



## Political Parties Coalition in Indian Perspective

Nitin Kumar “Research Scholar Dept. of Political Science OPJS University”

**Abstract:** This research article describe the political parties coalition. The term Coalition has been derived from the Latin word ‘Coalition’ which is the verbal substantive of ‘coalesce’; ‘Co’ means together and ‘ales ere’ means to go together. According to the dictionary meaning, in 1610, the coalition was ‘the growing together of parts’, from French coalition (1540), from Latin qualities it was ‘fellowship’, and originally it is a past contribute of Latin culture. In political science, for the first time it was used in the year 171 5A.D. Coalition also means an act of coalescing, or uniting into one body: a union of persons or states or alliances. It is a body of parts accumulated into one body or whole. In the political sense, the word coalition is used for an alliance or for temporary union for joint action by various powers or states and also of the union in a single government of distinct parts or members of distinct parties.

ISSN 2454-308X



**Keywords:** Political Parties, Coalition, NDA, UPA, Common Minimum Programme,

**Introduction:** The history of the Republic of India had begun on August 15, 1947 when India became an independent dominion with the British common wealth. At the same time the Muslim-majority northwest and east of British India was separated into the domination of Pakistan. Lord Louis Mountbatten and the later Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari served in the position of the Governor General of India. Jawahar Lal Nehru became the inaugural Prime Minister of India and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel became the Deputy Prime Minister of India and also Minister of Home Affairs. During the period 1947-66, the Indian political scene was dominated by the Indian National Congress, which was an era of single party dominance.

Independent India’s first years were marked by turbulent events — a massive exchange of population with Pakistan, the Indo-Pakistan war of 1947 and the integration of over 500 princely states to forge a unified country.

The Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India, drafted by a committee led by B. R. Ambedkar, on November 26th, 1949. India became a Federal, Democratic Republic after the Constitution came into force from January 26th 1950. Rajendra Prasad was elected as the inaugural President of India. India held its first national election, according to the Peoples’ Representation Act, 1951 and the poll turnout was recorded at 60 percent. The Congress Party won an overwhelming majority, and Jawaharlal Nehru became a second term Prime Minister and also Dr. Rajendra Prasad as President through an Electoral College of the first Parliament of India.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Lal Nehru, a nationalist leader and head of the Congress Party, led the Congress to majority election victories in 1957 and 1962. In 1949, a Constitution had taken in a Sovereign and Republic as well as India took over the federal structure, the lands were organized on linguistic lines. There was a domination of Congress Party and resulted in the stability of the government. It was also one of the major contributions of the Congress Party. In 1956, the Republic absorbed former French settlements; Nehru also appointed the ‘State reorganization commission’, made the recommendations for the Reorganization Act which came about in 1956. Five years later in



1961, and the Republic forcibly annexed the Portuguese enclaves of Goa, Diu and Daman. In 1962, there was a war between India and China called Sino-Indo war over the border of the Himalayas.

After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru (1964), Lal Bahadur Shastri became his successor. In the year 1965, the second Kashmir was occurring, when India and Pakistan fought each other, but without any definitive outcome or alteration of the Kashmir boundaries. The Tashkent Agreement was signed under the mediation of the Soviet government; but Shastri died on the same night of the agreement on January 10th, 1966. The next Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi who became the successor of Shastri. who was a minister for information and broadcasting in his cabinet and now became the third Prime Minister of the nation through defeating the right wing prime leader Morarji Desai.

The reasons for Indira Gandhi's reduced majority in 1967 was widespread disillusionment over rising prices of commodities, unemployment, economic stagnation and a food crisis.

**Meaning of Coalition:** In the current political situations, the term is used very often through alliances to form the government and to enjoy the power. It provides an opportunity for the aspiration of those people who want to serve the people.

In the Mc Millan English dictionary for Advanced Learners, the coalition is a temporary union of different political parties that has agreed to form the government.

**Definitions of Coalition:** Advanced American Dictionary defines the term coalition as “a group of people who join together to achieve a particular purpose or a union of separate political parties that allows them to form a government or fight elections together.” Hence coalition government is a government that is run by different political parties working together or a process in which two or more political parties or groups join together and share the power.

