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## Coalition Governments in India

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### Abstract

The existence of a coalition government is commonplace throughout the world today. However, the nature of the coalition government, its structure, its tenure, and so on, differs between nation and nation of the world. But the reasons for the growth of the coalition government are much less the same in almost all countries of the world.

**Keywords:** Coalition government, political structure, government tenure, comparative politics, political systems, global governance, political alliances, government formation.

### 1. Introduction

'Coalition' is a political term coined by Roger Schurz in A Dictionary of Political Thought. In this he stated that "a coalition of political parties and alliances with different individuals or parties maintaining their existence". Formation of a coalition government, when no party gains a significant in the legislature, a alliance is usually created either pre-election or post-election. In order for a coalition to be formed, the parties have agreed to agree on a common program and common policy.

### 1.2 Meaning of Coalition

Meaning a coalition government means the creation and administration of a government by a majority in the legislature with the support of elected members of two or more political parties or other party members.

### 1.3 Definitions of Coalition

**I. According to Wikipedia:** "A coalition government is a form of government in which political parties cooperate to form a government. The usual reason for such an arrangement is that no single party has achieved an absolute majority after an election".

**II. According to Merit nation:** "A coalition government is a government run by a group of parties in coordination with one another. The goal of this is so that the parties involved can pass their agenda".

## 2. Nature and Features

### 2.1 Insecure government

Political parties, no matter what their general attitudes before the election, unite for power after the election. But the ideals, principles, ideals, goals and ideologies of political parties are different. This naturally leads to a lack of coordination. There is no unity among partner parties in matters such as electing a prime minister or chief minister, appointing ministers, sharing accounts and assigning numbers to partner political parties. Even with the creation of a government, dissatisfied politicians who do not have power will not gather. So, they will try to dismantle it.

In this instance, an unstable coalition government dissolves too soon. Coalition governments at the federal and state levels can be exemplified. For example, the Vajpayee NDA of 1998 brought about the creation of the Rashtriya Ranga Sarakara (Government) by VP Singh, the Sanyukta Ranga Sarakara (Government) by HD Devegowda and IK Gujral. The 2004 government, Dharma Singh in our state, and the Kumaraswamy administrations in 2006 and 2018 are the best instances of coalition governments.

**2.2 Multilateral System Contribution:** When an electorate does not give a clear majority to any party during the election, two or more equal-minded parties form a constitutionally bound government. Ex: No party can get majority in Karnataka's 2004, 2018 election results.

Congress, JDS and the JDS and BJP coalition governments, the current Goa and Maharashtra assembly elections, are not clear to one party. So, Alliance governments are formed. At the centre, the UPA coalition government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh, which has more than twenty equal parties, has joined hands with the Congress since the 2004 general election.

### **2.3 It is not a simple task to appease allies**

The coalition governments are opportunists and do not have any particular principle, ideology, attitude and programs. It is very difficult for the leader of the coalition government to appease everyone, as all the stakeholder parties are demanding to meet their demands. Ex: Experienced Vajpayee N.D.A. During his tenure as Prime Minister, he spent a great deal of time trying to appease the parties.

### **2.4 Formation of coalition governments before and after elections**

There are two types of coalition government. The first way to form a coalition government Political party that want to participate in the coalition government during the election come to power by making promises to the people in the form of a general manifesto. Ex: previous UPA government at the Centre, the present NDA Government are the best examples of pre-election coordination. Another way to form a coalition government is to not relate to one another before the election. Parties who have bargained during one-on-one elections. The parties will united form of a government in power. Ex: The results of the 2004 Karnataka Assembly elections did not get a clear majority. Parties that have been criticised in the election but to be in power Congress and JDS, BJP and JDS formed the coalition government and coalition government formed after the election at the centre. EX-Sanyukta Ranga Sarakara

### **2.5. Support from outside, non-participation in government.**

Supporting the government from outside the government without involvement is one of the characteristics of a coalition government. Ex: Congress gave external support to Prime Minister Charan Singh in 1979, Prime Minister Chandrasekhar in 1990, Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda in 1996. In 1997 Prime Minister I K Gujral. BJP had given external support In 1989, Prime Minister VP Singh. In the past, the Communist Party gave external support to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. External support parties may withdraw when needed. Ex: During the Rama Janma Bhoomi Rath Yatra in 1990, L.K. Advani was imprisoned in Bihar, for this reason BJP withdrawal of external support to Prime Minister VP Singh after this VP Singh government collapsed.

In a similar vein, Congress externally backed the Deve Gowda federal administration. After the Congress withdrew its support for various reasons, Deve Gowda's government fell.

