



## TO ACCESS THE REASONS FOR THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT

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### Abstract

*In order to gain a parliamentary majority and establish a government based on that majority, two or more political parties must agree to collaborate. Though, voting rights are guaranteed in democracies but may not be sufficient to create a majority government. The most significant method to participate in politics is by voting which can be accomplished directly or indirectly, in secret or in the open, by mail or in person. Although Indian politics may not yet be the final choice for dishonest and corrupt individuals, they can no longer be held up as a model of what public service should be. Because decisions in a coalition government are reached by consensus and are based on a shared strategy to gain position. The party's regulations must be adhered to in every detail. The possibility that a powerful opposition was in charge of monitoring policy changes and keeping the public informed about them could not be rejected. So, here, the emergence of coalition form will be discussed and reasons that lead to formation of the same.*

**Keywords:** coalition, government, ethics, majority, voting



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### Introduction

A coalition government consists of two or more political parties that administer the country in concert. No party obtained an absolute majority, which is uncommon in countries with majoritarian voting systems but typical in countries with proportional representation. During times of national hardship or disaster, such as war or an economic crisis, a coalition government may be established to enhance the government's perceived political legitimacy or feeling of shared identity (d'Ancona, 2013). When two or more political parties agree in writing

to work together to obtain a parliamentary majority and establish a government based on that majority, this is known as a coalition government. Coalitions can only be successful if the parties agreeing to govern together share similar political beliefs and philosophies. In nations with several political parties, a coalition agreement is an agreement between the parties that comprise the coalition government. There, the essential common objectives of the cabinet are documented. The legislative party leaders frequently write it.

"Coalition" is derived from the Latin word "coalis", which means "to journey or develop together." In other words, it refers to forming a single group or coalition. It involves combining several bodies or parts into a single body or whole (Ziegfeld, 2012; Zubek, 2015). It means a temporary grouping or alliance of different political groups that work together to get or keep power. as "agreements between political parties or their members that allow them to create a government or ministry together." Therefore, it may be claimed that coalitions in a parliamentary democracy are the product of a system with several competing parties. Suppose no party can obtain a majority in the legislature's lower chamber (Britannica, 2021). In that case, it is not commonplace for many parties to establish a coalition government by putting aside their ideological differences.

An elected government is responsible for defending and enforcing these rights and fostering an atmosphere conducive to the growth of the whole population (Moury, 2013). Voting is essential because it reveals how individuals feel about the economic and social changes made by the government. It also illustrates the evolving political trends in society. Parties are what make a democratic system function. These are essential methods for teaching people about politics, but their creation and usage may also be used to gauge the modernisation of politics. Political parties are crucial in a democracy because they engage citizens in political processes. Election-related rivalry and struggles amongst parties to perform better than each other foster significant public engagement and diverse leadership and policy perspectives.

### **Aim**

To access the reasons for the formation of a coalition government

### **Literature Review**

A coalition government is a team of experts from several political parties that agree to work together to lead and manage a nation or community in a parliamentary system of government. When neither political party obtains a clear majority and the opposing parties discuss how to cooperate, coalition administrations are frequently formed. This is more likely

to occur during a crisis, such as a war, or following the collapse of a governmental structure. Each party has a representative in the cabinet of a coalition administration.

### **Formation of Coalition Governments in India**

According to **Biswas (2019)**, when Morarji Desai was in charge of India, national coalition governments were established for the first time. Since 1967, they have been in effect at the state level. From 1977 until April 1999, there were seven central coalition administrations. Consequently, no coalition administration could rule for the whole five years. Under the leadership of H.D. Deve Gowda and I.K. Gujral, the two National Front administrations established in the centre between 1996 and 1998 with the backing of thirteen parties ran into significant difficulties with the Congress Party, which was assisting them from the outside. General elections were conducted when Congress ceased supporting the United Front administration in February 1998. The BJP assembled a cabinet with the assistance of 18 regional parties. On April 17, 1999, it was defeated in the legislature by a single vote.

**Sridharan (2005)** illustrated that after the 1989 elections, V.P. Singh, who had previously said that he didn't want to be prime minister, became the leader of the JD alliance, a loose coalition whose extremist elements were mostly at odds with one another. After V.P. Singh was appointed prime minister, Chaudhary Devi Lal, a Jat politician from Haryana, was appointed as the new vice prime minister. People in Punjab became concerned that a new age of severe rule by Delhi was about to commence. However, V.P. Singh's first journey as prime minister was to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, where he went barefoot and stated that he wished to "cure" Punjab, which was in a very poor condition. Singh pledged a political solution to the region's difficulties, but the relocation to Amritsar was not followed by the transfer of Chandigarh or even state elections, demonstrating that his new alliance was not stable.