Dictionary of encyclopedia defines — It (coalition) is an alliance for the combined action of a temporary alliance of political parties forming a government of a center or of a state.

Coalition cabinets are common in parliament countries elected by proportional representation, with several organized politically represented parties. It is hardly appearing in countries in which the cabinet is chosen by the executive rather than by a lower house such as the US, while in India, the government is formed by the party, which wins the majority votes in Lok Sabha Elections. Countries which often operate with coalition government include The Nordic countries, Benelux countries, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Turkey, Israel, Newzeland, Pakistan and in India.

**Why Coalition:** Above all, this topic is chosen to understand the working of coalitions and to know the reasons for stable coalitions. Indian politics is in the transition from single party dominance to multi-party coalitions. A number of regional political parties, the attitude of the people, political awareness of the people and many more are creating curiosity among the people including this scholar. The important challenges for the coalition are national security, economic prosperity, social security, political development and such factors. How coalitions are able to fulfill all these areas is the question. To get the answers to the above and clarify the curiosity, the scholar chose comparative working of coalitions and also dynamics of it. The scholar ambitiously met the then members of Lok Sabha and collected their views on their term of coalitions, as any researcher hardly gets the information on the actuality of the term. The rational behavior, decision making and structure of



forming coalitions were examined. The comparison helped the scholar to identify commonalities in both the coalition governments and this may help with the continuing stability of the governments. To experience how the different situations had been treated, the conduct of the members during the internal crisis, compromising nature, arrangements in public insurance, agreements in philosophy or ideology were analyzed.

**Elements of Coalition:** Policy making and policy implementation are the most important factors in the coalition formation and behavior. Parties are instruments for the members of the political party, so interests and their policy stances are considered to be the same. Policy makers must be satisfied by each and every member of the political party. Effort is made by the scholar here to recognize the elements of coalition through some of the longstanding, successful and vibrant coalitions of the world outside India.

In Europe, a general tendency is the executive dominance of policy—making while most legislative initiatives come from the government departments. It is likewise stated that nothing is miraculous about a majority when it comes to shaping a government. Many research studies have examined the importance of coalitions in Germany. The stableness of the West German political system has been based on the power and willingness.

Reduced political parties in Germany and the ‘deideologization’ of West German politics and the disappearance of strong party ties with narrow class interests have interacted with diverse sound and political agreements, made a workable stable parliamentary majority in the Federal Republic which has enabled political parties to act as a pivotal character in the political arrangement. In Germany, public supported popular institutions, affect the party organization in two significant ways. In one route, there is a reduction in votes that they required to gain parliamentary representation and the other route was a challenge by mass movements or other forms of unconventional political participation.

Today Germany can be declared as - ‘it can be governed only from the political center,’ Germany can be dominated only by a coalition; electoral results are bi-polar, and federal governments are re-elected. Germany remained as one of the successful, stable, remarkable coalition governments in the world. Since its first legislature in 1949-53 till today, we get across only coalitions in Germany. This is also one of the examples of the democratic countries. The success of the German coalitions depends on the persistence of the leaders in their respective political parties and party organizations. Germany has remained as a significant model for most of the democratic nations. It had a remarkable stability of coalition governments. Apart from the persistence of political leaders and party system, the political parties play a strong role in Germany in making and balancing coalitions. In the Federal Republic, there is an entry of 5 percent of the vote for inclusion in the Bundestag (German parliament) which prevents the mushroom growth of smaller political parties within Germany. This contributes to the establishment of coalitions and for its stability. Political parties make some agreements too, especially in the making of alliances. Tensions are common in the coalition governments that can be considered in India too among the political parties. Ideology remained as a factor in coalition formation irrespective of the country. Regional parties have also



acquired some responsibility in coalition politics in the 1990's. The East German party system is more volatile, polarized and segmented. Research studies have also observed that the German coalitions are more significant to realize the concept of the coalition governments. The stability of the West German political system has been adopted within the constitutional, legal, and institutional framework.

Coalition governments are a successful feature of many democratic countries including India. In many countries, coalitions are successful today, particularly in Western nations like the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark and Belgium, coalitions are successful.

