Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of external parliamentary support in the stability of minority governments in India. What lessons does the Chandra Shekhar government (1990–1991) offer about coalition politics and executive accountability?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 10/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Minority government, outside support, parliamentary majority, coalition dynamics, withdrawal of support, political stability, collective responsibility, constitutional conventions.

Model Answer

Introduction

A minority government is formed when a party or alliance lacks an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha but secures the confidence of the House through external support.

Role of External Support

- Enables smaller parties to form governments without joining a formal coalition.
- Requires continuous negotiation and political coordination.
- Makes government stability dependent on the continued confidence of supporting parties.

Lessons from the Chandra Shekhar Government

The Chandra Shekhar government (1990–1991) depended on outside support from the Congress. Its collapse following the withdrawal of that support demonstrated the vulnerability of minority governments.

The episode highlights that political disagreements can affect executive continuity. It also reinforces the importance of parliamentary confidence, constitutional procedures and accountability to the Lok Sabha.

Constitutional Significance

Under Article 75(3), the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. A government must therefore retain the confidence of the House to remain in office.

Conclusion

External support can facilitate government formation, but durable governance requires parliamentary confidence, political consensus and respect for constitutional conventions.

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