



JOURNAL OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (JETIR)

An International Scholarly Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Coalition Governments: Role of Indian National Congress

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Abstract: Coalition governments are playing a vital role in Indian Politics. The Coalition is a combination of group of some political parties. India has this significance before and after independence. Role of the INC is more in this concern. There are some types of coalitions like National Democratic Alliance (NDA), United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Left Front and Third Front. Multi dimension strategies can get through coalition government in same venue.

Key words: Coalition, National Democratic Alliance (NDA), United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Left Front and Third Front.

Coalition government is one of the forms of government when single party may not get perfect majority in the Parliament, then political parties together form the alliance and by the alliance form the government. Alliance may be form before or after the elections.

The word coalition is governments formed by incorporation of two or more political parties form a government to reduce domination by any one party and to run the government as a unit. Coalition governments usually formed in democratic countries where a party is short of achieving a clear majority to form the government.

The word coalition is derived from “Coalesce” which means fusion of two or more things. This term became popular in politics during 18th century when there was a rise of Democracy all over the world.

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 narrow-minded and regional considerations. And it is due to this character of Indian society that coalitions are extremely applicable to the country. So coalition is not simply the coming together of various political parties to capture power, it is also

reflective of the breakdown of social interests at the grass root level.

Indian National Congress was only national party which was led by the people unanimously. It enjoyed power almost two decades in Union level. . National Congress party had grassroots in Indian politics. After independence INC ruled right from 1947 to 1967.

The coalition character of the INC organization formed a predominant model proving intra and inter party competition can coalition model without of power as per as possible.

Before Independence coalition of Indian National Congress:

In 2nd September 1946, the Interim government of India was formed. It is also called as the Provisional government of India. The newly elected Constituent Assembly of India members formed government as per the proposals of Clement Atlee's 1946 cabinet Mission proposals.

In this indirect elections INC got 69% of seats and Muslim League won the seats allocated to the Muslim electorals. In this period India experienced its first coalition government. Indian National Congress formed government with 65% of seats after one month Muslim League was joined in the interim government. This first coalition government was formed with fourteen members of Indian National Congress and Muslim League parties on October 25 1946. Lack of homogeneity the both parties were differed in partition of the country, as a result this coalition was failed.

After Independence Coalition Governments and INC

Formation of Coalition Governments in India (1977-Present)

Period	Coalition	Prime Minister (Party)	INC Role
1977-1979	Janata Party	Morarji Desai (Congress (O))	opposition
1979-1980	Janata Party (Secular)	Charan Singh (Janata (S))	Congress(I) given outside support and withdrawn
1989-1990	National Front	V.P Singh (Janata Dal)	opposition
1990-1991	Janata Dal (Socialist) or Samajwadi Janata Party	Chandra Shekar (Janata Dal (S) or Samajwadi Party)	Supported and withdrawn later
1996-1997	United Front	H.D Deve Gowda (Janata Dal)	Supported and withdrawn later
1997-1998	United Front	I.K Gujral (Janata Dal)	Supported and withdrawn later
1997-1998	BJP-led Coalition	A.B. Vajpayee (BJP)	opposition
1999-2004	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	A.B. Vajpayee (BJP)	opposition
2004-2009	United Progressive Alliance (UPA)	Manmohan Singh (Congress)	Ruling Party –formed government

2009-2014	United Progressive Alliance – II (UPA-II)	Manmohan Singh (Congress)	Ruling Party –formed government
2014-2019	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	Narendra Modi (BJP)	opposition
2019-present	National Democratic Alliance (NDA)	Narendra Modi (BJP)	opposition

Indian National Congress formed government and ruled successfully at least two decades i.e. 1947 to 1977 In Independent India. First time India experienced a greatest political crisis in 1975 because of National emergency. Since Independence, INC had been declaring as an organization and proved incapable of dealing with political crisis at state and grassroots level. Hence other parties aim to form the Non Congress Government. As a result other than Congress party, that is Janatha party formed government headed by Sri.Morarji Desai in 1977. Janatha party took the support of Janasangh, Bharatiya Lok Dal (BLD), Congress (O), Socialist party etc. Janata party and its friend ship parties agreed to merge and participate in elections with single manifesto and symbol. For this reason it may not conceder as coalition government technically.

