

Important Vocab For the Editorial

1. **step aside** (phrasal verb) – leave, quit, resign/withdraw.
2. **poise** (verb) – position oneself, prepare oneself, brace oneself.
3. **protracted** (adjective) – very long, prolonged, extensive.
4. **elude** (verb) – lose, duck, shake off.
5. **hard-line** (adjective) – relating to a group/a political party with people who support a strict ideas and they are extreme & uncompromising.
6. **rubric** (noun) – headline; an evaluation tool/a set of guidelines/instructions.
7. **coalesce** (verb) – combine, merge/unite, come together.
8. **cohesive** (adjective) – united, integrated, cooperated.
9. **burn one's bridges** (phrase) – to destroy one's path, connections, reputation, opportunities, etc., particularly intentionally.
10. **centrist** (noun) – a person whose political opinions are not extreme, falling between those of liberals and conservatives.
11. **ally** (noun) – partner, supporter, accomplice/confederate.
12. **precarious** (adjective) – uncertain/unsure, insecure, unreliable/risky.
13. **forge** (verb) – form, create, establish/set up.
14. **right-wing** (adjective) – conservative, rightist, alt-right.
15. **opt to** (verb) – choose, select, pick out.
16. **deadlock** (noun) – stalemate, impasse, checkmate/stand-off.
17. **helm** (noun) – responsible, in authority, in charge.
18. **contemplate** (verb) – consider, think about, reflect on.
19. **scenario** (noun) – course of events, situation.
20. **prosecutor** (noun) – a lawyer who presents the government's case against someone accused of a crime.
21. **dilemma** (noun) – quandary, predicament, difficulty.
22. **relentlessly** (adverb) – steadily, firmly/determinedly, continuously in an intense way.
23. **ultraorthodox** (adjective) – relating to, or conforming to the approved form of any doctrine, philosophy, ideology, etc.
24. **enlist** (verb) – enrol, join up.
25. **anticipate** (verb) – expect, foresee, precede.
26. **stretch** (verb) – prolong, lengthen, make longer.
27. **optimism** (noun) – hopefulness, confidence, positiveness.
28. **resort to** (verb) – have recourse to, utilize, employ.
29. **rhetoric** (noun) – bombast, loftiness, hyperbole/extravagant language.
30. **fragmented** (adjective) – separated, isolated, disintegrated/collapsed/divided.
31. **polity** (noun) – a politically organized society (or state or unit).
32. **imperative** (noun) – necessary condition, precondition, requirement.
33. **oblige** (verb) – require, compel, bind/force.
34. **strike** (verb) – hit, drive, propel.
35. **endeavour** (noun) – venture, pursuit, exercise/activity.
36. **ought to** (modal verb) – must, should.
37. **underpin** (verb) – support, strengthen, fortify, buttress.
38. **sovereignty** (noun) – supremacy, dominion, power.
39. **foremost** (adverb) – primarily, mainly, most importantly, in the first place.
40. **facilitate** (verb) – make easier, clear the way for, assist/help.
41. **statesmanly** (adjective) – relating to the experienced, respected political leader.

Israel undecided: On why Netanyahu should step aside

Netanyahu must step aside to allow the country to get a new stable government

Once again, Israel is poised for protracted coalition talks between the country's two main parties. Tuesday's **election**, the second this year, is shaping to be as inconclusive as the poll in April. The ambition to win a fifth term in office could elude Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the conservative Likud party. If anything, his appeal to hard-line Jewish parties to the right helped Israeli Arabs, under the rubric of the Arab Joint List, to coalesce as a more cohesive force ahead of the polls. Mr. Netanyahu also burned his bridges with potential centrist allies in recent months. With about 96.5% of the ballots counted, Israeli media says the Likud party has won 31 seats. Blue and White, the Opposition of former Army chief Benny Gantz, has reportedly won 33 seats. In the 120-seat Knesset, neither is thus anywhere near securing a clean majority. Between the two of them, Mr. Netanyahu's position appears more precarious. Having failed to forge a right-wing coalition after the inconclusive April election, he opted to return to the people rather than allow Mr. Gantz to try and break the deadlock. Predictably, the latter has offered to establish a unity government with Likud, but without Mr. Netanyahu at the helm. Israel's longest serving Prime Minister could not even contemplate such a scenario, as the country's chief prosecutor is scheduled to begin a probe within weeks into bribery and fraud against him.

Reports indicate that given Mr. Gantz's openness to work with other parties, Israel's President Reuven Rivlin may be inclined to invite him first to form a government. The other dilemma Mr. Netanyahu faces is from the **Israel Our Home** party, headed by his former Defence Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, who has relentlessly campaigned to remove the exemption of ultraorthodox Jewish communities from enlisting in the armed forces. The issue was a major obstacle to the two parties coming together earlier this year. Israel Our

Home and the Arab Joint List are expected to improve on their tally in this election. But to anticipate a working arrangement between them and the Blue and White Opposition may be stretching optimism too far. After all, Mr. Gantz has resorted no less to the rhetoric about expanding Israel's borders deep into the Palestinian territory. But in Israel's increasingly fragmented polity, the imperatives of forming a government oblige parties to strike compromises. That endeavour ought to be underpinned by a recognition of the two-state solution as the only viable course to accord dignity and sovereignty to the Palestinian people. Foremost, Tel Aviv needs a government. Mr. Netanyahu could facilitate the process by stepping aside. That would be the statesmanly act.