges

Coalition bargaining can delay government formation and create disagreements over policy. Fragile coalitions may face difficulties sustaining legislative support, leading to political uncertainty or early elections.

Way Forward

Transparent coalition agreements, clear policy commitments and respect for democratic institutions can improve accountability and government stability.

Conclusion

Smaller parties can play a decisive role when election results produce a fragmented legislature. Their influence can broaden representation, but stable governance ultimately requires workable agreements and sustained parliamentary support.

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