Polity & Governance · GS - II

Coalition politics in parliamentary democracies often reflects electoral pluralism but can also create challenges for political stability and policy coherence. Examine this statement with reference to Israel's system of government.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Electoral proportionality, fragmented legislatures, coalition negotiations, ideological differences, parliamentary confidence, political stability, policy continuity, democratic representation, institutional reforms.

Model Answer

Introduction

Israel's parliamentary system combines proportional representation with coalition-based government formation. Its political experience illustrates the opportunities and difficulties associated with fragmented legislatures.

Why Coalition Governments Emerge

Israel follows nationwide proportional representation for electing its unicameral Knesset. The relatively low electoral threshold enables multiple political parties to gain representation, often preventing a single party from securing a majority.

Challenges of Coalition Politics

- **Ideological differences:** Coalition partners may disagree on security, religion, economic policy and territorial issues.
- **Political instability:** Withdrawal of support by smaller parties can threaten the government's parliamentary majority.
- **Policy compromises:** Negotiations may dilute or delay important policy decisions.
- **Short-term governance:** Frequent political uncertainty can affect administrative continuity and public confidence.

Democratic Significance

Coalitions provide representation to diverse political and social groups. However, disproportionate bargaining power for smaller parties may complicate majority-based decision-making.

Way Forward

Transparent coalition agreements, stronger parliamentary deliberation, internal party democracy and institutional stability can improve governance without undermining representation.

Conclusion

Coalition politics is not inherently unstable. Its effectiveness depends on responsible political negotiation, parliamentary accountability and the ability to reconcile competing interests.

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