Nepali Election Results

Why in news?

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The Left alliance in Nepal is heading for a decisive victory in the first election post the 2015 constitution.

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What is the result?

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- Nepal’s new constitution provides for a mix of “First Past the Post (FPTP)” - 165 seats and Proportional Representation (PR) -110 seats in its parliament.
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- While the final picture of its new Parliament isn’t out, the Leftist Alliance is on course to win more than 70% of the 165 FPTP seats.
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- The leftists are also leading in most PR seats.
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- This will make it the first decisive win since democracy began in 1990.
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- Even at the provincial level that were held along with the national elections, the leftist coalition is in the lead.
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What are the implications?

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- By forming an ideologically coherent alliance and expanding beyond the traditional strongholds in the hill towns, UML has succeeded in reversing its electoral debacles since 2008.
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- This provides an opportunity for a stable government after years of political instability and would help focus on governance.
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- But there is considerable scepticism as such opportunities have been wasted in the past due to rumbling disagreements within coalition partners.
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- Many constitutional issues and particularly the sensitive Madeshi question isn’t settled as yet.
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What are the lessons for India?

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- The elections were largely concluded to be free and fair with more than 300 international observers and Election Commission’s awareness drive.
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- The Nepali elections would also help in studying the patterns for simultaneous elections for provinces and National Assembly, which has been proposed in India.
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- Also, the partial ‘Proportional Representation’ concept that has been instituted in Nepal can be studied.
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Source: The Hindu, Indian Express

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