### **2.6 Short-term coalition governments**

It is an experience that many alliance governments in India do not fulfil their tenure. Ex: Centre VP Singh's government, H.D. Devegowda's Government, I.K. Gujral's Government, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government for a second term, N. Dharma Singh government of our state, and Kumaraswamy government lost power before their term

ended.

### **2.7 Coalition governments are likely to move on**

A coalition administration seemed unlikely as long as the Congress party controlled both the Indian states and the federal government. However, the period of coalition governments began when the Congress lost power. Coalition governments are temporary, according to several political commentators. There was a sense that it would eventually go away. Surprisingly, however, this has persisted in India's political system for over 20 years. Given India's current political climate, the coalition government will probably gain more traction.

### **2.8 In the coalition government the power of the prime minister or chief minister is limited**

According to some constitutional experts, the state's prime minister or chief minister holds a unique government position in a parliamentary democracy. This is because he has significant authority over the Cabinet's formation, tenure, and dissolution, the nomination of ministers, the dismissal of accounts, and the dissolution of the lower house. However, neither the chief nor prime minister may truly use these powers under a coalition government. This is due to the parties' refusal to permit it.

### **2.9 Individual confrontation has a negative impact on coalition government operations**

The personal element is becoming more and more significant in coalition administrations of today. For personal gain, the country and the party are both sacrificed. For example, the Janata Party initially took control of the Center in 1977. The Janata Party had to be disbanded by Charan Singh, a member of the same party and a candidate for prime minister. Likewise, our state's coalition government's chief minister, HD Kumaraswamy, had struck a covert agreement with BS Yeddyurappa of the BJP. BS Yeddyurappa was to become chief minister twenty months later. But without giving B.S. Yeddyurappa control. The JDS lost its hegemony as a result.

### **2.10 Preventing elections and wasteful spending**

Since the general election results in no party having a majority to establish a government, some parties dislike elections once more. To save money on elections. Create a government with a coalition. In Karnataka, for instance, when the BJP backs the JDS and the JDS backs the Congress, it may be interpreted as forming a government to avoid re-election.

### **3. Coalition Experiment at the Centre and State:**

The Constitutionalist of India did not anticipate that there would be some problems with governance when they adopted the British-style parliamentary system in India. Indian scholars felt that there would be no crisis or government insecurity at the centre. There was also a member of the National Congress at the Constituent Assembly of India, which he thought would be the single largest party in the country. Nor did he think that trouble at the centre, the government's insecurity, regional interests, the party would split, the Lok Sabha would not be able to come to a unanimous majority. However, a strong central union was threatened by demands for the creation of Dravidanadu in Madras, a distinct movement in the hills to the north and east, particularly the Nagas' struggles led by

Paijo. The Constitution now includes Article 356. Its primary goal is to illustrate the power of a powerful central government. Despite Article 356 of the Constitution's political nature, the President may choose a Prime Minister if he lacks the parliamentary majority required to form a government. Additionally, this has resulted in establishing and constructing a coalition government.

India's government faced no crises in 1955, 1957, 1962, or 1967. The states had a majority in Congress as well. However, the independence and CPI parties gradually gained power in Orissa and Kerala. The Congress won the national election in 1967, and Indira Gandhi became office. Only since 1969, however, has the Congress party's one-sided hegemony ended. During this time, there was no crisis facing the federal government. Indira Gandhi's administration lost a majority in 1969 when the Congress party split. During the Nehru administration, the Congress Party did not experience any crises. However, the Congress lost support in half of India's states in the following years. Under American auspices, the coalition governments were established. Shastri gained the authority via a deal between Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi under the Kamaraj project. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy was the Congress's presidential candidate in 1969 when Indira Gandhi nominated V.V. Giri. The winner of the presidency was V.V. Giri. With support from the DMK, CPD, and Muslim League, the Indira Gandhi government was a minority one. Mrs. Indira Gandhi regained the Congress's leadership by securing a majority. The Muslim League helped the DMK, sometimes known as the CPD, gain power at this time.

The Janata Party Congress (O), led by Murarji Desai, gained power in 1977-1979 with the backing of the Independent Party, Jana Sangh, Lokala, and the United Socialist Party. Then came Chandrasekhar, HD Devegowda, I.K. Gujral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and VP Singh in 2004. Dr. Manamohan Singh has occasionally led the coalition administration. Since 2004, Karnataka has also had a coalition government led by the Congress and Janata Dal. A coalition government was formed because no party gained a majority in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1989, 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2004. The BJP-led NDA alliance and the Congress (I)-led UPA have emerged. The Morarji Desai-led government fell because of the political crisis of 1979. Then, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, VP Singh, Chandrasekhar, and I.K. Gandhi encountered the same issue and passed out. The United Front government faced the same issue as Vice President Singh in November 1990. However, the coalition government's members and outside parties were causing problems. The Chandrasekhar-led group left the United Front. The BJP and the two communist parties were the government's mainstays. But LK Advani was imprisoned when his 'Rath Yatra', which had started simultaneously, entered Bihar. The government fell as a result of this.

