

Falling apart((phrasal verb) – break up, come apart, **disintegrate**(अलग अलग करना) — On Germany political crisis

As talks on a **coalition**(गठबंधन) fail in Germany, Angela Merkel faces her career's biggest challenge. The crisis over government formation in Berlin has raised the possibility of fresh elections in Germany and the **ripple effect**((noun) – the continuing and spreading results of an event/action repeatedly.) of **instability**(अस्थिरता) in the European Union. The **breakdown**((phrasal verb) – failure, collapse, disintegration/foundering असफल प्रयास) in talks between Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union and potential partners to get the **requisite**((adjective) – necessary, essential, needful जरूरी) numbers in the **Reichstag**((proper noun) –

Parliament; The main legislature of the German state) has dealt a blow to a time-tested post-War model of political compromise((noun) – agreement, understanding, settlement) **समझौता** and **consensus-building**((noun) – mediation of a complex conflict/dispute which involves many parties सर्वसम्मति). A major **sticking point**((noun) – obstacle, bone

of contention; a problem or issue that makes you can't move beyond and it stops all progress and you are stuck (रुकावट) in the coalition negotiations among the three ideologically **disparate**((adjective) – contrasting, different, dissimilar, भिन्न) parties — the **centre-right**((adjective) – moderately right-wing (party)) CDU, the left-wing Greens and the pro-market Free Democratic Party — was whether the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees who migrated to Germany should be allowed to bring their families. Curiously, the CDU **conceded**((verb) – admit, acknowledge, accept, मानना) the extension of the current freeze on family reunion, on the insistence of its sister party, the Christian Social Union. This is a substantial **concession**((noun) – right, licence permit, विशेष सुविधा) from a party that backed the government's bold decision to open the doors in 2015 to **rescue**((verb) – save, save from danger, aid बचाना) millions who had risked their lives to reach Europe. The Greens, key allies in a potential Jamaica coalition with the conservatives and the FDP, **fell in line**((fall in line:phrase) – conform (tally with) with others के अनुसार चलना), despite their humanitarian **stance**(रवैया) on refugees. But the FDP **dug in its heels**((dig in its heels:phrase) – oppose, fight against, defy/resist stubbornly. विरोध करना), demanding the **phasing out**((noun) – A process of discontinuing something in phases) of a tax to support Germany's eastern regions. Remarks by its leader that it is better not to govern than govern badly is a measure of the

discord((noun) – strife, conflict, hostility मतभेद) during the negotiations.

In this **fluid**((adjective) – fluctuating, changeable, inconstant घटता-बढ़ता) scenario, another general **election** cannot be ruled out, especially as the centre-left Social Democratic Party has so far **foreclosed**((verb) – preclude, prevent, remove (a course of action) होने न देना) the possibility of **cohabiting**((verb) – coexist साथ रहना) with the conservatives in another grand coalition. After it received its worst-ever **drubbing**((noun) – defeat, beating, loss भारी हार.) in the September elections, the party may be reluctant to revisit its position, lest it risk further **erosion**((noun) – destruction, dissolution, wearing away क्षय) of its popular base. But in the unlikely event of it backing the CDU, the Social Democrats may insist on offering support to a candidate other than Ms. Merkel as Chancellor. A minority government led by the CDU is a theoretical possibility, but even the conservatives do not seem to **warm up to**((phrasal verb) – like, get on with, feel attracted to पसंद करना) it. That leaves the President with the responsibility of determining whether fresh elections are the only option. The **far right**((noun) – the extreme right wing of a political party) Alternative for Germany, which emerged as the third largest party in the elections, believes it can further **consolidate**((verb) – strengthen, secure, reinforce/fortify मजबूत बनाना) those **unprecedented**((adjective) – not done or experienced before बेमिसाल) gains — something the mainstream parties will be conscious of during **last-ditch**((adjective) – last-minute, last-chance, eleventh-hour/final अंतिम चरण) attempts to **cobble together**((phrasal verb) – prepare hastily, put together roughly, patch together गांठना) a coalition. The proof of the **efficacy**((noun) – effectiveness, efficiency, power/ability to give estimated results क्षमता) of the German consensus model lay in solidifying the political centre-ground over the decades. The need for a strong middle ground could not be greater than it is at this point. Once the Netherlands and France **averted**((verb) – prevent, stop, avoid टाल देना) political instability **at the hands of**(phrase) – **Through the action/intervention of** **populist**((adjective) – related to politicians who claim that they are representing the common/ordinary people) and **euro-sceptic**((noun) – a person who is opposing to increase the powers of the European Union.) parties earlier this year, the outcome in Germany had appeared to be **a foregone conclusion**((phrase) – predictable result, predictable outcome, inevitability जो टल न सके, निश्चित). Perhaps not.