Further, **Britannica (2021)** presented details of The United Front (UF), led by H.D. Deve Gowda of the Janata Dal (JD), was able to create a government swiftly. But in order to continue several Congress programmes, the UF need assistance from outside the Congress (i.e., support without being a part of the coalition). The alliance remained shaky, and Inder Kumar Gujral, a member of the JD, became prime minister in April 1997. In November, however, a preliminary assessment on the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi revealed that the Dravidian Progressive Federation (DMK), a member of the United Front, was also partially responsible for Gandhi's killing. After the dissolution of the UF, the Congress Party withdrew its support,

and fresh elections were set for March 1998. (The DMK has never been proven guilty of the allegations made against it.)

As per the article by **Panneerselvam (2021)**, if they have three or four members of parliament with them, the most powerful party in the coalition government must find a way to make tough friends happy. After gaining power, the administration led by the BJP had to deal with some of its partners who were attempting to obtain funds from them. At least four regional parties in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Punjab, and Haryana informed the government that they might withdraw their support at any time. The regional Tamil Nadu party leader in the coalition government faced at least 40 legal suits. She utilised the backing of her party, which had a significant voice in the parliament, to occasionally hold the administration hostage and force them to make reforms. In April 1999, she finally ceased supporting the administration. On April 17, 1999, the Lok Sabha voted a vote of no confidence by a solitary vote.

As per the study by **Dalal & Sharma (2016)**, even though corruption and dishonesty are not India's only options, the country can no longer claim to have the qualities of public service. Today, it is only utilised to collect and utilise electricity. At the moment of independence, politicians possessed a high degree of moral idealism since they sacrificed their own and their sects' interests for the greater good. They did not want power for themselves but rather for the people and the nation. In speeches nowadays, politicians frequently discuss their "personal power" and "personal ambition." Private and sectarian issues have taken precedence over public and national ones. This has devastating implications for the functioning of the actual government.

**Makhofola (2020)** stated that the parties are not founded on ideas or plans but rather on caste, community, and geography. In recent years, a large number of politicians have abandoned their ideals in favour of "political pragmatism," but in truth, these individuals are power-hungry political opportunists. Some political parties' strategies, which have elevated opportunism to a virtue, demonstrate that politics may be conducted without adherence to principles or dogma. The thirst for personal power has resulted in opportunism, making political ideology more of a matter of convenience than conviction. It demonstrates a fundamental problem in our political system and a complete lack of idealism, making coalition governments difficult to form.

According to **Ahmad & Sofi (2016)**, frequent elections also impede economic growth, worsen the budget deficit, undermine investor confidence, lower stock values, and increase the

price of everyday items for the general population. Unpredictability in politics harms international relations and retards growth. Experiments conducted in the United States over the past three years have likewise demonstrated that the notion that coalition ministers are preferable in a federal democracy is wrong. The spectres are the spectres of unstable government, disunited national politics, and haphazard acts on significant subjects.

### **Main Features of Coalition Governments in India**

- At the time, no single national party was able to secure a majority in the Lok Sabha elections and establish a governing coalition. The national parties were fully aware of the necessity of collaborating with the regional parties.
- According to the circumstances, coalitions were formed prior to the election, and there were few political changes thereafter.
- Because a coalition government was formed based on a consensus-driven strategy and because choices are decided via negotiation. It strengthens Indian politics.
- Evidently, the largest party in a coalition administration held the reins of power.

### **Reasons of Coalition**

Due to the unpredictability of political parties, coalitions have become an integral aspect of politics. But there are differences between wealthy and poor nations. Coalition governments have been effective in industrialised nations such as Australia, Japan, and Canada because members of the coalition have comparable demands and objectives (Malagi, 2017). In rising nations, difficulties are everywhere. In a rising society, the coalition must address issues such as political instability, a crisis produced by a collision of ideas, a lack of agreement, and varied groups, all of which contribute to the state's difficult operation. Since no major party receives enough votes to form the government on its own, coalition politics is a mechanism for parties in a country with several parties to work together to administer the government. A coalition is formed when a number of smaller organisations agree to collaborate toward a shared objective despite their differences (Malagi, 2017). The coalition government largely results from how politics operate in parliamentary democracies. It occurs because the democratic system contains several parties. When no one party can obtain a majority, a type of government is created. A coalition of parties may form either before or after the elections.

Some argue that India's parliamentary democracy should be replaced with the presidential system since it is ineffective. It is not appropriate to make short-term judgments, especially given the events of the previous three years. The most significant truth is that no

political party has ever questioned the principles underlying India's Constitution or the operation of parliamentary democracy (Kailash & Arora, 2016). All eight coalition administrations revered the constitutionally protected institutions of government. Unlike highly centralised presidential control or one- or two-party administration, parliamentary democracy is an excellent form of government for our nation.

As stated previously, foreign relations, defence, and economic policy are a nation's three most crucial aspects. Even though there have been a number of coalition and short-term administrations over the past five years, our policies have remained constant and adaptable. The legitimacy of India's standing in the international community has been attributed to its consistency. To respond to internal requirements, you must be adaptable (Singh, 2018). Even when it comes to producing nuclear weapons and missiles, most citizens agree on what should be done. People in India are now old enough to vote out politicians and political parties that run for government to further their own agendas, take advantage of coalition ministries they join, or tamper with Lok Sabha math.

