

Coalition Politics in Karnataka

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Abstract

In the context of contemporary political realities, coalition government it seems has come to stay as an essential features of Indian polity. Coalition politics centres round political parties as it involves games played by the latter to gain the maximum pay off. It became relevant when no single party is able to reach power by itself. In such circumstances one party join another one or more parties to fight the elections and to form government.

Coalition or party alliance may be pre-election or post-election phenomenon. Some parties may cluster together pool their resources and work jointly to maximize their gain by defeating the rivals in the elections processes. If there is a single alliance fighting against individual rival parties. The possibility of alliance winning more seats than the rivals in stronger. If two equal strong alliances are pitted against each other the effect will be that of strong two party system. Either of them getting a majority to form the government. If more than two alliance contest. The result will be either in favour of one of them or none at all. With no alliance being able to win a majority in the last situation a government is possible only by means of a further coalition of two or more alliances.

Keywords: Parliament, Coalition, Vidhanasabha, Vidhana Parishad, Election, Democracy, Election Commission, Federal system etc.

Introduction

Let we begin four different propositions in the particular article one proposition is the fact that the "Mantra of coalition politics" viewed or analysed from the perspective of social categories in other words political coalition of social categories has become the hall mark of Indian politics. Secondly "coalition politics" cannot be identified with the arrival of independence or treated as post-colonial phenomenon alone rather it has to be located in anti-colonial struggle and also in the resistance to hegemonic character of the nationalist movement visa-versa different social categories. The third proposition is the fact that Indian politics has given rise to multiple social locations which can be constructed as "national" and that these social coalition are translation into larger "coalition politics" and finally Indian politics in general Karnataka in particular is now aiming at forming "coalition politics of new type ". Particularly making or taking social movements bas primary forces or actors. It's in this context our article argues that the

"mantra" of coalition politics now aims at providing and locating political spaces for different social categories. Fourthly it also argues that there are no single social coalition at present in India and that they cannot make absolute claim over the region of politics or the social categories that it represents. More than that in not static in nature it is changing according to the nature of democratic politics. Finally the experiment that is underway in Karnataka is a phenomenon reflecting antipathy to the existing coalition politics,

Coalition today is the buzz word in politics it is here to stay despite several explanations for coalition formation defining "coalition" it is difficult task . Cambridge advanced dictionary defines it as the union of different political parties or groups for a particular purpose. Which is more intriguing is the addition of a time frame. "Usually for a limited time" the phrase used in the dictionary. It also add to say that "coalitions" have its own peculiar set of problems and uses the term "coalition" to define an organized opposition "by forming a coalition rebels and the opposite parties defeated the government". Thus the above meaning of coalition in the dictionary is not a mere cockade nor a cockeyed explanation

without a purpose. In fact they in nutshell explain the matrix of coalition.

In a country like India, where parliamentary system of government is adopted. Coalition is seen and understood as the maturity of Indian political system. The voters nationalise the emerging new class/caste leadership on one side and the failure of political parties in their functioning and internal democracy the crisis of leadership to hold a party or a system together on the other side. It is in other words a shift in "power" from the traditional sovereign upper caste base to the pluralistic neo-formations of downtrodden masses. It is also seen as emerging due to the various socio-political and cultural upsurges that are witnessed in a developing society where social mobility ,media effectiveness, attempts at electoral reforms . Issues of fairness, maximising party advantages and increase in bureaucratic hold and such other factors are influencing the voters , citizens and the people alike. However these instances may be. It is certain that conditions are here to say until and unless the political polarization is complete in India.

Coalition, What It Means :

Etymologically coalition means, a combinations of bodies or parts in to one body. It also means to grow together. It means a cooperative arrangements of sharing power. It seems to be the fundamental of the political processes .in most cultures and most periods of history coalition behaviour has been closely linked to the question "who gets what, when and how?". In order to achieve their goals. People very often find themselves in situations which encourage or require them to form, maintain or dissolve a coalition. Whether one seeks to understand the patterns of government in multiparty system or the attainment of power by the leader of a major faction of political party. It is likely that attention paid to coalition formation will yield truthful insights. Almost two hundred years ago James Madison based on his argument in favour of mankind the new nation as large as possible upon the larger number of different bases for forming coalitions which an extensive territory would provide. More recently, when civil rights leaders have tried to formulate common strategies, they have controlled the many problems of coalition politics.

