Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the role of pre-poll alliances in India's multi-party parliamentary democracy.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 24/11/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Coalition politics, electoral representation, ideological convergence, seat-sharing, government formation, political accountability, federal diversity

Model Answer

Introduction

India's multi-party system encourages political parties to form pre-poll alliances to consolidate support, coordinate electoral strategies and improve their representation in legislatures.

Role in Parliamentary Democracy

1. **Electoral consolidation:** Alliances enable parties to combine support bases and coordinate seat-sharing arrangements, potentially reducing vote fragmentation.
2. **Coalition governance:** They can facilitate government formation and provide a platform for coordinating policy priorities among partners.
3. **Federal representation:** Regional parties bring state-specific concerns into national political discussions, strengthening cooperative federalism.

4. **Political accommodation:** Alliances encourage negotiation and compromise among parties with different ideological and social constituencies.

Challenges

1. **Ideological contradictions:** Partners may have divergent positions on economic, social and regional issues.
2. **Leadership conflicts:** Disagreements over seat allocation and political leadership can weaken alliance cohesion.
3. **Accountability gaps:** Voters may find it difficult to attribute responsibility for policy failures when multiple parties share power.
4. **Opportunistic arrangements:** Alliances without a coherent policy framework may undermine public confidence.

Way Forward

1. Ensure transparency in alliance commitments and common minimum programmes.
2. Establish institutional mechanisms for resolving disputes among coalition partners.
3. Strengthen legislative accountability and democratic consultation within alliances.

Conclusion

Pre-poll alliances are an important feature of India's competitive democracy. Their contribution to stable and representative governance depends on policy coherence, mutual accountability and respect for democratic principles.

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