

Is the Coalition Government a Success Story in the Indian Politics?

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ABSTRACT

A coalition government is a type of government where political parties meet up on their own drive to frame a government. The most frequently cited reason for this course of action is that no single political party has ever won a clear majority of the vote following an election. Alliances are most often framed in current parliaments when no single political party can get a majority of votes. It is feasible for at least two political parties, each with an adequate number of elected individuals to shape a majority, to settle on a typical programme that doesn't need an excessive number of extraordinary concessions from their singular arrangements, and afterward continue to frame a government. A coalition government goes about as a channel for measuring up to the assumptions and settling the grievances of different constituencies. On the other hand, the coalition is referred to as unstable or prone to instability. The coalition members' divergences of opinion ultimately result in the collapse of the government's coalition. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was India's first successful coalition government; lasting the entirety of its five-year term (1999–2004). There is a raging debate going on right now about this topic. So, the study tries to find out whether or not the coalition government in India has been a success in the world of politics.



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INTRODUCTION

The Latin word 'coalition', which means 'to grow together', is the origin of the term 'coalition.' As a result, the term "coalition" refers to the act of bringing together different parts into a single whole. The term "coalition" refers to a grouping of different political parties

together. It is common in modern parliaments for a coalition to form when no single political party can secure a majority. A majority of the elected members of two or more parties must agree on an agreement that does not require major concessions from their individual policies in order to form a government. The fact that India chose democracy and has maintained a vibrant democratic system for nearly 70 years is a major accomplishment. However, it is abundantly clear that we are in the midst of a time of great upheaval. It appears that the previous consensus has crumbled, and a new equilibrium has yet to be found. There is no doubt that the era of coalition governments, even at the centre, is here to stay in India, with some states having already undergone and others currently undergoing such an experiment. The study of coalitions is a relatively new phenomenon in Indian academia today. But it could have a huge impact on our country. (Appaiah, P. 2008).

Democracy's development is incomplete without these coalitions. There are currently more than 100 political parties in India, which could be seen as a natural progression in the country's transition to a two-party system. All over the world, coalition governments have emerged. What may vary from country to country is the nature of a coalition, but the basic reasons for the coalition's rise in popularity remain essentially constant. Political factors play a large role in the first and most obvious cause (Adeney, 2007). Rather than being the cause of political unrest, coalitions are actually the result of it. For many people, the single majority rule and its inability to keep up with changing public needs are the driving forces behind their decision to look for other options. It's not uncommon for members of the ruling party to break away and form smaller factions.

These subgroups then formulate their own policies and development plans, which aren't all that dissimilar from the parent parties, but take a slightly different stance on various issues. A lack of consensus among voters makes it impossible for any political party to garner a majority of votes, which leads to chaos and instability in the political arena. In these situations, forming a coalition is no longer an option but a necessity. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi in charge, the country's coalition-building skills have been put to good use.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

It is based on secondary data that has been collected from reputable published sources such as various books and websites on the internet as well as newspaper articles and various international journals and magazines, and all of the information has been discussed using both quantitative and qualitative techniques. A combination of primary and secondary research was used to develop the methodology that was used in this area. Furthermore, the research is based on personal observations.

Political coalition or political alliance is an agreement for cooperation between different political parties on a common political agenda, often for the purpose of contesting an election to mutually benefit by collectively clearing election thresholds or otherwise benefiting from characteristics of the voting system or for government formation after elections. A coalition government is a cabinet of a parliamentary government in which several parties cooperate. The usual reason given for this arrangement is that no party on its own can achieve a majority in the parliament. In such times, parties have formed all-party coalitions (national unity governments, grand coalitions). If a coalition collapses, a confidence vote is held or a motion of no confidence is taken. A coalition government is formed by two or more political parties. When several political parties collaborate to form a government and exercise political power on the basis of a common agreed programme agenda, we can describe such a system as coalition politics or coalition government. Such a government is usually organised when no

party is in a position to get a majority in the Lok Sabha. A coalition may be formed before an election or after an election. There may be a coalition of two or more than two equal strong parties, for example, NDA in 1998 and UPA in 2004, or one party may be dominant, such as United Front in 1996..

