

# COALITION GOVERNMENT IN INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Prof. Dyavappa L. Pawar, Assistant Professor and Head, Dept of Political Science, Sri. Amalambhawan College, Commerce College & P. G. Center, NAREGAL

## INTRODUCTION

In parliamentary form of government several parties cooperate only if no party on its own achieves a majority in parliament. It is an alliance between two or more separate parties or even hostile parties. The term coalition is derived from Latin word *coalescere* co means together and *alescere* means to go or to go together. It is a combination of a body or parts into one whole. In the strict political sense the word coalition is used for an alliance or temporary union for joint action of various parties unite to form a government or ministry. The constitution of India has established parliamentary form of government both at centre and state as well. The framers of constitution followed the British west minister model it might be due the people who were well acquainted in this type of government. This system was already existed in some countries and was adapted by India in 1909 as Morely minto reforms. After independence one first major task before Indian elite was to decide the form of government that would be suitable for post independent India. After the long discussions India adopted parliamentary form of government both at the centre and in the states. India is a multi-party system however from a long period Indian political system was dominated by one single party the congress often known as congress system. The Indian national congress (INC) had fought the first five elections (1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, and 1971) under the dominating influence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi. Their charismatic leadership always contributed to the success of congress party. In 1967 general elections emergence of coalition government in eight out of the sixteen states. This period was experienced minority governments at the state level with outside support of parties which did not actually participate in government. In number of states such as Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, Congress party lost its majority for the first time in these states and non-congress governments was formed. Whereas congress party remained power at centre, in many states it went out of power thus ended single party dominant

political system. India has had coalition governments at the centre as well as in the states. Coalition governments are not a new phenomenon in India. The fragmentation of national party system and emergence of regional parties turned India in to coalition platform.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To highlight the congress hegemony in Indian political system.
2. To highlight the coalition governments India since independence.
3. To highlight the advantages and disadvantages of coalition politics in India.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was based on secondary sources like books, magazines, internet, journals, libraries etc. for the purpose to know more details of coalition in India and its advantages and disadvantages in Indian political system.

## COALITION GOVERNMENT IN INDIA - AN OVERVIEW

After the independence Indian national congress (INC) had fought first five elections under the dominating leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal and Smt. Indira Gandhi. Their charismatic leadership always contributed to the success of congress party. Thus for a long period from independence the Indian system was completely dominated by one single party the congress. It ruled as a dominated party not only at the centre but almost in all states as well. This is because India lacked a strong opposition party. In this phase congress party along with great leadership of Neharu strengthen the centre, which already had been made strong by constitution and central domination over the states. Hegemony of the congress gradually began to be eroded during the sixties when the general elections of 1967 resulted the emergence of coalition government in eight out of sixteen states that went to polls. At the centre first minority government was that Mrs. Indira Gandhi when she was reduced to a minority as a result split in congress in Nov. 1969. She had however the support of left parties but within year she recommended the dissolution of parliament and returned with a comfortable majority in elections.

Keywords : Coalition, NDA, UPA, Electorate, Alliances and elections etc.

Experience shows that coalition governments have mostly been formed due to political opportunism and personal selfishness.

- Coalitions in India have been marked by excessive presence of regional parties and this increased their role and influence in the formation and working of the government. These regional parties threaten to withdraw from the coalition on small local issues. Experience shows that coalition governments have mostly been formed due to political opportunism and personal selfishness.
- Coalition government is less transparent because party has no real chance of forming a government alone. The manifestos they present to the public become irrelevant and real decisions about political programmes are made after the election.
- Coalition governments are definitely less effective not durable and non-dependable as compared to governments formed by any one party with a definitely ideology and principals. In coalition governments, MLAs and MPs from all parties are given portfolios appointed as ministers. These ministers are appointed on the recommendations of parent party, without taking the qualifications, character and criminal record of MLAs MPs. If we look into the experience of coalition governments in India we notice that these were mostly formed and dissolved not in the interest and welfare of the people but because of the selfish interest of coalition partners.

## CONCLUSION

Before forming of a coalition government parties should at least have some amount of matching of their economic, social, political, industrial, and agricultural policies. The continuity of coalition government first under the NDA and later UPA confirms not merely the decline of one party rule and rise of regional and small parties. The era of coalition government has given both positive and negative signals like understanding and cooperation among national and regional parties. Indian experience has also shown that those coalitions in which the biggest party leads have been more successful thus NDA became successful because it was led by the BJP which was largest party and successive UPA government led by congress are good example of coalitions. India is a diverse country with different ethnic, linguistic and religious communities it also had ideologies. Due to this the benefit that a coalition has is that it leads to more consensus based politics and reflects the popular opinion of the electorate in order to have stable coalitions.

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date records as quickly as medical findings come to be available.

"Even as we fight this pandemic, we must be readying ourselves for future global outbreaks and the many other challenges of our time such as antimicrobial resistance, inequality and the climate crisis," said Dr. Tedros. "COVID-19 has taken so much from us. But it is also giving us an opportunity to break with the past and build back better"

World Health Organization had been consistently creating cognizance of covid-19 but due to the incomprehension of the people, Covid-19 which started as epidemic in Wuhan became a pandemic. It has become threat to the human race. Currently plethora of scientists is striving to give their best by working day and night on vaccine for the pandemic. There is taking lot of time for the vaccine and the reason might be the frequent mutation of the virus. From the current pandemic situation, it's the duty of every citizen to create cognizance of covid-19 to their families and the community. If the preventive measures are not followed the number of infected cases may reach cores together and the people won't get beds in the hospitals and the death rate all over the world increases rapidly .As you know "PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE"

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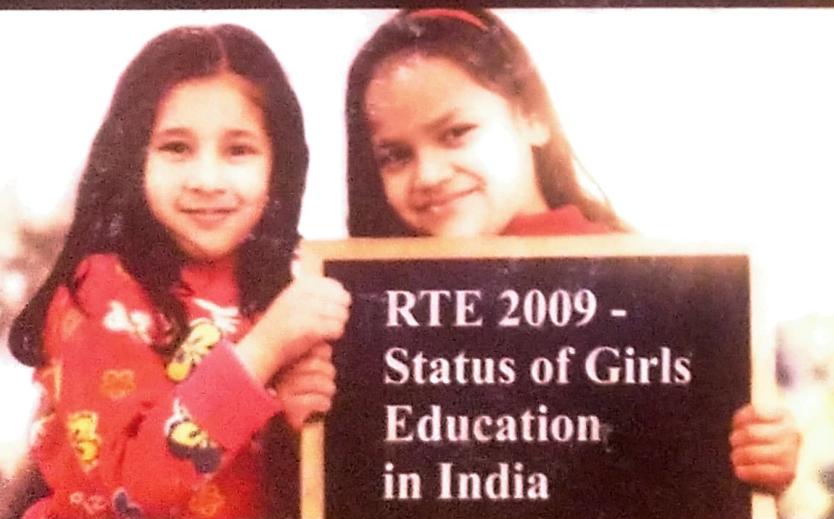
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