International Relations · GS - II

Examine the role of coalition politics and smaller political parties in government formation under Israel's parliamentary system. What does the 2026 election outcome indicate about political representation and democratic negotiations?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 30/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Parliamentary democracy; proportional representation; Knesset; coalition government; 61-seat majority; Arab-led political parties; minority representation; political fragmentation; democratic negotiations

Model Answer

Introduction

Israel follows a parliamentary system based on proportional representation. Its 120-member Knesset requires a majority of at least 61 members to support a government.

Role of Coalition Politics

- **Government formation:** Parties negotiate to secure majority support in the Knesset.
- **Smaller parties:** Parties with limited seats can become influential when larger blocs lack a majority.
- **Policy bargaining:** Coalition partners negotiate ministerial positions, legislative priorities and policy commitments.
- **Parliamentary accountability:** Coalition stability depends on maintaining legislative support.

Significance of the 2026 Election

According to the reported results, Netanyahu's bloc secured 53 seats, the opposition bloc 48, and Arab-led parties 19 seats. Neither major bloc independently reached the majority threshold.

The outcome highlights the significance of Arab-led parties in coalition negotiations and demonstrates how proportional representation can give smaller political groups substantial parliamentary influence.

Challenges

Ideological differences, competing policy priorities and disagreements over coalition participation can delay government formation and affect political stability.

Conclusion

Coalition politics reflects the diversity of Israel's parliamentary representation. Inclusive negotiations and respect for democratic representation remain important for forming a stable government.

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