A coalition government may also be formed in times of national difficulties or catastrophe, such as during a war or an economic downturn, to provide a government with the political legitimacy and collective identity it seeks while simultaneously reducing internal political friction. In such circumstances (national unity governments, grand coalitions), parties have created all-party alliances. India is a democratic country with a parliamentary government. Every citizen has the right to vote, and their worth is equal. We went with the first-past-the-post system. In this method, the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner. Every voter in a parliamentary democracy has the right to form a political party and run for office. India is divided into several areas, religions, castes, ethnic groups, and languages, among other things. Following independence, the Congress party, which had led the nationalist movement before 1947, became the most powerful political force in the country championed all groups' interests. So, in the first three general elections, Congress obtained a full majority in the centre and nearly all of the states. No other political party dares to take on the Congress. However, this tendency altered after 1967, when the Congress failed to secure a majority in nine states, and other opposition parties formed a coalition to depose the Congress and seize power. The general election of 1967 marked a watershed moment in India's coalition politics. Although the 1977 election was a watershed moment in the introduction of the coalition at the national level. Although the Janata Party was a single party, it was made up of various parties such as the Bhartiya Lok Dal, Congress for Democracy, and others (Kumar, M. (2017).

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Parvathy Appaiah (2008) in his research paper *Coalition Government in India. NDA Vs UPA*. The multi-party coalitions formed since 1990's in India are regarded as a kind of accommodative politics with all varieties of parties coming together in broad coalitions with national parties. Party system in India at the national level since 1998 has been loosely bipolar divided between the Bharatiya Janata Party led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition and the Congress led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition. In the history of contemporary India, one of the great events had been the ability of 24 party NDA headed by BJP to govern for the entire elected term of 5 years i.e., from 1999 to 2004. This has set a new agenda for governance and has challenged the hypothesis that the coalitions are usually unstable. UPA was formed soon after the 14th Lok Sabha elections in 2004. This alliance is given the external support from the left front consisting of the four main leftist parties. The completion of full term coalition by the NDA and the likelihood of the UPA also of completing its term have made the Indian coalition system appear as the only alternative available to Indian democracy.

Manoj Kumar (2017) in his research article "Coalition Politics in India: History and Analysis of Political Alliances" Federalism is an instrument of power sharing between independent authorities' viz. union and state. Coalition government is also a means of power sharing. Logically both federalism and coalition government should be complimentary to each other. As the object of sharing of power is common in both, a student of politics or law may gather the impression that coalition government is always supportive of federal form of government or constitution and sometime also gives more opportunity for expression of ideas and democratic rights to small and regional parties. In this way it seems that coalition

government promotes democracy and representative administration. But there are some grey areas also of the coalition politics like sometimes the coalition which are formed after declaration of election which give rise to 'horse trading' for the purpose of proving majority on the floor of house of representatives. The paper discusses the development of coalition politics and explores some solutions how the grey areas in coalition politics can be minimized.

Bidyut Chakrabarty (2008) book "Indian Politics and Society since Independence" Focusing on politics and society in India, this book explores new areas enmeshed in the complex social, economic and political processes in the country. Linking the structural characteristics with the broader sociological context, the book emphasizes the strong influence of sociological issues on politics, such as social milieu shaping and the articulation of the political in day-to-day events. Political events are connected with the ever-changing social, economic and political processes in order to provide an analytical framework to explain 'peculiarities' of Indian politics. Bidyut Chakrabarty argues that three major ideological influences of colonialism, nationalism and democracy have provided the foundational values of Indian politics.

Mahindra P. Singh, Douglas V. Verney (2016) in his research article "Challenges to India's Centralized Parliamentary Federalism" Indian federalism has become less centralized as a result of popular pressures, the breakdown of Congress dominance, and the fragmentation of political parties. Economic challenges to cooperative federalism emerge from market reforms, the search for investments, and the World Bank structural adjustment plans adopted in selected states. Devolution of economic decision-making to the states aggravates fiscal crises by facilitating populist political strategies and accentuating uneven development. Political challenges arise from issues such as central vs. state control of police and security forces; movements for the creation of new states; and the implementation of constitutional provisions for village-level governance.

