

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE
THAKURPUKUR
KOLKATA-700063

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE



Topic: Coalition Politics in India

Course Title: Politics of India

Paper: PLS-A-CC-2-2

Unit: 3

Semester: 2

Name of the Teacher: ANINDITA GANGULY

Name of the Department: POLITICAL SCIENCE

Coalition Politics: An introduction

Coalition Politics is a phenomenon of a multi-party government where a number of minority parties join hands to run the government. A coalition is formed when many splinter groups agree to join hands on a common platform by sinking their broad differences to form majority. Coalition government is a product of politics in a parliamentary democracy. It is a development due to the exigencies of a multi-party system in a democratic set up. It is a type of government formed or constituted when no single party is able to secure majority on its own. Thus, in a democracy based upon a majority party system, such a situation enables a number of minority parties to come together and form a coalition government. Coalition of parties may take form either prior to the elections, called as pre-poll alliance, or after elections, called post-poll alliance. In Indian politics, coalitions reflect an opportunistic power-driven mentality of various political groups. India, being a country of many diversities and pluralities though united, continues to be motivated by parochial and regional considerations. What's more, it is because of this character of Indian culture that coalitions are to a great degree important to the nation. So coalition is not just the meeting up of different political gatherings to catch control, it is additionally intelligent of the fracture of social interests at the grass root level. Legislative issues in India is will undoubtedly be coalitional contained inside various political gatherings and working inside the standards of what Robert Dahl calls as a polyarchical majority rule government. In this place where there is minorities in light of standing, dialect, culture and religion, neither a solitary gathering is in a position to decide the fate of the whole country, nor is there a steady blend of minorities that can hold its unequivocal part over a drawn out stretch of time.

The investigation of coalition governmental issues has accepted incredible significance in India in light of the change of overwhelming one gathering framework i.e., into a multi party framework. The way of life of coalition building is not new for Indian legislative issues, however it is identified with the formal institutional parts of the legislature. The Indian constitution has an engraving of the 1935 majestic constitution which was resolved to fill a helpful need in managing India's multi social identity. Birth of sacred organizations was in reality a medium of expression giving a strong institutional reason for the antiquated Indian faith in the possibility of comprehensiveness of shared concurrence. The thought demonstrates instrumentality of accord working as a regarded an incentive in the nation set apart with majority and differing qualities. It is, in this manner, not amazing that standard national reaction to the British pilgrim oppression was acquired in the Gandhian thought of Swarajya which in itself was made out of the soul of coalition working in governmental issues, financial aspects and the general public on the loose. The development and supporting of vote based foundations for example, free press, vote based system, govern of law, and so on have helped the possibility of coalition to additionally develop in the new majority rule set up of the nation. After autonomy, the Indian National Congress was the main National Party which told fame and regard of the general population. This gathering without a doubt had a mass base and grassroots in India. It stayed in power both at the middle and in the states ideal from 1947 to 1967 and had a solid character. In any case, it additionally had a coalition character as in it was a gathering of the inside with an inclination towards the left holding fast to an arrangement of beliefs shared by different gatherings and gatherings, be these the rightists or the liberals. The coalition character of the Congress association framed a dominating model giving both intra and between gathering aggressive cum coalition demonstrate without taking into account the rotation of force beyond what many would consider possible. Coalition framework has numerous ramifications and is shaped for some reward. The guideline of a coalition framework remains on the

straightforward actuality of impermanent conjunction of particular interests. It is not static but rather dynamic undertaking as coalition players and gatherings get broke up, and frame new ones. Sober mindedness is the sign of coalition governmental issues. In making political conformities, standards are put aside and in this procedure philosophy is the primary loss. The motivation behind a coalition modification is to seize control. On the off chance that power is the main rationale behind joining a coalition, arrangement and realignment is a general component. No coalition accomplice has lasting companions or foes, however just changeless interests. The present exercise is committed not simply in an organized sense to the investigation of development, combination and working of BJP drove NDA coalition governments in India; additionally intends to lay accentuation upon an assortment of components and powers that are shown by the expanding importance and part of local or state parties in legislative issues of focus.