Conversely, composition of two different ideological parties which were with socialist ideology likes Socialist party, Bharatiya Lok Dal (BDL) and rightist parties like Janasangh the first non Congress Government could not get success. Consequently Sri.Morarji Desai lost his majority by no confidence motion in the Lok Sabha and tendered his resignation to the President of India. Hence the first non congress government with coalition features was failed. But the Morarji Desai government succeeded to give an idea to the people thinks about the politics in India.

The second coalition government was formed by Mr. Charan Singh in 28 July 1979 with outside support by India Congress Congress (I) and Yashwantrao Chavan of Congress (Socialist). Group as his Deputy PM Yashwantrao Chavan, Just before Singh was to prove his majority in Lok Sabha, Congress(I) headed by Indira Gandhi withdrew support to his government, and he resigned on 20 August 1979, after just 23 days, the only PM who has failed to face parliament.

In the 1996 general elections, the Congress party under the leadership of P.V.Narasimha Rao faced a major defeat. In this elections Congress lost its seats 232 to 140 in the Lok sabha. Out of the 535 members BJP and amity parties got 186, United Front 215 and the INC 139. President Shankar Dayal Sharma invited Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the government being the largest party in the Lok sabha. But as a minority party it could not get the confidence in the Lok sabha, accordingly his government lost the Motion of Confidence in the Parliament and Vajpayee tendered his resignation. In this circumstances Congress decided to encourage the formation of a coalition and support to non BJP coalition from the outside. With the outside support of the Congress party United Front formed government and H.D. Deve Gowda became as the Prime Minister of India.

The United front government had very talented ministers like I.K.Gujral, P. Chidambaram and Jaipal Reddy who were worked in Indian national Congress. Jaipal Reddy was good resource for the government .Chidambaram set a trend and gave a new direction to the Indian taxation system.

UPA-I

In 2004 Lok sabha elections Citizen of India were given again a confusing decision. In this elections INC and its allies achieves 217 seats, BJP led coalition 189 seats and leftist and others got 136 seats.

Party	Seats won
INC and its allies	217
BJP led coalition	189
leftist and others	59
Samajwadi Party	36

In the 2004, 14 Lok sabha elections deferent than other previous elections .The two major parties made alliances to form the government. In these elections regional parties played a key role to form the government as well as opposition. Hence the regionalization of Indian politics started 1996 and manifested in 2004.

After 2004 elections INC and other parties like Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), Samajwadi Party and other Leftist parties were held a meeting on 16 may 2004 at Sonia Gandhi's residence. These parties collectively supported Sonia Gandhi's Prime Minister ship.BJP was countered that A foreign origin person cannot hold country's important office. As UPA chair person Sonia Gandhi nominated Manmohan Singh as the Prime Minister of fourteen parties United Progressive Alliance (UPA) coalition government with outside support of Left Front which differed the ideology of economic issues. Another side Samajwadi party given support with concept of Secularism.

After formation of the government UPA-I established National Advisory Council (NAC) headed by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.NAC maintains the implementation of National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) and provides inputs to the government to policy making regulations like civil society, apart from the bureaucrats, politicians etc.

July22,2008 UPA narrowly survived a vote of confidence in the Parliament brought by the left Front with drawing the support to protest India-United States "civil nuclear Agreement".

Achievements

The UPA-I government was legislated many acts like

1. Right to Information act, 2005 was given more transference to the people to drag the information from public sector.
2. The UPA led by Congress launched the NREGA (later christened as MGNREGA) i.e. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act which gives 100 days of work assurance to each grown-up member of the rural family who is interested in work.
3. The origin of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 lies in Article 15 (2) of the Indian Constitution, which clearly says that "State can make special provisions for women and children"19

for making the right to equality a reality. The main motive of forming such an act was to give a message that domestic violence will not be tolerated.