Soon after independence, coalition governments arose at the state level in Kerala, Punjab, Orissa, and other states. What was then the Patiala and east Punjab states union gets credit for having the first ever coalition administration under the current constitution (PEPSU). As there is no such thing as a third party. In April 1952, after failing to win a majority in the state assembly in the first election of 1952, a coalition of no congress parties was created. Orissa was governed by a combination of political parties. In 1960-1964, a coalition of Parja Socialist Party, Congress, and Gantantra Parishad, and in 1960-1964, a combination of Parja Socialist Party, Congress, and Gantantra Parishad, Kerala was ruled by the Muslim League and the Congress. As a result, even before 1967, certain. In their respective localities, opposition parties were forceful and powerful none of the candidates ran in the general election of 1957. Kerala's political parties won a majority. The coalition was founded by the Communist Party of India. With the help of independent members, the government is able to function. This was the country's first communist administration. to gain power through electoral politics The Communist-led coalition administration has delivered on its promises. A variety of reforms in land administration, police administration, and other areas Education and government are two aspects of governance.

Objectives of the study:

1. To unmask the meaning and trends of Coalition Government in the Indian Politics.
2. To explain and analyse the perceptions regarding the Is Coalition Government a success story in the Indian Politics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Government by coalition occurs when a number of political parties join forces or form an alliance. In order for coalition politics to work, the parties involved must share a common ideology. Indian coalition politics are well-suited to the country's diverse geography, large population, and range of cultural and aspirational backgrounds. Coalition politics began in India in the late 1970s, but the term didn't exist until the late 1980s. On the issue of ideology, Indian political parties have broken up over the years. As a result, the theory of coalition politics highlights the country's (Khokhar, V.2004) plurality, scope, and complexity. In a parliamentary democracy, the party with the most votes is assumed to be the government and the rest of the parties are assumed to be the opposition. Although multi-party democracy is possible in parliamentary systems, a problem arises when no political party has the necessary majority to make a claim. To form a government, political parties form a coalition of like-minded individuals. Political parties began forming alliances and coalitions prior to the election process as a result of this realization. Only a limited number of seats would be up for grabs if both parties agreed to contest them.

As a result, the idea of a coalition has evolved over time. In pre-independence India, it had its first encounter with a coalition government in 1937. As a result of Jinnah's pleas to Congress, a coalition was never formed in Uttar Pradesh. However, in Punjab and NWFP (North-West Frontier Province), a coalition government (**Gupta, 2018**) became a reality when the Congress formed an alliance with regional parties. In 1947, Nehru's interim government was the first coalition of the Congress, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, and other groups to govern the country. In 1969, however, Indian politics underwent a dramatic shift. Congress became a minority government at this point when some members of Congress withdrew their support.

The Congress government, on the other hand, was able to weather the storm thanks to the outside support of the Communist Party of India (CPI) and Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). In fact, the Indian election of 1967 marked a turning point in Indian politics. Congress's demise in many states was a result of intra-party factionalism, conflicts and defections, and secession. Until 1977, the central government was under the control of the Congress party. However, in 1977, the Janata Party took the reins. Despite the fact that it technically wasn't a coalition government, the manner in which it exited was typical of one. The party's amorphous grouping was split apart by various aspiring leaders and factions.

The year 1989 is considered by political analysts to be the beginning of coalition politics in its truest sense. A coalition was formed when VP Singh led the National Front in 1989. The BJP, CPI, and CPI (M) provided outside support for the government. The year 1989 is considered by political analysts to be the beginning of coalition politics in its truest sense. A coalition was formed when VP Singh led the National Front in 1989. The BJP, CPI, and CPI (M) provided outside support for the government.

The coalition lasted only 11 months before it broke up due to ideological differences between the parties. After that, Chandra Shekhar formed a government with the support of the Congress, AIADMK, BSP, and others, but it too was short-lived. The government's surveillance of Rajiv Gandhi led to the (Sahoo, N. 2004). HDV Deve Gowda formed the United Front government, which resulted in yet another central coalition government. The Congress, SP, DMK, and other political parties supported a group of political parties. A lack of communication between the coalition and Congress led to the Congress's withdrawing its support.

Kumar, Inder Gujarat was the Prime Minister of the next coalition. It took 11 months for the INC to pull out of the coalition. Following that, in 1998-99, AB Vajpayee led a new government coalition. The coalition led by the BJP was supported by the AIADMK, BJP, Akali Dal, and so on.

The government collapsed because the BJP was unable to meet the demands of the AIADMK. By a vote of 269 to 270, the confidence vote was defeated. The next coalition was the most successful political (Mehra, A. K. 1998) experiment in India. AB Vajpayee led the National Democratic Alliance for six years. The BJP, AIADMK, TDP, TMC, and other parties made up the coalition (Yadav, B. 2022). It has been a coalition government since 1999, including the governments formed in 2004 and 2009 under Manmohan Singh's United Progressive Alliance leadership.

