

# POLITICAL PARTIES, PRESSURE GROUP &

## PUBLIC OPINION.

### UNIT: 01

Origin - Development - Definition of Political Parties & Functions of Political & its importance.

### UNIT: 02

Types of Party System - Single Party - Biparty - Multiparty System - Merits & Demerits.

### UNIT: 03

National Parties: BJP, INC, Communist Party of India - State Parties - DMK, ADMK - Telugu Desam - Samajwadi Party

### UNIT: 04

Pressure Groups - meaning, Definition. Nature & Types - Functions of " - Role & Technique of Pressure Group - Lobby System.

### UNIT: 05

Public opinion - meaning & its importance - Agencies of Public opinion - visual media & Public opinion - Print media, Social media & Public opinion - Social Influence & Public opinion.

Let's break down the syllabus for your paper on Political Parties, Pressure Groups, and Public Opinion into brief sections:

## UNIT – I: Political Parties

- **Origin & Development:** Political parties emerged as formal organizations to represent collective political opinions and interests, with roots in parliamentary systems of the 17th century.
- **Definition:** A political party is a group organized to acquire and exercise political power, typically by contesting elections.
- **Importance:** They provide stability, articulate public opinion, and serve as intermediaries between the state and citizens.
- **Functions:** Representation, policy formulation, political recruitment, governance, and opposition.

## UNIT – II: Types of Party Systems

- **Single Party System:** One party dominates politics, like in China.
  - **Merits:** Political stability, unified governance.
  - **Demerits:** Lack of opposition, authoritarianism.
- **Bi-party System:** Two major parties alternate in power, like in the USA.
  - **Merits:** Clear choice for voters, stability.
  - **Demerits:** Limited representation of diverse views.
- **Multi-party System:** Multiple parties exist, often leading to coalitions, like in India.
  - **Merits:** Represents diverse groups.
  - **Demerits:** Political instability, frequent coalitions.

## UNIT – III: National and State Parties

- National Parties:
  - Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): Right-wing, nationalistic.
  - Indian National Congress (INC): Centre-left, secular.
  - Communist Party of India (Marxist): Marxist-Leninist ideology.
  - Communist Party of India (CPI): Left-wing, communism.
- State Parties:
  - DMK, AIADMK (Tamil Nadu), Telugu Desam (Andhra Pradesh), Samajwadi Party (Uttar Pradesh).

## UNIT – IV: Pressure Groups

- Definition: Organized groups that seek to influence government policies without contesting elections.
- Functions: Influence legislation, advocate for interests.
- Types: Business groups, labor unions, professional associations.
- Techniques: Lobbying, public campaigns, legal actions.

## UNIT – V: Public Opinion

- Definition: Collective opinion of the public on political or social issues.
- Agencies: Media (visual, print, social), opinion polls, civil society.
- Role of Media: Shapes, reflects, and amplifies public opinion.

## UNIT I: Political Parties – Overview

Political parties are crucial to modern democracies as they serve as the bridge between the electorate and the government. They organize public opinion, contest elections, and help in the formation and functioning of governments. Their origin and development trace back to parliamentary systems in Europe, evolving with the rise of representative democracy.

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### Detailed Explanation

#### Origin and Development of Political Parties

- Political parties emerged from factions in parliamentary assemblies. By the 19th century, the concept of organized groups representing different ideologies and interests began to shape modern political systems. For example, the emergence of the Whigs and Tories in Britain laid the foundation for today's party systems.
- In India, the formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885 marked the beginning of organized political parties, which later expanded to include regional and ideological parties.

#### Definition and Importance

- A political party is defined as an organized group of people with shared ideas and goals who seek to gain power through elections and influence government policies.
- Importance:
  1. Representation: Parties represent the interests of different sections of society.
  2. Policy Formulation: They develop policies that reflect their ideological standpoints.
  3. Political Socialization: They educate and engage the electorate in political processes.
  4. Governance and Opposition: Parties in power govern, while opposition parties hold them accountable.

## Definition of Political Parties – Summary

A political party is an organized group of individuals with common ideologies and goals, seeking to influence government policies by contesting elections and gaining political power. Political parties act as intermediaries between the electorate and the government, representing diverse interests within society.

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## Detailed Explanation

1. What is a Political Party? A political party is a formal association of people who share similar political beliefs and come together with the aim of influencing public policy and governance by acquiring positions of power through elections. Parties provide a structured platform for political participation, policy formulation, and leadership recruitment.