### **Discussion**

India is a nation with a wide variety of people. There are several distinct populations, languages, castes, religions, and geographical regions (Barthwal, 2012). This appears to indicate that the coalition government is more diversified and more reflective of the will of the people. In contrast, coalition administrations tend to be unstable or become unstable. The governing coalition disintegrates because its members are at odds with one another. Since 1967, when coalitions were formed, India's party system has seen significant transformation. The shift in administration resulted in the formation of new parties and the dissolution of some older ones. When regionalism became popular, India shifted to a coalition political system. The coalition government at the centre indicates that there will be a fundamental shift in governance, one that is both centralised and decentralised.

If only national parties were allowed to compete in parliamentary elections, there would be fewer or no political opportunists. Certain parties, like the Bahujan Samaj Party, obviously desire political unrest in the nation. A political party is only a national party if it stands for office in at least fifty per cent of the states and receives at least five per cent of the votes. Currently, the Election Commission considers a party national if it has attained state party status in at least four states (Atkins, 2018). However, if a number of regional parties establish a National Front and present a coherent national programme, such a Front might be permitted

to contest in the parliamentary elections. Regional parties should not be permitted to run for the legislature; only national parties should be permitted to do so. There are currently 8 national parties and according to Election Commission of India, there are 54 state parties and 2796 regional parties as of 2021. Regional parties may be the finest vehicle to express regional desires and needs, but regional desires and needs at the national level spell the end of the nation (Nikolenyi, 2022).

**Table 1.1: List of all the National Parties in India**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Founding Date</b>
1.	Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP	6 April 1980
2.	Indian National Congress	INC	28 December 1885
3.	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	CPI-M	7 November 1964
4.	Communist Party of India	CPI	26 December 1925
5.	Bahujan Samaj Party	BSP	14 April 1984
6.	Nationalist Congress Party	NCP	10 June 1999
7.	All India Trinamool Congress	AITC	1 January 1998
8.	National People's Party	NPP	6 January 2013

*Source: Singh (2020)*

A second alternative would be for the person who introduces the vote of no confidence against the existing government to designate the Prime Minister's replacement in the motion so that a replacement is already in place. If the mandate is divided, a third option would be to instruct the House to select either its leader or the Prime Minister.

The National Government does not appear capable of resolving this issue. By strengthening our political parties, we can focus on issues impacting the entire nation rather than our local region. They should make it simpler for individuals to hold themselves responsible, obtain what they need, and be represented. When discussing a single individual as a prime ministerial candidate, you neglect the crucial role political parties play in maintaining and improving the political process. Without a powerful organisation, even a great individual is simply one person (Bormann, 2019). For a democracy to function, many individuals must participate in politics through political parties. There are common criticisms about political parties. The following are examples: They promote partisanship and corruption, are founded on entrenched interests, polarise the populace, and frequently result in political instability. Even if these criticisms are valid, political parties nevertheless have vital political responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to ensure that the policies and programmes of the ruling party are implemented (Kailash & Arora, 2016). No matter how charismatic the head of the national party is, he cannot bridge the chasm between the ruling class and the governed in order to tackle the people's real issues. Political stability can only be ensured by political parties that prioritise national interests.

The conventionalist In India, the Bharatiya Janata Party leads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a coalition of conservative, center-right to right-wing parties (BJP). It was established in 1998 and is currently in charge of the national government of India, fifteen Indian states, and one Union Territory. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the first chairman, was also the prime minister. Former Vice Prime Minister L. K. Advani assumed the role of chairman in 2004 and held it till 2014. Since then, Amit Shah has occupied the position. The coalition held power between 1998 and 2004. In the general elections of 2014, the alliance received 38.5% of the vote. This restored their power. On May 26, 2014, its leader, Narendra Modi, was sworn in as India's prime minister. In the 2019 general election, the coalition as a whole received 45.43 percent of the vote. This adds to the existing 353 seats.

### **Conclusion**

Political turmoil, the increase in the number and influence of regional parties, and other factors necessitated coalition administrations throughout that era. History has shown us that only Congress significantly impacted the freedom movement. After attaining independence, India utilised its sovereignty to shape the modern state of New India. As time passed, an increasing number of individuals stopped supporting Congress. Simultaneously, several new



parties began to develop in India and began to transform Indian politics. Even though the UPA Government did a wonderful job, the corruption of some of its partners forced it to confront several difficulties.

More time than feasible should go between the establishment of regulations in party constitutions and their implementation. The party rules must be obeyed to the letter in every respect. It was difficult to argue against the notion that a strong opposition was responsible for monitoring policy changes and keeping them in the public and parliamentary sight. During the crucial years after the country's independence, the opposition may have been a beneficial partner in nation-building.

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