

Draft Concept Paper

for forming a Consortium of Political Parties

(Subject to discussion and amendments as per inputs from all stakeholders)

(Appendix 2 & 3)

Preamble

As on December 28, 2011 there are 1,367 registered political parties across the length and breadth of the country. Out of these, only 6 are Recognized National Parties and 53 are Recognized State Parties. The details can be provided on request or can be viewed at the website of Election Commission of India.

At the national level, out of the 65 years of independence Congress has been in power for almost 53 years while the remainder of 12 years it has been BJP (1999 to 2004) and Janata Party. (1977 to 1979) and other coalition governments. If any Party which is most responsible for the current dismal state of affairs of the country, it is the Congress Party only as it has been in power for most of the time since independence and the political system which nobody tried to correct.

Due to bad governance provided by Congress Party, State/Regional Parties got attention of the people and they came to power in the States but could not expand from the frontiers of their State. RSS-Jan Sangh-BJP on agenda of Hindutva and Nationalism worked hard to be the alternative for Congress at the national level and it succeeded in 1999. However, its sheen was lost in mere 5 years and Congress came back to power in 2004 and is in power as of now. BJP also fell in the footsteps of Congress and corruption and mismanagement surfaced in its cadres as well. Moreover for vested interest of staying in power, BJP compromised on issues for which it stood for.

No other Party whether National or State could create a pan India base and did not even had the ideology of pan India appeal. With the result mismanagement of the country is continuing unchallenged.

State Parties that came to power in States also failed to provide good governance and engaged in rampant corruption with the result sufferings of the people never got addressed to the extent they should have been.

Categorization of Parties

The remainder political parties could be categorized as under;

1. Many are defunct.
2. Some have been formed with vested interest with no serious national or state agenda.
3. Some are formed by the breakaway factions of the major political parties.

4. Some are too small with limited vision, working only in small areas.
5. However, there are few Parties that have been formed with national agenda in mind but are primarily operating in one or two States. The founders of these Parties are well meaning nationalistic people who are working to change the political culture of the nation.
6. Some are formed by the breakaway factions of the major political parties but working with the intention of Point No. 5

Why the need for Consortium

- A new political force is the need of the country. Neo political nationalistic leaders must emerge and take charge in running the affairs of the country. We must work to “Reshape the Nation” for the betterment of our people and pride.
- Under the present circumstances, no single Party can create a pan India appeal due to huge diversity of language, culture, conditions, circumstances, lack of resources etc.
- Most of the Parties at serial no.5 above are not big enough to provide an alternative even at the State level in the eyes of general public. Therefore, even though people agree with their ideologies but do not vote for them. A stronger unified platform will help all.
- General psychology of the public at large is to vote for the Party/Person who can defeat the force they want to oust irrespective of the credentials of the incumbent. People are likely to stand with the stronger force in the form of Consortium.
- Gestation period for ideological based Parties is too long. Consortium will synergize to reduce this gestation period without compromising on ideologies.
- Consortium will provide strength to the New Party at the national level while New Party and Consortium Parties will give strength to Parties at the State level.
- Consortium Parties knowledge pool and experience shall expedite the process of realizing the vision.
- Consortium is likely to get the attention of print and electronic Media.

Objective of Forming Consortium

To create an alternative to the Congress and BJP at the national and state level and alternative for other State Parties who are not providing good governance at the state level.

Consortium will set its agenda at the national level while State agenda shall be set by the Party in the consortium from that State.

Consortium must not be confused with Alliance between Parties e.g. UPA or NDA for sharing seats or power while maintaining their independent identity.

Which Parties will be part of Consortium

Only category 5 Parties shall be the part of the Consortium.

Mode of Operation

- Category 5 Parties shall be identified from across the country, preferably one Party from each State. Bigger states may have representation of more than one Party.
- Discussions will be held with the leaders of these Parties as to their principled consent to be part of the Consortium and will have to sign the concept paper for their consent before invited to the Round Table meeting.
- A Round Table Conference of the Consortium Parties shall be called in Delhi as per a predetermined agenda to give final shape and approval of the Consortium.
- Consortium Parties shall agree to form a New Party to contest the Parliamentary elections under its banner. No Party of the Consortium shall contest Parliamentary elections under its own banner though the candidates may be nominated by the Consortium Party from the State in which it operates. All candidates for MP election shall be screened by the Committee formed for the purpose. (Kept in abeyance)
- New Party of the Consortium shall not contest State elections. Party in the consortium from the State shall contest State elections and new Party and all other member Parties of the Consortium shall support that Party in the State.
- Management of the New Party shall be from the Consortium Parties either by consensus or by election.

Why no Party of the Consortium shall contest MP elections under its banner

1. If Parties of Consortium contest MP elections under its banner, then it is an alliance not a Consortium.
2. Consortium wants to project a unified image and no pulls and pushes in its functioning after winning the seats.
3. A unified party contesting elections under its own symbol can only be the alternative to Congress/BJP at national level.

4. Voters will also not take seriously a loose alliance and it may not last as well.

Benefits to Consortium Party contesting State Assembly elections

1. New Party or other Consortium member Parties will not contest elections in the State under their own banner. All will support the related Party.
2. No interference in other elections in the State.
3. Consortium Party can set its State manifesto.