# Polity & Governance · GS - II

**Examine the role of coalition politics and pre-election alliances in India's parliamentary democracy. What institutional and political factors influence seat-sharing negotiations among political parties?**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 23/11/2026 | GS - II | Polity & Governance |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 15 | ~250 words |

## Answer Hint

**Coalition governments, pre-poll alliances, electoral strategy, winnability, regional parties, ideological compatibility, anti-defection law, representation, political stability**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Coalition politics has become an important feature of India's electoral democracy, particularly where multiple parties compete for influence. Pre-election alliances and seat-sharing arrangements allow parties to coordinate electoral strategies while retaining their separate organisational identities.

### Role of Pre-Election Alliances

1. **Electoral coordination:** Seat-sharing can reduce vote fragmentation among parties with overlapping support bases and coordinate campaigning across constituencies.

2. **Regional representation:** Regional parties bring local leadership, social coalitions and state-specific issues into broader political alliances.

3. **Coalition formation:** Pre-election agreements can provide a basis for post-election cooperation and government formation.

4. **Political bargaining:** Parties negotiate constituency allocation based on organisational strength, previous electoral performance, local influence and perceived winnability.

## Factors Influencing Seat-Sharing Negotiations

1. **Electoral performance:** Previous vote shares, winning margins and constituency-level trends influence bargaining positions.

2. **Organisational strength:** Cadre networks, local leadership and grassroots mobilisation affect a party's claim to particular constituencies.

3. **Ideological compatibility:** Differences in policy priorities and political positioning can complicate alliance arrangements.

4. **Leadership and trust:** Personal equations, negotiation mechanisms and clarity over campaign leadership influence alliance stability.

## Challenges

1. Disagreements over constituency allocation can create friction among alliance partners.
2. Repeated electoral compromises may weaken the independent organisational identity of smaller parties.
3. Dissatisfied local leaders and workers may contest against alliance candidates.
4. Unclear power-sharing arrangements can generate instability after elections.

## Way Forward

1. Adopt transparent and evidence-based seat-sharing criteria.
2. Institutionalise coordination committees and dispute-resolution mechanisms.
3. Respect regional representation and the organisational interests of alliance partners.
4. Maintain clarity regarding common programmes and post-election cooperation.

## Conclusion

Coalition politics reflects India's social and political diversity. Transparent negotiations, mutual trust and programme-based cooperation can help

alliances function effectively while preserving democratic competition.