Meaning of Coalition

Coalition is a marvel of a multi-party government where various minority parties hold hands with the end goal of running the administration which is generally impractical. A coalition is framed when many gatherings come into basic terms with each other and characterize a typical program or motivation on which they work. A coalition government dependably stays in pulls and weights especially in a multinational nation like India. The term Coalition is gotten from the Latin word Coalescere which intends to become together. As indicated by the word reference meaning, coalition implies a demonstration of blending, or joining into one body, a union of individuals, states or an organization together. It is a blend of body or parts into one entirety. In the strict political sense the word coalition is utilized for an organization together or transitory union for joint activity of different powers or state and furthermore of the union into a solitary administration of particular gatherings or individuals from unmistakable gatherings. Coalition alludes to a gathering of individuals who meet up to accomplish some objective, more often than not on a brief premise. In governmental issues, it means a parliamentary or political gathering of various gatherings, intrigue gatherings or groups for making as well as affecting arrangement choices or securing power. As indicated by William A. Gamson, it is the joint utilization of assets to decide the result of the choice in a blended circumstance including more than two units. Coalition regularly means a co-agent course of action under which unmistakable political gatherings or all individuals from such gatherings join to shape a legislature or service. N.C. Sahni, has called attention to that the coalition is a result of legislative issues in a parliamentary majority rules system. It is a shocking course of frictions, however ostensibly a coalition seems, by all accounts; to be on strong mass, deep down it is ridden by gathering quirks and frenzied gathering ferrous bickering. So coalition governmental issues is that legislative issues in which particular political gatherings consolidate their assets on the premise of the some base joint basic program to catch the rules of energy to accomplish some coveted objectives. The investigation of the coalition governmental issues in India is a result of the conditions made by the consequence of the fourth broad elections, when the congress party neglected to get larger part on its proprietor with the assistance of the Indian states where the elections were held. The coalitions are shaped for framing the administration as well as for catching force. These may likewise be shaped for doing the part of restriction. It is additionally relevant 4 to state here that the nature and piece of restriction in coalition government contrasts from one gathering government. In coalition government there are extensive number of gatherings on the administration side and a solitary national gathering

with little gatherings in resistance, though in a solitary gathering government just a single gathering has control, the restriction assumes ruin a negative part by attempting to wean away a portion of the individuals from the decision coalition. A Coalition Government needs to confront not just the parliamentary resistance, the endeavor of decision coalition attempting to appeal the restriction by offering some compelling post position. In India one-party strength rose, we had single gathering legislatures of the Congress from 1952 to 1977 in the middle. The coalitions developed at state level after the 1967 elections to the state Legislative Assemblies yet single gathering governments proceeded in the middle. In 1977 as the Janata Party, a coalition of gatherings was figured by hostile to crisis assumptions. The delicacy of this coalition ailing in ideological program got to be distinctly unmistakable instantly after the demise of Jay Parkash Narayan. The consolidate in the long run split up in 1979. This prompted to the reclamation of the single party administration of the congress in the 1980 parliamentary elections. Be that as it may, V.P. Singh drove National Front Coalition Government was framed in focus after the 1989 parliamentary elections with the outside support of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from one perspective and the Communist Parties on the other. In spite of the fact that the essential board of the legislature was social equity, yet it was soon out controlled in 1990 because of the ideological disagreements of the taking an interest political outfits. Then again, succeeding Chandrashekhar drove coalition government which succeeded was one gathering minority government bolstered by the Congress . It was supplanted in 1991 by P.V. Narsimha Rao drove minority administration of the Congress (I) having issue based support from the AIADMK. The eleventh Lok Sabha decisions of 1996 rehashed the tale of the ninth Lok Sabha elections of 1989. With the outside support from the Congress and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), H.D. Deve Gowda of Janata Dal constituted a working greater part comprising of 13 political gatherings in the Parliament. This United Front government couldn't finish even two years (even with the changed initiative of I.K. Gujral) and descended disintegrating in 1997. The next coalition Government formed by the BJP in 1998 was better than the preceding political coalition as it was formed after more sustained interaction between parties, which ultimately joined it. It was, however in 1999 after the withdrawal of support by All Indian Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the General elections were held in 1999 which returned the BJP led National Democratic alliance (NDA) back to power with an expanded majority which remained in office till the 2004 parliamentary elections.



Features of Coalition Politics

The following are the features of coalition politics in India particularly since 1986.