Key Elements of a Political Party:

- **Ideological Unity:** Members generally share a common ideology or set of principles.
  - **Organizational Structure:** Political parties have an organized structure with leadership roles, membership, and specific strategies for mobilizing voters.
  - **Electoral Participation:** The primary goal is to contest elections to gain control of governmental institutions.
  - **Policy Advocacy:** Parties develop manifestos that outline their vision and policies on issues like economy, foreign policy, education, etc.
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2. Importance of Political Parties Political parties are essential for functioning democracies as they:

- Channel public opinion into political action.
- Provide leadership by nominating candidates for public office.
- Represent social and economic groups within a society.
- Ensure accountability by offering alternatives to the ruling party in opposition.



## Significance of Political Parties – Summary

Political parties are crucial for the functioning of a democratic system as they provide structure, representation, and governance. They serve as the link between the electorate and the government, ensuring that diverse voices are heard, policies are formulated, and leadership is organized. Their significance lies in organizing political debate, ensuring stability, and promoting political participation.

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### Detailed Explanation

1. Representation of Diverse Interests Political parties represent the varied social, economic, and regional interests of a nation. They provide a platform for different groups (religious, ethnic, class-based) to voice their concerns through political processes.

- Example: In India, parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) represent Dalit interests, while the Shiromani Akali Dal represents the Sikh community.

2. Policy Formulation and Implementation Political parties are instrumental in the formulation of public policies. They develop electoral manifestos that outline their vision on issues like the economy, foreign policy, and social justice. When elected, they implement these policies through governance.

- Example: The BJP's policies on economic reforms (such as demonetization) reflect its stance on tackling black money, which was a key part of its manifesto.

3. Political Stability and Continuity In democracies, political parties provide stability by offering a structured mechanism for government formation. The presence of opposition parties ensures that ruling parties are held accountable, contributing to a balanced political environment.

- Example: The two-party system in the USA ensures political stability through regular alternation of power between the Republicans and Democrats, while preventing the risk of authoritarian rule.

4. Political Socialization and Education Political parties educate the public about political issues and their implications. They play a role in political socialization by engaging citizens, especially during election campaigns, rallies, and public debates. This helps create an informed electorate that can make decisions based on knowledge.

- Example: During the 2014 Indian General Elections, both BJP and INC launched massive campaigns to educate voters on their economic and social agendas, thus raising awareness among the public.

5. Recruitment of Political Leaders Political parties are responsible for recruiting and grooming leaders who can run for public office and assume positions of governance. This helps in sustaining political leadership and continuity.

- Example: In India, parties like the Congress have historically produced leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, while the BJP has groomed leaders like Narendra Modi.

6. Conflict Management Political parties help manage and resolve conflicts within society by providing institutional frameworks for airing grievances and negotiating compromises. This reduces the likelihood of violence or instability.

- Example: In India, regional parties like TDP and DMK have successfully negotiated for state-level interests through democratic means rather than resorting to violent protests.

## Significance of Political Parties – Table Summary

Function	Explanation	Example
Representation	Represent diverse social, regional, and economic groups	BSP representing Dalits, Akali Dal representing Sikhs
Policy Formulation	Develop policies and manifestos for governance	BJP's economic reforms such as GST, Congress' focus on welfare
Political Stability	Provide stability by ensuring smooth transitions between governments	Alternating governments in the USA between Republicans & Democrats
Political Socialization	Educate the public and engage them in the political process	Election campaigns in India educating voters on national issues
Recruitment of Leaders	Identify and promote leaders for public office	Narendra Modi's rise through BJP, Nehru's leadership in Congress
Conflict Resolution	Manage societal conflicts through dialogue and negotiation	DMK's peaceful negotiation of Tamil Nadu's regional issues

7. Ensuring Accountability and Transparency Opposition parties play a key role in scrutinizing government policies and actions. This ensures transparency and accountability in governance, preventing the abuse of power.

- Example: The role of Indian National Congress in critiquing the BJP government's handling of the economy, especially during demonetization and the implementation of GST, reflects this accountability.



# Origin and Development of Political Parties – Summary

Political parties originated as informal factions in early parliamentary systems and evolved into structured entities that play a vital role in modern democracies. Their development can be traced back to the rise of representative government in Europe and has been shaped by historical events like revolutions, wars, and the spread of democracy.

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## Detailed Explanation

### 1. Early Factions and the Emergence of Political Parties

- **Ancient Period:** The idea of factions existed in classical Greece and Rome. However, these were not formal political parties but groups formed around shared interests.
- **16th to 17th Century Europe:** The true origins of political parties can be found in early European parliamentary systems, especially in England during the 17th century. The two major factions of the time were:
  - **Whigs:** Advocated for parliamentary supremacy.
  - **Tories:** Supported royal authority and the Anglican Church.
- **Glorious Revolution (1688):** Solidified the role of political factions in governance, with Whigs and Tories laying the foundation for organized political parties.

