

## Coalition in India & Working of United Progressive Alliance (UPA)

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**ABSTRACT:** Today is the era of coalition governments. India has been the one major deviant case for consociational (Power sharing) theory and its sheer size makes the exception especially damaging. A deeply divided society with, supposedly, a mainly majoritarian type of democracy, India nevertheless has been able to maintain its democratic system. In the Late Eighties the Indian political scenario changed and not a single party get majority. Then Short term governments came into existence & many midterm elections happened. So Parties come united & give support from inner/ outside to make the government for full term. Congress is one of the most leading parties of India in past which is a Largest party of United Progressive Alliance. So it is necessary to analyse the role of it in coalitions governments from 2004-2014.

There are many reasons & circumstances those are responsible for end of one-party rule and the formation of coalition governments in India. These reasons may be multi-party system, regional political parties & social factors etc. There are many issues related to the working of coalition governments like delay in decision making, intra-party tensions, power without responsibility etc. UPA faces some problems & also done some good works in the tenure from 2004-14.

**KEYWORDS:-** Coalition, Political Parties, Alliance.

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### I. INTRODUCTION:

The Political scenario of whole world is changing, Now a days the mostly countries all-over the world have democratic system of Government & follow the parliamentary system. Most Countries have the multi-Party system. In Elections the highest voted party makes the government. Majority governments based on a single party are typically even more stable. But now the time has changed. Coalition government or alliance government is a very common issue in democratic countries. A coalition government comes into existence when two or more political parties make the government collectively according to their number of seats. It happens when no any single party gets the majority in representative house or when a general election does not produce a clear majority for a single party, and then some parties those have the similar ideologies make a coalition on a minimum common program. According to Oxford Advanced Learner Dictionary coalition as `a temporary union of separate political parties usually to form a government<sup>[1]</sup>. It happens in those countries that have multi-party system like India.

When some political parties came united on some issues, that is called Coalition. It has been emerged from a Latin word `COALESCRE`, it means moving forward collectively or united in groups. So it means that coalition is based on the point, unite to win<sup>[2]</sup>. In general coalition means, the group of people in which they come together temporarily for one or some common issues to win. In Politics, coalition shows the collectiveness of various political parties, interest groups or groups to effect the decision – making or getting the power. According to F. A. Ogg, `A cooperative arrangement under which distinct political parties, or at all in such events members of such parties unite to form a government or ministry<sup>[3]</sup>. Coalition Government is a cabinet of a parliamentary government in which many or multiple political parties co-operate, reducing the dominance of any one party within that coalition. The usual reason for this arrangement is that no party on its own can achieve a majority in the parliament. According to Oxford Dictionary `Alliance is in the process of getting together or meeting in an organization, becoming individuals or their organizations<sup>[4]</sup>. A coalition Government is a cabinet of a Parliamentary govt. which many political parties make the govt. by reducing the dominance of any one party.

#### Types of Coalition –

**1. Pre-election** – When political parties formulate alliance with other political parties to defeat the dominant party before elections, during the formulation of alliance the aggressive parties remain calm and never harm the weaker parties of their alliance. After elections the major authorities are provided to the popular faces during election.

**2. Post election** – If some parties are not able to formulate their governance due to the lack of majority gained in elections then these parties look forward to get cooperation from other parties and formulate common government.

**3. Ideological** – These types of Coalition governments formulate when political parties are common in their thinking or ideologies.

**4. Without participating in government** – When a political party support the coalition government from outside, means they will not take any ministry or will not be the part of government. These types of parties enjoy the power without responsibility and it is a dangerous type of coalition government <sup>[5]</sup>.

**Coalition In India** - A study of coalition Politics in India is the part of defection politics, which is the result of fragmentation and polarization of power against the one party dominant system. Coalition are products of the political realities as they emerge in a parliamentary democracy.<sup>[6]</sup> In June 1975, Mrs Gandhi imposed an internal emergency, suspending civil liberties, after she was indicted for electoral malpractice. The next election's result was that India's first-ever coalition government was formed at the national level under the Prime Minister ship of Morarji Desai, which was also the first non-Congress national government, headed by the Janata Party. From the onset, however, the Janata Party was doomed to failure, beset as it was by internecine quarrels, many spawned by Desai's confrontational attitude and an unsuccessful witch hunt against Mrs Gandhi and her loyalists. Internal pressures proved disastrous and in July 1979, a little over two years after it assumed office, Desai's government fell.

In the election of 1989, once again India got a coalition government under `National Front`, which lasted till 1991, with two Prime Ministers V.P.Singh & Chandershekhar, the second one being supported by Congress. The 1991 election resulted in a Congress led stable minority government for five years. P.V. Narsimha Rao lasted nearly five year, because the opposition parties could not united to pull down the Rao government and a number of opposition members joined the congress government through party splits and mergers <sup>[7]</sup>. Till 1998 India has the coalition govt. In this time we face many of mid-term elections three Prime Ministers in two years and forced the country back to the polls. The first successful coalition government in India which completed the whole 5-year term was the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) led `National Democratic Alliance` with Atal Bihari Vajpayee as PM from 1999 to 2004. Then another coalition, Congress led `United Progressive Alliance`, consisting of 13 separate parties. For the first time in the post independence history of India, more than a dozen different ideological political parties, both regional and national, were coalescing to form the government <sup>[8]</sup>.