After years of coalition politics, the NDA campaigned under Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 2014 election, and BJP was able to secure a majority as the single largest party. Regional political parties received a boost when the trend picked up in 1989. Because of this, we saw coalition politics in a large number of states. As a result, political parties in the assembly elections have been forced to form coalitions. Even the most adamant political opponents have joined forces to form (Pal, K. 2008).coalitions on occasion.

The year 1989 is considered by political analysts to be the beginning of coalition politics in its truest sense. A coalition was formed when VP Singh led the National Front in 1989. The BJP, CPI, and CPI (M) provided outside support for the government. The recent Bihar election saw the formation of a coalition government between the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Janata Dal (United). Unholy alliances are most often the result of power grabs rather than a convergence of ideas. For a variety of reasons, coalition politics is common. The inability of national parties to represent regional aspirations is one of them. In addition, they are unable to accurately represent India's rich cultural diversity. Another factor is a dearth of executive authority. After the country gained its independence, its leaders enjoyed a high level of respect and confidence from the populace (Sahoo, N. 2004). People began to identify themselves with their regional leaders.

Mandal politics also spawned caste-based parties. In India, there were also political parties with religious affiliations. It was because of these factors that India's population was able to grow. Regional political parties were also formed as a result of this. There are both advantages and disadvantages to a coalition government

It is not unusual for the government to accommodate a wide range of interests. The role of a coalition government is to serve as a conduit for meeting the needs and resolving the complaints of various constituencies. India is a country with a wide range of cultures and ethnicities. Various languages, dialects, religions, castes, and ethnic groups are found in the world. Therefore, the coalition government is more representative of the electorate as a whole and reflects its views more accurately. There are many different parties and ideologies in a coalition government. In order for the government's policy to be implemented, all coalition partners must agree. This is why coalition governments lead to consensus-based politics. The Indian political system benefits from a more cohesive federal structure thanks to coalition politics. The reason for this is that a coalition government is more responsive to the needs of the regions in which it operates. The likelihood of despotic rule is reduced by forming a coalition government. This is because there is no longer a monopoly on government operations held by a single political party. The coalition's decision-making process involves all of its members.

There is a high potential for instability in these markets. The coalition falls apart due to disagreements among its members. The principle of the Prime Minister's leadership is a cornerstone of the parliamentary system. In a coalition government, this principle is curtailed because the Prime Minister must consult with the coalition partners before making major decisions. Because the steering (Gupta, 2018) committee or coordinating committee acts as a "Super-Cabinet," the cabinet loses its role and authority in the government's workings. In a coalition government, there is a possibility that the smaller parties could play the role of "king-makers." They expect more from Parliament than just brute force. In national decision-making, the leaders of regional parties bring regional facts into the foreground.

For this reason, (Maxfield, S. 1998), they put a great deal of pressure on the country's central government. They don't take responsibility for any of the administrative errors and missteps. They were able to avoid their responsibilities as a group and as individuals by playing blame games.

Features of a Cooperative Government

A coalition is put together for the sole purpose of gaining some sort of benefit, whether it is financial or emotional. The existence of at least two partners is required for the formation of a coalition. The underlying principle of a coalition system rests on the simple fact that specific interests are brought together for a short period of time. It's important to remember that coalitions can form and dissolve at any time, making coalition politics an ever-evolving process. Compromise is at the heart of coalition politics, and dogma has no place in it. (Fickett Jr, L. P. 1971)

The hallmark of coalition politics is pragmatism, not ideology. It is possible to compromise principles when making political changes. Changes in alliances are used to gain power. Before or after elections, coalitions have formed in India. Having a pre-election coalition is advantageous because it gives all parties a common platform from which to woo voters with a joint manifesto before the election. The goal of a post-election union is to give the people a voice in the political process and the ability to run the country.