4. UPA government brought the “Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 recognizes that who have been residing in the land before October 25, 1980, they can enjoy forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDSTs).
5. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008 was given by UPA government to educate six to fourteen year children. This Act has been giving free and compulsory education to them.

UPA-II

After the 15th Lok Sabha elections in 2009 Congress led UPA alliance formed the coalition government. UPA achieved 262 seats with 48.25%. There is need to ten seats to form the government. Nagaland Peoples Front (NPF), Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF), and Bodoland Peoples Front (BPF) assured that give the support to UPA. Other side UPA Alice party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) wanted to leave the alliance, after many deliberations DMK again given outside support to the UPA.

Alliances	Party	Seats	Leader
United Progressive Alliance 262	Indian National Congress	206	Sushil Kumar Shinde/Sonia Gandhi
	All India Trinamool Congress	19	Sudip Bandyopadhyay
	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	18	T R Balu
	Nationalist Congress Party	9	Sharad Pawar
	Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	Lalu Prasad Yadav
	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	3	
	Bodoland People's Front	1	
	Indian Union Muslim League	2	
National Democratic Alliance Seats: 167	Bharatiya Janata Party	117	Sushma Swaraj
	Janata Dal (United)	20	
	Shiv Sena	11	
	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	9	
	Shiromani Akali Dal	4	
	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	2	K. Chandrashekar Rao
	Asom Gana Parishad	1	
	Haryana Janhit Congress	1	
	Sikkim Democratic Front	1	
	Bodoland People's Front	1	
Third Front Seats: 75	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	15	
	Communist Party of India	4	
	Revolutionary Socialist Party	2	

	All India Forward Bloc	2	
	Bahujan Samaj Party	21	
	Biju Janata Dal	14	
	Telugu Desam Party	6	Nama Nageswara Rao
	Janata Dal (Secular)	1	
	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	1	
Fourth Front Seats: 26	Samajwadi Party	22	
	Rashtriya Janata Dal	4	
Other Parties and Independents Seats: 21	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajantrik)	2	
	YSR Congress Party	2	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy
	Swabhimani Paksha	1	
	Bahujan Vikas Aaghadi	1	
	All India United Democratic Front	1	
	All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	1	
	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi	1	
	Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist)	1	
	Independents	9	
	Nominated	2	
Total :-		545	

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/15th_Lok_Sabha

Main Acts of UPA II

AADHAAR-. Aadhaar as a new governmental agency was first chaired by former Chairman of Infosys Technologies and a billionaire software entrepreneur- Nandan Nilekani. The scheme got genuine support from the three most powerful persons in the government led by i.e., Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. On 28th January 2009, the Planning Commission of India notified and established the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Later on, this Unique ID was named as "Aadhaar".

The Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Work Place Bill, 2010 was introduced by UPA government for all employers to deal with sexual harassment.

The Lokpal & Lokayuktas Bill 2011 was legislated by the government for transparent and corruption less government.

Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Rules, 2011 was adopted by the government that India and the United States (US) ratified a historic pact on October 4, 2008, which permits India to get US civil nuclear fuel and the latest Science and technology.

By The National Food Security Bill, 2011 food Security as a right of general public UPA government proposed food grain entitlements to 75% of the rural public and 50% of the population residing in the urban areas.

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012 secures the character of inclusiveness and concern in the Congress, the UPA government also brought in a bill for one of the lowest class of service providers i.e. for the Street Vendors.

The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2013 of UPA government says about that Land acquisition is a procedure by which the administration acquires a private land against or with the will of the original occupant for public purposes.

Conclusion: UPA-I and II from 2004 to 2014 Congress-led government put their best efforts for the comprehensive growth of the country. Congress did a commendable job in every field. Education sector was developed in primary, middle school and High schools. Even Higher education level five new IIT was established by the UPA government. For health in rural areas Asha workers strength also increased. Various works were done for the Minorities, Weaker section, Disability, Senior citizens; Workers in the unorganized & organized sector, Freedom Fighter, Ex-servicemen etc are some of the countless measures taken by the UPA for the development of the citizens of India. the country itself. But Congress need to develop it's believe and strength in present and up coming days.

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