**The United Progressive Alliance** - After the 2004 general elections when it had become clear that no party had won an absolute majority UPA Government was formed. Congress forged this alliance with several regional parties, including the NCP and the DMK. The party's campaign emphasised social inclusion and the welfare of common people. The Congress-led United Progressive Alliance won 222 seats in the parliament. With the support of the communist front, Congress formed the government. Sonia Gandhi declined the post of prime minister, choosing to appoint Dr. Manmohan Singh instead. She remained as party president and headed the National Advisory Council (NAC).

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had won 181 seats in the 543-member 14th Lok Sabha, as opposed the UPA's tally of 218 seats. The Left Front with 59 MPs (excluding the speaker of the Lok Sabha), the Samajwadi Party with 39 MPs and the Bahujan Samaj Party with 19 MPs were other significant blocks that opted to support UPA at various phases of its rule. The UPA did not enjoy a simple majority on its own in the parliament; rather it has relied on the external support to ensure that it enjoys the confidence of the Indian parliament similar to the formula adopted by the previous minority governments.

An informal alliance had existed prior to the elections as several of the current constituent parties had developed seat-sharing agreements in many states. However, it was only after the election that the results of negotiations between parties were announced. The UPA government's policies were initially guided by a common minimum programme that the alliance hammered out with fruitful consultations with Jyoti Basu and Harkishan Singh Surjeet of Left Front. Hence, government policies were generally perceived as centre-left, reflecting the centrist policies of the Indian National Congress. The UPA thus had at least 335 MPs out of 543 supporting it at the time of its formation. The Left parties, despite ideological differences with the Congress, supported the UPA to ensure a secular government. Its working under Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's leadership not only praised worldwide but by also his colleagues & Contemporaries like Pranab Mukherji writes `I Got the Maximum autonomy when I worked with Manmohan Singh`<sup>[9]</sup>. Swaminathan A. Aiyar also write `History will be kind to Manmohan Singh .It will remember him as the finance minister who launched India's economic reforms in 1991, and the Prime Minister who presided over 8.5% GDP growth for most of a decade`<sup>[10]</sup>.

In the first term of UPA government, it passed several social reform bills like employment guarantee bill, the Right to Information Act and a right to education act. The NAC, as well as the Left Front that supported the government from the outside, were widely seen as being the driving force behind such legislation. In the Lok Sabha elections, Congress won 207 seats, the highest tally of any party since 1991. The UPA as a whole won

262, enabling it to form the government for the second time. In 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the party had lost much of its popular support, because of several years of poor economic conditions in the country, and a series of corruption allegations involving government officials. Congress won only 44 seats, which was its worst-ever performance in a national election. UPA ruled India for two terms from 2004 to 2009 & 2009 to 2014 with Dr. Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister. The General elections of 2004 mark a *moment of closure*<sup>[11]</sup>. However, in the 16th general election in May 2014, BJP secured majority on its own and National Democratic Alliance again came into power.

**Withdrawals & Controversies of UPA** -The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) was the first party to quit the alliance, first when its ministers quit the Andhra Pradesh government, and finally when an official withdrawal was done at the national level by its president K. Chandrashekar Rao. Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), began its drift when it tied up with the UPA's rival AIADMK during the Tamil Nadu elections, and on 16 March 2007 officially withdrew support from the government. On 21 June 2008, the BSP, with 18 seats, announced withdrawal of its support after the Congress starting opposing the UP government where the BSP was the ruling party.

On 8 July 2008, Left Front withdraws support over the decision by the government to go ahead with the Indo-US nuclear deal. On 4 January 2009, PDP withdraw support from the UPA that the Congress had decided to support the Omar Abdullah's National Conference Government in Jammu & Kashmir after the 2008 state elections. On 26 March 2009, Pattali Makkal Katchi- PMK declared withdrew from the UPA.

The next issue was very shameful for Indian Democracy, During the discussion for the vote of confidence, BJP MPs produced cash in the parliament, alleging a bribe by the Samajwadi Party to vote for the government. Karunanidhi had said he felt "let down" by the "lukewarm" response of the Centre and had demanded amendments in the resolution on Sri Lanka. The UPA has also been criticized for a number of scams such as the Commonwealth Games Scam of 2010, the 2G spectrum case and the Coalgate scam.

## II. CONCLUSION

So India has a vast experience of Coalition Government. During the first term of UPA government passed several social reform bills like employment guarantee bill, the Right to Information Act and a right to education act. No doubt UPA Government works well in many fields like Education, NREGA and Right to Information etc. under the Prime-minister ship of great visionary and scholar Dr. Manmohan Singh and the supervision of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and other aligned parties. But during the period of this government many allegations have also been labelled on this. These allegations affect its popularity and become the reason of its defeat in 2014 elections. But we cannot ignore the achievements & positive workings of UPA Government as it has very good impact on Indian system & Economy.

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