

COALITION POLITICS IN INDIA: A HISTORICAL STUDY

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Abstract:

An attempt will be made in this study to examine the many dimensions of Indian coalition politics from a historical standpoint. Political parties with agendas that cater to one or a combination of these groups have emerged as a result of the Indian population's lack of homogeneity, which generates division among various groups based on religion, geography, language, caste, and race. The Shiv Sena's pro-Marathi agenda and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's emphasis on the Dravid population are two examples of parties that publicly declare their focus on a certain group. Other parties make claims to be universal, but they usually attract support from specific demographics. For instance, the Rashtriya Janata Dal has a base of support among Bihar's Muslim and Yadav communities, while the All India Trinamool Congress has little support outside of West Bengal. With the second-most MPs in the 15th Lok Sabha, the Bharatiya Janata party is perceived as being anti-Christian, anti-Muslim, and pro-Hindu. The agenda and policies of these parties are influenced by the support of specific segments of the public, which contradicts their assertions of universal representation. Even in the central government and central legislature, the narrow emphasis and vote-bank politics of the majority of parties obscure national issues like national security and economic welfare. Internal security is also at risk because it is common for political parties to incite and direct violence between two opposed groups of people.

Key Words:

Coalition politics, BJP, NDA, Communist Party, government etc.

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Introduction

For the majority of the years since independence, the India National Congress (INC) has been in charge of the federal government. A number of national parties, such as the INC, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI (M)), and other regional parties, have controlled state politics. With the exception of two brief intervals, the INC had a parliamentary majority from 1950 to 1990. Between 1977 and 1980, the INC was out of power as the Janata party won the election as a result of the public's dissatisfaction with the then-prime minister's corruption.

In 1989, India Gandhi's National Front coalition, led by the Janata Dal and allied with the Left Front coalition, won elections but was only in power for two years. Since no political party won a majority in the 1991 elections, the INC established a minority administration led by Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and successfully served out its five-year tenure. Several short-lived alliances held control during the turbulent 1996–1998 period in the federal administration. In 1996, the BJP briefly formed a government, and then the united front coalition—which did not include the BJP or the INC—was formed.

The BJP became the first non-Congress government to serve a full five-year term in 1998 when it joined forces with a number of other parties to establish the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The INC formed a government with the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), a coalition backed by several parties, after winning the most seats in the Lok Sabha in the 2004 Indian elections. It earned a surprisingly large majority in the 2009 Lok Sabha Election, with the INC securing over 200 seats.

Contrary to popular belief, the study contends that coalitions have always been a necessary component of Indian politics. In addition to being a social and ideological coalition, the Congress party was formed on coalition principles in the first year after independence, even during the period of seeming one-party domination. It asserts that coalitions, which represent marginalized groups and strengthen the democratic drive, may be necessary in a sociocultural varied nation like India rather than being viewed as fundamentally unstable structures.

In order to achieve this, the volume looks at how Indian political formations have placed a fresh emphasis on issues of identity, prevailing ideological inclinations, and regional preferences. According to the author, the Indian experience needs to be analyzed in a more theoretically complex model based on the socioeconomic realities of the country today, even as it is being studied from the various theoretical angles.

The 1970s, when the Indian voters experimented with coalitions and one-party government, is when the 1990s and beyond got their start, according to the

volume. It uses both theoretical and empirical lenses to examine the main themes and process related to the phenomena. Furthermore, the study offered explanations for the development and seeming longevity of administrations of ideologically opposed, if not incompatible, partners using examples of current political coalitions in India at the national and regional levels. The formation and performance of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which was formed in 1999, the third front coalition, which was made up of parties that were both against the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), which was led by the Congress after the 2004 Lok Sabha elections.

Scholars and students of political science, history, and sociology, as well as journalists, policy planners, political activists, analysts, and an informed general public, will find this volume interesting due to its clear writing that skilfully blends the conceptual with the factual. Particularly in societies where religion is a significant source of collective identity, the role of religion in modern polities provides a rich field for political sociological study. Religion may and frequently has given rulers and those who oppose them credibility in South Asian societies.

The gathered writers evaluate the 2004 elections as well as the party's first full term in office, overseeing the various factions of the ruling NDA alliance. They evaluate the BJP's performance in light of its declared objectives, with a focus on how it has performed in a number of policy areas, including foreign policy, defence policies, state relations, the "second generation" of economic reforms, efforts to combat corruption, and the treatment of minorities. The shift in Indian politics from national parties to smaller, more locally focused regional parties is reflected in the formation of coalition governments. In contrast to national parties, some regional parties—particularly in South India—are strongly rooted in local beliefs. As a result, there hasn't always been harmony between the federal government and state governments in different states. The allocation of resources between the states is drastically skewed as a result of ideological differences between the political parties in power in the state and the center.