Considering the case of France, a study has shed light on the coalition of France as well.<sup>12</sup> Even France had a delicate, unstable, short-lived coalition government and divided indecisive assemblies. France too had unstable governments, especially during the Fourth Republic or till the fourth. In the next republic there was a transmutation in the French party system that is adrift from a multi-party system to a more structured discipline and popularized party system. A change in the nature of political and socioeconomic divisions, changes in the electoral system at parliamentary level coupled with the introduction of the direct election to the presidency in 1962 placed a bet on coalition building. Since 1958, France witnessed the development of coalition governments. The first legislature was in 1958-1962, which included all parties except the socialists and communists.

In India, though there is a provision to form single party governments, it has not been made, although all governments between 1958 and 1984 were coalitions, the natures of these coalitions were different from one another. It varied according to the situations and coalitions were formed based on the same. France represents a departure of coalition—building and its President Exercises an important force in alliance formation even today. The government today is a stronger coalition than a presidential regime.

Considering Indian Coalitions, there are many elements responsible for the emergence of coalitions such as multi political parties, regions, territorial imbalance and so on. India has adopted bi-polar model of coalitions, thus making this study interesting.

**Common Minimum Programme:** To compare the working of coalition governments, CMP helps the research scholar to see the success of policy implementation in comparison. The CMP includes everything of the political parties which made alliances among themselves. CMP is common agreement or arrangement made by the political parties and also it is a promise or assurance made by them in public. The winning of elections depends on the CMP of political parties. After forming the government, it is the responsibility of the government to fulfill the CMP. This includes all the factors, social, economic, political and foreign affairs too. The scholar made an endeavor to select just a few consequences and policies to compare the working of the coalitions. As it is too vast to compare all the areas and cannot provide justice, the study areas here are confined only to social, economic and foreign relations. As such, two issues were taken to draw comparisons. The PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) and MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) were most popular programs introduced by two coalition governments. The research scholar also framed questions on these two popular programmes to garner the judgment of the



public. The other important programmes taken under the study were RTE (Right to Education) and RTI (Right to Information).

Factors of who were the outstanding leaders and why were coalitions compulsory have also found a valuable place under the study. The efforts were taken by the scholar to collect the opinion of the then Parliament members about the decision making of leaders, about the participation of party members in the coalitions, particularly while making and passing the bills, also making decisions and how the subjects were handled in the sensitive situations.

**Conclusion:** In this research article we described the political condition of Indian perspective. After 1980 none of political parties get majority in Lok Sabha election. And same position has in State Election. So to run the Lok Sabha the political parties make Coalition between other political parties. After 1977 another term the Common Minimum Program has adopted in central and state election. And in present perspective most of state makes coalition in to other political parties in state Legislative assembly. So we can say that the term of Coalition is common in present Indian election.

**Reference:**

- Veena. K. (2016). Coalition Governments in India: The way forward. International Journal of Research in Engineering, IT and Social Sciences, Vol. 6, issue 03.
- Verghese, B.G. (2007). Lay those ghosts to rest. Deccan Herald, 18.09.07
- Verghese, B.G (2010). Witness of making of modern India. First Draft. New Delhi: Tranquebar press, p.370.
- Vile, Mi. (1961). The structure of American Federalism. London: Cambridge University press,
- Virmani, A. (2004). Election 2004: A different Explanation. Economic and political weekly, 19th June. pp.2565-2568.
- Vohra, R. (2015). The making of India: A Political History. New Delhi: DBS publications.
- www.eci.ac.in, Manifesto for the 13th Lok Sabha Elections, 2004. Doi: <http://www.elections.in/parliamentary-constituencies!2009-election-results.html>
- www.eci.ac.in. Manifesto for the 15th Lok Sabha Elections, 2009. Doi: <http://www.elections.in/parliamentary-constituencies/2009-election-results.html>
- Yadav, Kailash, & Shastri, S. (2007). Electoral politics in Indian states. New Delhi: Oxford Publications.
- Yadav. S.S. (2010). Electoral politics in Indian states: Lok Sabha elections in 2004 and beyond. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. pp 3.
- Yadav, Y. (2004). The Elusive Mandate of 2004. Vol.XXXIX No. 51, December. Economic and Political Weekly. pp. 5383-5399