Since representation here forms the basis of such coalitions.

Basic Issues Of Coalition:

In understanding coalition it is important that one carves out some basic framework after carefully analysing the working of coalitions across several countries . They must then be sorted out because, in some cases 'political coalition' may only be a kind of political situations which was prevailed for a temporary period. Coalition of political parties in legislatures are only one type : there are many other coalition types which are not to be identified exclusively with coalition government is second the kind of activities involving in training coalition and the kind of behaviour a coalition this activity and behaviour will vary with teacher of a particular concrete case such as the institution setting the history culture mad learning activities of individual involving and the use in tore and so on in the third instance which of course in related to the second observe action is that the nature of the benefits rewards satisfaction values or payoff which political party individual received in coalition also will have an effect on the behaviour of a party or the individual hence it should not be assumed that it will be the same in all situation what he rewards a loss or profit means concrete will surely vary from one case to another and more so it is a comparative study fourthly the nation of coalition which has been used as neither static nor convention coalition are seen as event in a gauge would not lead one to expect to find them may also have to be taken in to account before arriving at general form work to facilitate easy understanding of the contents of the subject matter it I. In primarily use full to define a coalition somewhat indirectly by first specifically what is called a coalition situation actors whose preferences in the issue in question are not identical more precisely it in not the case that one out came would produce maximum satisfaction for all the actors in the situation find that there is incentives for the cooperation in the sense that by cooperation at least two acts can each activists on outcome preferable to that which would result in each were to act alone given thus a definition of coalition situation it seems easier to define a coalition in terms it cooperation between actors in a coalition situation who have communicated and agreed to coordinate the actions

and by coalition behavior mean simply action which is involve in coalition formation or coalition maintenance or action which implements a strategy which has been agreed upon by the member of a coalition.

Ground Rules Required To Be Followed To Make Coalitions Government

Since the coalition have to be accepted as a reality in India there is a need to have a re look into its continuation and plug the loop holes where ever possible to make it more effective to prevent the instability in government size of the ministry in a coalition system needs to be cut down An effective methodology is required to make defections unattractive amendments need to be done in Indian constitution to plug the loopholes in the electoral system which are misused by the party in power. Party reforms and electoral reforms require to be initiated to make coalition more effective.

At present there is a need to provide ground rules for its operation so that stability is maintained. Our parliamentary system has to work effectively with the multiparty system and also the coalition government. Therefore the parties which join together to form the government must have common minimum programme and all the members of the party should agree to abide by a major problem should be settled through consensus and agreement.

Since the coalition system implies the modification of the parliamentary system. The political parties should also develop the capability of separating National issues from state issues. The coalition politics at each level has to involve all parties and all kinds of politics. In this connection the issue that has to be settled is whether there should be pre electoral alliance there may be understanding regarding the sharing of seats but the post electoral alliance is only a marriage of convenience and may break off soon.

Coalition Governments in Karnataka:

Following coalition existed in Karnataka which are follows: 1980 to 1990

At the end of 1983 state assembly election Ramakrishna Hegde the leader of the Janatha party, become the first non- Congress chief minister of Karnataka . The Janatha party had emerged as a

single largest party with 95 seats. To reach the majority the party was backed by BJP, (18 seats)the CPI, the CPICM,(3 seats each) and other independent candidates. The government in 1983 headed by Ramakrishna Hegde of Janatha party was formed also with the support of Kranthi Ranga which was headed by S.Bangarappa. Therefore started coalition politics in 1983. The government however was considered as a majority government than a coalition government. Ramakrishna Hegde was the chief minister between 1983 and 1988, but the term was not continuous. His first and second term lasted only one year each whole the third one gave him two years as chief minister in 1984. The Janatha party was defeated his government putting an end to a short coalition. He was succeeded by S.R Bommai who managed one year term.