Margaret Alva, a prominent Congress politician, charged in November 2008 that congressional seats for the elections would be available for auction rather than chosen by merit. In response to the accusation, the party dismissed her from her positions as the party's Central Election Committee, Congress Working Committee, and general secretary. For leading the Congress party in Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, and Mizoram, she was also expelled. "Congress president Mrs. Sonia Gandhi has taken the decision on the report submitted by Mr. AK Antony, chairperson of the Disciplinary Action Committee," Congress spokesperson Shakeel Ahmed continued.

Rahul Gandhi's son, the congress chairperson, had previously declared that "Democracy in political parties is non-existent in India." Without strong connections, it is impossible to center. He responded to the current accusations by saying, "I had suggested that some younger guys be included. The way the tickets were distributed does not bother me. The accusation that the BJP had done the same for the concurrently scheduled Rajasthan legislative assembly tickets came next.

Politics is heavily influenced by economic issues, such as poverty, unemployment, and development. The Indian National Congress has long used the slogan "garibi hatao," which means "eradicate poverty." The Bharatiya Janata Party is seen as a party that supports economic growth and business. With a left-wing economic stance, the Communist Party of India opposes foreign investments, globalization, and privatization. With populist subsidies and reservations, the economic programs of the majority of other parties don't go very far. One notable example is the 2009 general elections, where the Samajwadi Party, the third largest party in the 15th Lok Sabha, pledged in its manifesto to use fewer con artists once elected.

Major concerns influencing India's political landscape include caste-related violence, terrorism, religious violence, and naxalism. TADA, POTA, and MCOCA are examples of strict anti-terror laws that have drawn a lot of political attention, both in support of and opposition to them. Election results are not impacted by law-and-order issues, such as efforts to combat organized crime. However, there is a connection between politicians and criminals. Numerous elected lawmakers are facing criminal charges. Nearly one-fourth of the 40 members of the Indian Parliament were charged with crimes "including human trafficking, immigration rackets, embezzlement, rape, and even murder," according to a July 2008 Washington Times article.

Studying the many facets of coalition politics in India from a historical perspective is urgently needed because it has contributed significantly to our understanding of the country's politics and political ideologies. Six prime ministers led India during its first 41 years of independence, but between 1989 and 2006, there were seven prime ministers, none of whom had the support of a majority party. This suggests that multi-party coalitions, a common form of governance with inherent volatility, have become the norm. The tenacity of Indian democracy and the parliamentary system of governance is demonstrated by the fact that such a government could endure for even three years.

In addition to instability, Bimal Jalan's book discusses other dormant risks to democracy. The emergence of coalitions is both a consequence and a catalyst for the growth of political parties. Even minor parties have a great deal of bargaining leverage when an election is divided. Party leaders who succeed in gaining a few

seats in the House then “negotiate” for a Cabinet position. The concept of joint responsibility is the first thing to go when such a coalition cabinet is formed. Every group in the coalition is primarily concerned with safeguarding its own interests. The common duty to keep the House majority in order to survive is reduced as each cabinet minister assumes the role of independent master of his own ministry.

Even this duty is shied at if survival is possible in a different coalition. The parliament’s process and performance are also impacted, and rules are even suspended in order to pass the Finance Bill and Budget without first being reviewed by the Standing Committee. The politicization of the permanent civil services is a significant (related) issue that coincides with the decline of collective responsibility. Civil personnel are completely at the mercy of ministers, who have unrestricted authority over appointments and transfers. Another major problem is corruption, which is present in practically every aspect of society and has recently become notably common in the political sphere.

Methodology:

The analytical method of research was used to perform this study. wherein pertinent books, journals, reports, communications, and literature were used as sources to gather information for the study. The pursuit of knowledge or any methodical, open-minded examination to establish new facts—typically through the use of a scientific method—can be characterized as research. Finding, analysing, and developing techniques and systems to increase human understanding on a wide range of scientific issues pertaining to our world and the cosmos is the main goal of applied research, as opposed to basic research.

The scientific method, which harnesses curiosity, is essential to scientific study. This study offers hypotheses and empirical data to explain the characteristics and nature of the environment we live in. It enables useful uses. The scientific method is the embodiment of historical investigation. In a broader sense, the term “my research” can also refer to an individual’s complete body of knowledge regarding a specific topic.

