

Introduction

The term 'coalition' is derived from the Latin word 'coalitio' which means 'to grow together'. Thus, technically, coalition means the act of uniting parts into one body or whole. Politically, coalition means an alliance of distinct political parties

Coalition usually occurs in modern parliaments when no single political party can muster a majority of votes. Two or more parties, who have enough elected members between them to form a majority, may then be able to agree on a common programme that does not require too many drastic compromises with their individual policies and can proceed to form a Government.

Features of Coalition Government

The following are the characteristics of a Coalition Government:

- ❑ A coalition is formed with the purpose of gaining monetary or psychological gain.
- ❑ A coalition system's core idea is based on the simple fact of temporary convergence of specific interests.
- ❑ Because coalition players and groups can split and form new ones, coalition politics is not static but a dynamic business.
- ❑ Compromise is the hallmark of coalition politics, and hard dogma has no place in it.
- ❑ A coalition operates on the basis of a minimal program, which may or may not be perfect for each coalition partner.
- ❑ Coalition politics is defined by pragmatism rather than ideology. Principles may have to be laid aside in order to make political concessions.
- ❑ The goal of a coalition adjustment is to gain control of the situation.
- ❑ There are two notions at the heart of coalition governance. One is what is known as 'common governance,' which is based on a shared decision-making process. Another option is 'joint governance,' which is based on power distribution.
- ❑ The coalition's operations are not governed by any legal staff.
- ❑ Coalition politics is defined by pragmatism rather than ideology.
- ❑ Because electorates learn about the common manifesto, the pre-poll partnership is seen as fairer and more advantageous.

Coalitions have formed in India before and after elections. The pre-election coalition is useful because it gives a common platform for all parties to lure voters using a shared manifesto. Constituents are supposed to be able to share political power and manage the Government through a post-election union.

Merits of Coalition Government

- ❑ The Government's operations take into account a variety of interests.
- ❑ A coalition Government serves as a conduit for meeting the expectations and resolving the grievances of various groups, allowing for the accommodation of diverse interests in the operation of the Government.
- ❑ India is a very diverse nation. There are several ethnic groups, castes, languages, cultures, and faiths. This indicates that the coalition Government is more representative in nature and more accurately captures the general electorate's viewpoint.
- ❑ It consists of various political parties, each of which has its own ideology or goals. However, all coalition members must agree to follow Government policies. A coalition Government thus produces consensus-based politics.
- ❑ The federal structure of the Indian political system is strengthened by coalition politics. This is so that a coalition Government may respond better to local requests.
- ❑ The likelihood of dictatorial governance is

decreased under a coalition Government. This is because a single political party no longer controls how the Government runs. The coalition's whole membership takes part in making decisions.

Demerits of Coalition Government

- ❑ They are prone to erratic behaviour. The coalition's demise is caused by disagreements among its constituents.
- ❑ The parliamentary form of government is based on the idea that the Prime Minister should lead. Since the coalition partners must be consulted before the Prime Minister makes any significant decisions, this principle is limited under a coalition Government.
- ❑ By acting as the "Super-Cabinet," the steering committee or coordination committee of the

coalition partners undercuts the cabinet's status and role in the operation of the political system.

- ❑ The coalition Government's smaller constituents could end up acting as the "king-maker." They ask for more from the Parliament than simply strength.
 - ❑ When making national decisions, the leaders of regional parties include local information. They threaten to leave the coalition if the coalition's central executive does not follow their demands.
 - ❑ The Coalition Governments' members do not take responsibility for administrative mistakes and omissions. They could assign blame in order to get out of their individual and group obligations.
-