H.D Devegowda of JD(s) was the chief minister of the government in 1996 but after he was made the chief minister J.H Patel completed the term and it was the first time that a non-Congress chief minister completed full term. In 1990, S.M Krishna took over as the chief minister and he dissolved the house and went for election. Four months before the completion of his tenure. But the government could not sustain itself. After that for nearly two decades, Karnataka did not have any coalition government. The people of the Karnataka , however could not differentiate between the Janata party and Kranthi Ranga as both parties fought the elections under the same symbol a farmer holding a plough.

2000 to 2020: The first coalition was formed only in 2004 by Congress and Janatha Dal(S) with N.Dharam Singh as the chief minister after the collapse of the Congress JD(S) alliance Kumaraswamy formed after keeping the party legislators in a resort to prevent them from switching to the Congress which started the resort politics. B.S Yadoyurappa was the deputy chief minister and the coalition started working on the basis of power sharing plans. This was first time that BJP had been a part of any government in the state in the south. The JD(s) and BJP made a power sharing agreement in which leaders from both parties would serve as chief minister. H.D Kumaraswamy had promised BJP that the two parties would share the CM'S post for 20 months each. However after completing his agreed 20 months period as the C.M.kumaraswamy refused

to hand over the chief ministership to BJP 'S B.S.Yadiyurappa when Kumaraswamy refuse to give up the chief minister's post the BJP decided to withdraw support before the term was complete. As a result the government collapsed leading to presidents rule followed by elections later.B.S.Yadiyurappa returned to power with majority and formed the government with the support of independents.

In May 2018 assembly elections threw up an inconclusive verdict. The BJP emerged as the single largest party with 104 seats but was short of the simple majority by nine seats in the 224 member assembly. When the Congress lost majority. It formed the coalition government with JD(s) offering the chief minister's post to JD(s) . The Congress with 78 seals and JD(s) with 37 seats, decided to form an alliance to keep the BJP out of the power at the same time the congress had its national corruption and the JD(s) was out of power for 10 years HD Kumaraswamy not only become chief minister but his party men secured many politics.

The coalition politics in Karnataka is represented by the three major political parties the Indian National congress, Janatha Dal(s) and Bharathiya Janatha Party. The Janatha Dal(s) and Indian National Congress led coalition government was in power in the state since May 2018. H D Kumaraswamy of JD(s) was the Chief Minister from 23/05/2018 till 23/07/2019. The relationship between partners were under the control until the announcement of the general elections in March .the rift intensified when disagreement surfaced over seat sharing. This disagreement intensified after the defeat of the alliance especially of the H D Devegowda in Tumkur and K. Nikhil in Mandya both belonging to JD (s) the coordination committee headed by Siddaramaiah was in effective in controlling the interference of HD Revanna in the administration of other departments. It failed to evolve consensus on issue grappling the coalition ego clashes between leaders was another factor which made coalition ineffective. There were difference between H.Vishwanath and Mr. Siddaramaiah on constitution of the coordination panel. Expansion of the cabinet and the introduction of two ministers into his ministry. It caused resistant not only among the legislator in the alliance but also among many senior MLA's, The political crisis was

created with MLAs resignation from the alliance. The Supreme Court interim ruling not compelling resigned MLA's to attend the assembly worsened the situation and this forced the chief minister to move the confidence motion which ended 14 month rule. The BJP worked hard to increase the rift and tried to expand its strength. Finally 15 rebel members submitted their resignation 12 from the congress and 3 from the JD(s) and independent which led to the collapse of the coalition government. Internal dissent and attempts destabilize the government took a toll as H.D Kumaraswamy led Congress- Janatha Dal(s) coalition failed the floor test. The confidence motion called by Kumaraswamy in desperate attempt brought to the end 425 days old government which was forth coalition in the state.

Reason for the collapse of coalition government in 2019

The coalition government formed after the general election in 2018 collapse after 14 month in Karnataka when the chief minister HD Kumaraswamy lost the trust vote in Karnataka assembly the political crisis was triggered by the resignation of the members of the ruling congress and Janatha Dal (secular)

Following are the reasons for its Collapse:

1. In May 2018 assembly elections the BJP emerged as the single largest party with 104 seats ,but it was short on simple majority by the g seats in the 224 members assembly
2. Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah failed to support the alliance completely as the alliance was the result of the decision made by the congress high command .therefore he was accused of harming the alliance.
3. JD(s) is primarily a South Karnataka player the primary contest in the 10 district of Karnataka including Chamarajanagar, Hassan and Tumkur was between alliance parties.
4. The congress accommodated the JD(s) to ensure that the BJP would be reduced to the minimum in the Lokasabha elections of 2019. But when the result were announced on May 23, the BJP had won at least 26 of the 28 seats in Lokasabha polls this created

doubt relating to the coalition. Some of the MLA's became rebels.