H.D. Devegowda's United Front Coalition Government also fell, calling for a change in Congress's leadership before I.K. Gandhi took control. The Congress withdrew its support for the Congress from the Jain Report, which had lost support to the Congress, which also contributed to the collapse of the Gujarat administration. Similarly, the BJP's administration fell apart when the AIADMK stopped supporting it. However, both of India's Communist parties have linked their stance to anti-Congress and anti-communist policies, and they have been outsourced to the United Front and National Front administrations. This is a commonality

among India's coalition government. Since the 2004 election, both parties have altered their anti-Congress stances while maintaining their anti-communist stances. Thus, Dr. Manamohan Singh led a coalition government created by the Communist Party of India in 2004.

#### **4. List of India's Major Coalition Governments**

Here is a list of India's major coalition governments that have a major impact on the country's political system.

##### **4.1 1977, Janata Party government**

Prime Minister Morarji Desai was prime minister and included parties from the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress (O), Indian Lok Dal, Samjhauta Samajwadi Party, etc.

##### **4.2 1989, Elections**

- VP Singh played a major role in uniting smaller parties like the Telugu Desam Party, DMK, and Asom Gana Parishad into a coalition called National Front with the external support of Bharatiya Janata Party and Communist Party of India (Marxist). V.P. Singh was the PM of this government from December of 1989 to November of 1990.
- However, Chandra Shekhar was the second PM till June 1991, with the external support of INC, which was then led by Rajiv Gandhi. Chandra Shekhar had founded his party by the name of the Samajwadi Janata Party.

##### **4.3 1996, Elections**

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee led government could only last for 13 days when he was trying to establish a coalition. H.D. Devegowda and I.K. Gujral served as Prime Minister for a short tenure from 1996 to 1998.

##### **4.4 1998, Elections**

The BJP had gained a lot of national importance, and in 1998 it was the largest party with 182 seats. The BJP, once again led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, formed a coalition under the name of the National Democratic Alliance.



















##### **4.5 2004 and 2009 Elections**

- The India National Congress rose to power again in the 2004 elections. Led by PM Dr. Manmohan Singh, Congress formed a coalition with 13 parties which were named as the United Progressive Alliance (UPA-I). The second term of this government in the 2009 election was named UPA-II.
- UPA included several prominent parties like DMK, Shiv Sena, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Indian Union Muslim Leagues, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, etc. The UPA government was the first coalition government to complete a full 5-year term.

##### **4.6 2014 and 2019 Elections**

- The BJP, for the first time, secured a clear majority individually in both the 2014 and 2019 elections. Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP leads the Coalition of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
- The current NDA government is comprised of 19 parties and one independent candidate for the Lok Sabha 2019 elections including AIADMK, Janata Dal (United), Pattali Makkal Katchi, Tamil Mahila Congress etc. as the major parties.

**5. List of Prime Ministers of India**

No	Portrait	Name	Tenure	Government's status
1		Jawaharlal Nehru	15-08-1947 To 27-05-1964	Independent Government
2		Gulzarilal Nanda	27-05-1964 To 09-06-1964	Independent Government
3		Lal Bahadur Shastri	09-06-1964 To 11-01-1966	Independent Government
4		Gulzarilal Nanda	11-01-1966 To 24-01-1966	Independent Government
5		Indira Gandhi	24-01-1966 To 24-03-1977	Independent Government
6		Morarji Ranchhodji Desai	24-03-1977 To 28-07-1979	Coalition Government
7		Chaudhary Charan Singh	28-07-1979 To 14-01-1980	Coalition Government
8		Indira Gandhi	14-01-1980 To 31-10-1984	Independent Government
9		Rajiv Gandhi	31-10-1984 To 01-12-1989	Independent Government
10		Vishwanath Pratap Singh	02-12-1989 To 10-11-1990	Coalition Government
11		Chandra Shekhar	10-11-1990 To 21-06-1991	Coalition Government
12		Pamulaparthi Venkata Narasimha Rao	21-06-1991 To 16-05-1996	Independent Government
13		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	16-05-1996 To 01-06-1996	Coalition Government
14		Haradanahalli Doddegowda Deve Gowda	01-06-1996 To 21-04-1997	Coalition Government
15		Inder Kumar Gujral	21-04-1997 To 18-03-1998	Coalition Government
16		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	18-03-1998 To 22-05-2004	Coalition Government
17		Manmohan Singh	22-05-2004 To 26-05-2014	Coalition Government
18		Narendra Damodardas Modi	26-05-2014 To at present	Coalition Government