The historical method includes the procedures and rules that historians follow when conducting research and writing history using historical sources and other data. Under the titles of external critique, internal criticism, and synthesis, historians frequently employ a variety of historical criteria in their work. Both textual and higher criticism fall under this category. Producing new knowledge is the aim of the research process, and it can take three primary forms (though, as was previously mentioned, the distinctions between them may not always be clear): Exploratory research, which organizes and pinpoints novel issues Constructive research, which creates answers to issues.

Conclusion

Several short-lived alliances held control during the turbulent 1996–1998 period in the federal administration. In 1996, the BJP briefly formed a government, and then the united front coalition—which did not include the BJP or the INC—was formed. The BJP became the first non-Congress government to serve a full five-year term in 1998 when it joined forces with a number of other parties to create the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). The INC formed a government with a coalition known as the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) after winning the most seats in the Lok Sabha in the 2004 Indian elections.

It earned a surprisingly large majority in the 2009 Lok Sabha Election, with the INC securing over 200 seats. Contrary to popular belief, the study contends that coalitions have always been a necessary component of Indian politics. In addition to being a social and ideological coalition, the Congress party was formed on coalition principles in the first year after independence, even during the period of seeming one-party domination. It asserts that coalitions, which represent marginalized groups and strengthen the democratic drive, may be necessary in a sociocultural varied nation like India rather than being viewed as fundamentally unstable structures.

In order to achieve this, the volume looks at how Indian political formations have placed a fresh emphasis on issues of identity, prevailing ideological inclinations, and regional preferences. The author contends that in order to fully understand the Indian experience, a more theoretically complex model based on the country's current socioeconomic reality must be developed, even as the phenomena is examined from the various theoretical angles that are already available. Margaret Alva, a prominent Congress politician, charged in November 2008 that congressional seats for the elections will be up for auction rather than chosen on the basis of merit.

In response to the accusation, the party dismissed her from her positions as the party's Central Election Committee, Congress Working Committee, and general secretary. For leading the Congress party in Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, and Mizoram, she was also expelled. "Congress president Mrs. Sonia Gandhi has taken the decision on the report submitted by Mr. AK Antony, chairperson of the Disciplinary Action Committee," Congress spokesperson Shakeel Ahmed continued. Rahul Gandhi's son, the congress chairperson, had previously declared that "Democracy in political parties is non-existent in India." Without strong connections, it is impossible to center. He responded to the current accusations by saying, "I had suggested that some younger guys be included.

The Third Front, a coalition of regional parties and non-Congress and non-BJP parties known as the United Front, formed the government in 1996 after Shri

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was unable to maintain it due to a lack of a majority (i.e., 272+ seats) in the Indian Parliament after only 13 days in office. Mr. H. D. Deve Gowda served as the government's leader from June 1, 1996, to April 21, 1997. He received outside assistance from the Congress Party and other smaller parties, such as the left, to maintain a stable government and avoid emergency elections. However, Congress withdrew its support due to growing dissatisfaction with the UF, and a deal was found to avert elections.

As long as its issues—such as being marginalized and not being consulted before making crucial decisions—were resolved, the Congress party consented to back another United Front administration under the new leader. On April 21, 1997, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral was sworn in as Prime Minister after being elected as the new leader of the United Front. However, when the Third Front administrations failed twice, Congress once more withdrew its support owing to internal issues in the government, and midterm elections were held. This time, it formed the National Democratic Alliance with the help of a unified group of political parties led by the BJP and Shri A.B.

Prime Minister Vajpayee took the oath of office. In parliament, the NDA demonstrated its majority. However, the AIADMK stopped supporting the 13-month-old government towards the end of 1998. By a single vote, the government lost the subsequent vote of confidence motion. Vajpayee remained the “care-taker prime minister” when the nation went back to elections since the opposition could not muster the necessary numbers to form a new government.

The era of coalition politics has just begun and is here to stay, according to both political parties and experts. Union Agriculture Minister and Nationalist Congress Party President Mr. Sharad Pawar states, “There is no escape from coalition politics at a time when regional political parties are assuming significance and the days of single party rule are over.”

As a historical study about the coalition politics in India, we find out that the system has both negative and positive effect on the working style of the government and it will be control to government working as autocratic way but many time this system not cooperate to government to work effectively and disturbed to the working procedure of the government to do the work effectively. As a historical study we can say one party government system faster decision making on various issues and independently which make government working style effectively.

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