5. After the good result of Karnataka in the Lokasbha polls. The local leaders mounted attack on the opportunities alliance and decided to take advantages of issue in the coalition partners.
6. B.S Yadiyurappa, a Lingayata strongman wanted to take revenge against Kumaraswamy for his betrayed in not giving CM's chair as an agreement in the earlier coalition. So he reclaimed his right full chairs of being the CM of Karnataka.
7. During the JD(s) congress coalition, Bangalore was neglected as the JD(s) has a rural base. Therefore the people of Bangalore elected the BJP in the by-elections.
8. H.D. Devegowda family which controls JDs has six of us family members in active politics.
9. Dominance of National parties.
10. Inability of regional parties to grow in strength.

Impact Of Coalition On Karnataka Politics

Coalition system has had a great impact on Karnataka politics. In multifarious ways.

There are as follows,

- 1) **INSTABILITY**: In Indian states the number of politics parties which are regional have increased in number. Since the condition of formed with many parties. The fate of such conditions government hang in the balance depending on the withdrawal of support by one or other. Thus the condition government fail to provide stable and good governance.
- 2) **WEAK AND INEFFECTIVE**: Since the coalition are heterogeneous they are in effect weak and unstable. To secure consensus within in parties is a different task. Many coalition have come together only for power. Each coalition has come together only for power and so each coalition partner lends to suspect the other. If the government is efficient each consistent partner lends to suspect to other. If the government is efficient each constituent partner is worried. That the other will get credit. On the other hand if it is in ineffective each

partner will blame other. Therefore the coalition government creates weak and ineffective govt.

- 3) **SUBORDINATION OF PARTY IDEOLOGY TO POWER**: In coalition system there in the subordination of ideology to power since there in the absolute necessity that the identity, agenda and ideology of parties need to be merged with the other partner of the location. There is the need to dilute its ideology or keep some conditions issues in the back burner for the sake of maintaining the condition.
- 4) **LEADERSHIP OF THE CHIEF MINOSTER UNDERMINED**: In the coalition system chief minster cannot take a strong decision. He has to deal with heterogeneous group of power seekers who make no secrets of their real intention. Such a Chief Minister cannot even choose his own cabinet. He has to consider the demand of all the constitution parties their leaders and select his team. Pressure on Chief Minister to allot portfolios to certain individuals. Lot of diplomacy is required to carry on such a system. The Chief Minister frequently depends on the contest of the constitution parties to carry on the business of the government which make his position weak and pitiable.
- 5) **POWER SHIFTS FROM CABINET TO THE CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**: In coalition system power shifts from the cabinet to an extra constitutional authority like the co-ordination or steering committee. Despite all such developments, a coalition government does not last long. A coalition in a weak and unstable government. Moreover there is bound to be secret enmity between one another which may lead to antagonism of the worst kind. Due to such differences the chief minister might have to give important positions to insignificant members.

Conclusion:

Despite the negative impact of the coalition government provide the only feasible and reliable alternative and provide a safeguard against the collapse of the democratic set up. It makes democracy more participative as every small faction get represented and heard. Consensus, understanding and tolerance become the watch words in coalition

system especially in the legislative business. As pointed out by N.C Sahni "one of the major effects of coalition politics has been that it has promoted compromise in politics and checked regionalism. It also relieved the government of the restraints and responsibilities which are imposed on the ruling party by the opposition benches under the bi-party system.

In Karnataka coalition system of government had not been successful as it of recent origin. In comparative politics literature we tend to distinguish between ideological coalitions and also of convenience which tend not to have coherent policy agendas and are divided from walk in. Moreover in Karnataka, the coalitions are post-poll alliances just to retain power or to keep the other party away from the power. It attempts to have been made to run the government with different models of coalition but they have not been effective in completing the full term of 5 years.

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