1. It has been quite evident that today no single national level party is in a position to get a majority in elections and to form a government, at the centre it is expected that national level political parties will now become increasingly conscious of the need to have
2. Coalitions with regional parties. It also appears that in future pre poll alliance will be made after the election results only limited political changes will be made in these.
3. Since a coalition government is formed on the basis of a mutually agreed common programme and it sustains itself through consensus decision making. The role of political of consensus will gain strength in the Indian politics.
4. It is now also certain that in every coalition government. The leadership role will fall in the hands of the single largest constituent of the coalition alliance.
5. Three distinct alliance groups appears to be emerging in Indian politics BJP led alliance congress led alliance and left front alliance.

Coalition politics has tended to make the working of the Indian political system in general and the parliamentary system of governance in particular more complex problematic and even fluid. It can strengthen the demand for the incorporation of at least some features of the presidential system in the Indian parliamentary system of governance. With all of the above mentioned features and emerging trends the era of coalition politics has really open in the Indian political system. After having worked through a one party dominant party system the Indian political system is currently working through a system of coalition politics under which several political parties are simultaneously sharing power both at the centre and state levels.

Coalition Government in India

Contemporary India has today undergone a complex and tortuous political transition. The demise of the one party dominance system has given birth to an era of coalition with the decline of the congress and in the absence of a national alternative having a countrywide spread it was logical for the people to repose faith in different parties and groups some confined to region. For the last couple of decades the Indian political landscape has been dominated by coalition politics. Unlike general perception coalition in politics is not a new concept for Indian politics coalitionism as a form of government is common and widely practiced in Europe. Indian too has accumulated not inconsiderable amount of experience in the form of governing arrangement. Undivided India got its first experience of coalition government in 1937 when the government of India act, 1935 became operative. At the time Jinnah asked for a collation consisting of congress and Muslim league in UP but congress the party holding majority did not entertain this demand. Mohd Ali Jinnah at that time argued that in India coalition was the only respectable device to give to the Muslim a fair a share in 7 governance in other states like NWFP and Punjab congress formed coalitions with other regional parties. After independence, The largest democracy has largely been ruled or governed by the single largest party that is , of course, Indian national congress. Congress party since its inception in 1885 has evolved as the most organized and vibrant force through every nock and corner of india. Since congress party has faced a lot of music during India's freedom struggle from the White men not to exclude an

ordinary Indian who might have faced the British axe and not just music. Needless, to say the very existence of congress goes to the British account. Bipin Chandra Beautifully articulates in his book "History of modern India " page 208 if Hume wanted to use the congress as a 'safety valve', the early congress leaders hoped to use him as a lightning conductor'. Once, called safety valve finally made British pay the huge price they had borrowed from the India in the name of trade centuries ago and finally returned back to India in 1947 with unfortunate partition. The organized congress party ruled India with no parallel or competition. The charisma of Nehru, Patel, and Azad had given congress the yield that congress enjoyed until 1977. Unlike general perception, coalition in politics is not a new concept for Indian politics. Coalitionism as a form of government is common and widely practiced in Europe. Indian too has accumulated not inconsiderable amount of experience in the form of governing arrangement. Undivided India got its first experience of coalition government in 1937 when the government of India act, 1935 became operative. At the time Jinnah asked for a coalition consisting of congress and Muslim league in UP but congress the party holding majority did not entertain this demand. Mohammad Ali Jinnah at that time argued that in India coalition was the only respectable device to give to the Muslims a fair share in governance in other states like NWFP and Punjab congress formed coalitions with other regional parties. Coalition politics in India for is very volatile and one again pre poll alliance is buzzing everywhere with scrambling for seats and allies. Alliance is subjected to last minute changes any time. However amidst these the prime ministerial candidates have been announced by the existing coalition parties. In the 2009 General elections the prime minister candidates for NDA led coalition was the present leader of the opposition party Shri. L.k.Advani and UPA coalition Prime Minister andidate was Dr. Monmohan Singh while the third front was seen scuttling for suitable person amongst them and this party formed by teaming some regional partie's aim to led alliance and BJP led coalition. 8 UPA is formed with constituent parties such as Indian National Congress party. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, J&K National conference, Lok Janshakti party. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Trinamool Congress, Indian Union Muslim League, Republic party of India. Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. Sikkims Democratic Front and AllIndia Majlis- E-Ittehadul Muslimeen . The Rashtriya Janata Dal, The Lok Jana-Shakti party and Samajwadi Party has formed an alliance in UPA and Bihar, but still claim to be party of UPA. The NDA party comprises of BJP, Janta Dal (united) Shiva Shena Shirominal Akali Dal, ASom Gana Parishad Rastriya LOK Dal Indian National Lok and Mizo National front. The third front alliance I, also known as United Front was in power 1996-98. Presently third front is alliance between united national progressive alliance and left front. Constituent parties are communist party of India. Telugo Desam party, Biju Janatal Dal secular revolutionary party. However, in a political set up like the one we have today it very difficult to predict which party will tie up with other party. Recently after the dates for the 15th lok sabha election were announced, all the major parties stated setting up fronts to project themselves as the leading contender for the top job, irrespective of their earlier rivalries. This election was quite different from the earlier ones, this time it was a three way fight and not the tradition two ways. The formation of the third front had led to sleepless nights for both the major parties also the unclear picture about the voters favorite party has increased the risk. Despite the shortcoming of the coalition governments there is a positive side about it. Greater participation of the regional parties has pout the regional issues on the central table which otherwise would not have got the treatment they deserved. In his election the effort of the parent party is to focus on regional issues through the regional allies to maximize their gain. So it would be wrong to say that the coalition era