In India, the difficulties of coalition politics

Coalition government is less transparent than single-party government because no single party has a realistic chance of forming a government on its own. At the time of coalition government formation, party manifestos are practically impossible to achieve, and this has been a negative experience for parties, as no single party has been able to accomplish its goals. Because coalition governments are prone to disintegrate and require re-election, instability is a given. In India, several coalition governments have collapsed, including those led by Morarji Desai and Charan Singh, as well as those led by V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, and H. D. Deve

Gowda, I.K. Gujral, and even Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Coalition governments are clearly inferior to single-party governments in terms of effectiveness, durability, and dependability. MLAs and MPs from all political parties are appointed as ministers and given ministries during a governing coalition. They are appointed solely on the basis of the parent party's recommendation, with no regard (Biswas, K. 2012) for their educational or professional credentials. Not coalition governments, but regional political parties and local leaders gave birth to regionalism by emphasising regional issues in election manifestos and making development promises based on regional concerns. These are among the most egregious failures of coalition rule in India. Horse trading is another shortcoming of India's coalition

government. Horse trading is widely regarded as immoral and undesirable in the political arena and should be criminalised. Horse trading is alleged to have occurred in order to sway the no-confidence vote.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Even before India's independence, coalition politics had begun. However, it arose at a state level after the 1967 election, when Congress lost many states' elections. After that, coalition politics at the centre level began. The general election in which the National Front, a coalition of various political parties, was elected in the centre, parties formed the government. The Janata Party was also behaving badly. Despite the fact that it was a single party, it formed a coalition. Coalition politics has become the norm. The political system in India is what it is. Indian society is diverse, as are its regional cultures. The growth of coalition politics in India is due to parties. The States benefit from coalition politics because they are in a position to negotiate. Experts say that Coalition politics is the result of the rise of regional parties on agendas of national importance. One of the reasons for the growing importance of regional parties has been their success in articulating the interests of the assertive backward castes and Dalits, or untouchables'. These parties remain "regional" in terms of geographic location but are national in terms of issues relevant to the country as a whole. Their role within the national coalition is also indicative of a more competitive and polarized party system. The continuity of coalition governments (first under the NDA and later under the UPA) confirms not merely the decline of one-party rule and the rise of regional and smaller parties, but a crisis of majoritarianism

Political culture, based on the dominance of a single party led by a charismatic leader over a cluster of smaller parties. Both the coalitions have faced the problem of internal disputes due to the clustering of parties having differing manifestos. For the sustenance of a stable future of coalition politics, the parties must keep their common minimum programme ahead of their own.

The ideologies in conclusion, we can say that coalition politics has become the reality of the Indian political system. Indian society is divided on the basis of caste, religion, region, and languages, which provides the basis for regional parties and ultimately coalition politics. Regional aspirations are encouraged by regional parties to capture the vote bank of a particular area, or a particular caste or religion. These regional parties have annexed the vote banks of national parties, such as the Congress Party's vote bank of backward classes, which has been captured by the Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh, the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar, and the DMK and AIADMK in Tamilnadu. It has become almost impossible for any national party to get a majority in the Lok Sabha. Regional parties' vote share percentages are increasing, lending strength to coalition politics. Influence the central government's policy A democratic government represents the interests of the entire population, including those who disagree with and criticise the government's policies and actions. According to this viewpoint, a parliamentary democracy cannot exist without a functioning party system. It is the political party that produces majorities and implements political power. It serves as an intermediary between the people and their government. The political parties are in charge of choosing the right people for key government jobs and making sure they are qualified. They also decide if they have the power to make policy decisions.

It is therefore necessary to understand coalition politics in India today necessitates knowledge of the country's history. Today's major and minor parties, notably divisions and schisms, play a significant role. Mergers, because forming coalitions in India isn't simply about creating alliances. Existing parties form coalitions, but parties splinter into split groups. All of

the major political parties in India, including the Congress Party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Janata Dal, and the Communist Party, are listed below. Many times they've been divided. This is also a major reason for the emergence of coalition politics in the United States. India. At the state level, the Congress party had seen substantial fractures by the 1990s.

Alliances between regional parties form coalition governments, a type of minority government. As a result, regional parties fail to unite in support of the government's success because they don't prioritise national interests. A full-fledged coalition in Indian politics has thus been established. Hanging parliaments and hanging assemblies have become the norm in recent years. The aspirations of the populace, however, can be well represented in coalition governments. When a coalition is formed on the basis of shared ideologies rather than self-serving goals, it is considered a success. Coalition governments, on the other hand, still have a long way to go. The experiment will become more difficult as the role of regional parties grows. The historical category and relevance of this research is that the coalition trend is growing day by day in India. Hence, the political system of the country is changing as per the new circumstances. Thus, this research would be beneficial for the political parties to make coalition more successful in India. Future research can be explored in this area by the researchers about the challenges and future prospects of coalition.

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