## 6. List of Coalition Government in India's States

No	State / Union Territory	Ruling Party / Ruling Alliance
1	Arunachal Pradesh	BJP+JD(U)+NPP
2	Assam	BJP+AGP
3	Bihar	JD(U)+BJP+HAM+VIP/JD(U)+RJD+INC+HAM
4	Haryana	BJP+JJP
5	Jammu and Kashmir	JKNC+INC/JKPDP+BJP
6	Jharkhand	JMM+INC+RJD+NCP+CPI(M)/BJP+AJSU
7	Karnataka	JDS+INC/JDS+BJP
8	Kerala	CPI(M)+CPI+KC(M)(Jose K. Mani Faction) +JD(S)+NCP+CMP(A)+C(S)+KC(B)+NSC+RSP(L)/INC+IUML+KC(M)(P. J. Joseph Faction) +RSP+KC(J)
9	Maharashtra	SS+INC+NCP+BVA+PJPP+KSP+PWPWP/SS+BJP/INC+NCP
10	Manipur	NPP+BJP+LJP
11	Meghalaya	NPP+UDP+PDF+HSPDP+BJP
12	Mizoram	MNF+BJP
13	Nagaland	NDPP+BJP
14	Rajasthan	INC+RLP+BTP
15	Sikkim	SKM+BJP+SDF
16	Tamil Nadu	DMK+INC
17	Tripura	IPFT+BJP
18	Uttarakhand	INC+UKD

## 7. Politics of Defection

Defection the Indian political system is no stranger. It existed before pre-independence. The first defection case in India took place in 1937. When Govind Vallabh Pant became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, it was decided to represent Muslims in the cabinet. Ibrahim of Hafeez Mahmood, who was elected from the Muslim League, defected to the Congress.

Defection in Indian politics intensified since 1967. The number of legislators and MPs who were defected was high. From 1950 to 1977, about 50 state governments lost power. Gargya Haryana MLA, was defected three times in 15 days. From March 1967 to March 1970, there were about 1827 defections. The one lawmaker did defection twice in the same day. Defection has led to increasing instability, insecurity and corruption in government and the failure of governance.

## 8. Anti-Defection Law

In 1967, the committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister Wai B. Chavan, as a first attempt to prevent defection politics. But it does not advocate regulation by law. In 1973, the central government passed a legislative bill, but failed due to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

In 1978, the Janata Party government presented a Defection's bill in parliament, but was withdrawn due to opposition from its own party. In 1985, the Rajiv Gandhi-led government presented the bill in Parliament and ratified it on March 1, 1985. These are the main components of this bill.

- If any party's parliament and state assembly members abandon the party and oppose the party's action. If he does not apologize to the party within 15 days. Their membership will be revoked.
- After the non-party wins the election belong to any party, membership will be cancelled.
- Membership will be cancelled if the members nominated by the Legislature join a different party after 6 months.
- About 1/3 of the party members if the party is broken, it will not be defection.

- It is not defection if one party merges with another party.
- 2/3 of the members of the parties must consent to the merger of the party.
- Persons elected as Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Parliament and State Assemblies, if they voluntarily resign or join a different party, will not be defection.
- The Chairman of the respective bodies shall have the power to decide whether a member is defection or not. His decision is final and cannot be challenged in any court.

The NDA government in power at the Centre amended the 91st Amendment to the Constitution in 2003, in case any legislators were defeated. Legislation was created by disqualifying a ministerial position or any lucrative political position for that period. Overall, the purpose of the Act is to prohibit defection that undermines government planning and social welfare. But this defection act is flawed.

- MLAs have no voice to protest the party's injustice and authoritarian behaviour.
- This law has been formulated by the Central Government and the State Government shall have the right to make its own defection law.
- The Defection Act requires lawmakers and MPs to comply with the party. This would hamper the freedom of expression of lawmakers and MPs.
- Members become party puppets in the name of party discipline.
- Protect complete defection. Prevented one's defection. No action can be taken when a 1/3 member is defection.
- A strong leader of the party can abuse the act and deprive members of their independence.

## 9. Conclusion

The Constitutionalists of India did not anticipate that there would be some problems with governance when they adopted the British-style parliamentary system in India. Indian scholars felt that there would be no crisis or government insecurity at the centre. There was also a member of the National Congress at the Constituent

Assembly of India, which he thought would be the single largest party in the country.

#### 10. Acknowledgement

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