has been an all wrong political err, , it has been a mixed bag with some compromises and some challenges the third front joining. The fray has made the fight more interesting and forces the other parties to have a reality check on their previous work. In order to have stable coalition it is necessary that political parties moderate their ideologies and programmes. They should be more open to take others points of view as well. They must accommodate each other's interests and concerns. But this is not what happening in India. In Indian parties do not always agree on the correct path for governmental policy, different parties have different interests and beliefs and it is difficult to sustain a consensus on issues when disagreements arise, they often fail to see eye to eye with the government on many public policies. However this is not to say that we have never had successful coalitions. Governments in Kerala and West Bengal and NDA and the UPA at the centre have been successful coalitions. Other coalition should learn from these because it is a difficult to operate in an environment full of disagreements. The fact of the matter is that India has had coalition government in the past and it will continue to have in the future as well. Therefore it is in best interest for all that parties develop a sense of understanding and do not play games of power politics and bad politics, it is high time that the MPs realize how bad India fares on other economic variable in the world and it is time they put their energy in improving those than just catering to their selfish interests. If political parties feel that coalitions are too much of a compromise and always lead to unstable governments, then India can think of alternative forms of government the presidential system can be one but it has its own cons,. It is very important for the political parties to moderate their ideas as there are no readymade formulas or easy solutions to make coalition work in a smooth manner.

Coalition Politics at the Centre and The State

India experienced its first coalition government even before the transfer of power when after refusing to share power with the congress; the Muslim league joined the interim government a month later. The function of this 14 member coalition government formed on Oct. 25, 1946 lasting none months highlighted the travails of a coalition of unlike minded parties giving a good lesson in what a coalition should not do. Naturally this coalition between a party opposing partition of the country and the other bent upon the partition lacked political homogeneity. After the split of congress in 1969 some members of the congress party withdrew their support from the government thereby reducing it into minority. However the minority congress government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi continued to rule with the tacit support of communist party of India and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). In this minority government neither communist party of India nor dravida munnetra kazhagam (DEMK) was represented in the government, after the election of 1971 Mrs. Indira Gandh's party was returned to power with an overwhelming majority and provided a strong government till 1977 when it was voted out of power and was succeeded by the Janata government since 1977 India has been experienced various coalition governments at the centre. In the electoral history of independent India 1967, 1977 and 1989 are the turning points in the nature of the party system. The fourth General Elections of 1967 can be considered one of the most important events in Indian politics. Ridding on the crest of mounting non 10 congressism, non congress coalitions in the form of Samyukta Vidayak Dal (SVD) government were formed in several states,. The 1967 election had created a situation in which congress dominance was strikingly diminished because its performance

in the art of governance was subjected to harsh judgment by supporters and opposition alike. The public image of the congress had been tarnished owing to the charges of corruption against some of its leaders and also on account of growing economic crises in the country. Intra-party factionalism and conflicts resulted in massive defections and splinter groups in the form of Janta Congress in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jana Kranti Dal in Bihar, Jan Pakasha in Mysore, and the Janta party in Rajasthan . Emergence of splinter groups and their reconciliation with opposition parties created a situation conducive to coalition and competitive multiparty system. The 1967 elections put the congress system on trail and marked and of one party dominances system in India. Despite the weakening of the congress party during 1967 to 1971, it continued be a single dominant party and the centre till the ninth general elections with the short interval of 1977-1979 when the coalition ruled at the centre.