## 2. The Birth of Modern Political Parties

- 18th and 19th Century:
  - The French Revolution (1789) gave rise to political ideologies like liberalism and conservatism, which became the basis for modern political parties.
  - In the USA, Federalists (supporting a strong central government) and Democratic-Republicans (favoring states' rights) emerged in the late 18th century.

Event	Impact on Party Formation
American Revolution (1776)	Federalists and Anti-Federalists marked party divisions.
French Revolution (1789)	Inspired ideological parties based on liberalism.
Industrial Revolution (1800s)	Led to the rise of labor movements and socialist parties.

## 3. Spread of Political Parties in Europe and Beyond

- 19th Century Europe: The spread of suffrage (right to vote) expanded the role of political parties, as they became vehicles for organizing mass political movements.
  - Liberal and Conservative Parties developed in Britain.
  - In France, parties formed around republicans, socialists, and monarchists.

## 4. Rise of Mass-Based Parties

- The early 20th century saw the rise of mass-based parties, particularly socialist and communist parties advocating for the working class.
  - The Russian Revolution (1917) saw the rise of the Communist Party as a dominant force.
  - Post-World War II, many socialist and communist parties emerged across Europe.

## 5. Political Parties in Post-Colonial Nations

- As countries gained independence post-World War II, political parties played a significant role in shaping new democracies:
  - In India, the Indian National Congress (INC), founded in 1885, became the key driver of the independence movement and later the ruling party after independence.
  - In African nations like Kenya and Ghana, political parties like Kenya African National Union (KANU) and Convention People's Party (CPP) were formed to lead anti-colonial movements.

## 6. Political Parties in the Contemporary Era

- In the contemporary world, political parties have adapted to the rise of globalization, populism, and digital media.
  - Populist movements like those seen in the rise of Donald Trump in the USA and right-wing parties in Europe have reshaped party politics.
  - In India, the rise of BJP and regional parties like AAP reflects changing voter preferences and the increasing influence of grassroots movements.

## Functions of Political Parties – Summary

Political parties serve a variety of essential functions in a democracy, including contesting elections, formulating policies, representing diverse interests, organizing the government, and ensuring accountability. These functions are key to ensuring political stability, governance, and participation in a democratic setup.

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### Detailed Explanation

1. **Contesting Elections** Political parties play a central role in the electoral process. They nominate candidates, organize campaigns, and compete for public office. This function ensures a structured and organized way for citizens to express their preferences.

- Example: During the Indian general elections, political parties like BJP, Congress, and regional parties field candidates across constituencies, providing voters with a choice of leadership.

2. **Policy Formulation** Parties develop policies and manifestos that outline their stance on critical issues such as the economy, healthcare, education, and defense. These manifestos help voters understand each party's agenda and allow them to make informed decisions during elections.

- Example: The 2014 BJP manifesto focused on economic reforms, development, and nationalism, while the Congress manifesto emphasized welfare programs and inclusive growth.

3. **Representation of Interests** Political parties act as intermediaries between various social, economic, and regional groups and the government. They advocate for the needs and concerns of these groups in the political system.

- Example: The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) represents Tamil interests, while the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) advocates for the Dalit community in India.

4. Formation and Operation of Government The winning political party or coalition forms the government and is responsible for running the administration and implementing its policies. The party in power executes its agenda while managing governance through ministers and representatives.

- Example: After winning the 2019 Indian General Elections, the BJP formed the central government, with Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister.

5. Role of the Opposition Political parties that do not win the majority in elections play a vital role as the opposition. They hold the ruling government accountable by scrutinizing its policies, challenging decisions, and advocating for alternative solutions.

- Example: After the 2019 elections, the Indian National Congress became the main opposition party, critiquing the BJP's handling of economic issues like unemployment and inflation.

6. Political Socialization and Education Political parties educate the public about political ideologies, policies, and issues. They engage citizens through rallies, debates, and campaigns, fostering political awareness and participation.

- Example: The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) social media campaigns helped educate voters on key national issues like development and security.

7. Recruitment of Leaders Parties are instrumental in recruiting and grooming political leaders who can contest elections and take up positions in the government. This ensures continuity in leadership and governance.

- Example: Parties like the Indian National Congress (INC) have historically nurtured leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, while the BJP has groomed leaders like Narendra Modi and Amit Shah.

8. Aggregation of Interests Political parties aggregate the demands of various interest groups and citizens into comprehensive policy platforms. They balance conflicting demands and aim to create a unified national agenda.

- Example: Regional parties like TDP and Shiv Sena work with national parties to integrate regional demands into broader national policies.

9. Conflict Management Political parties play a role in managing social conflicts by providing institutional means to express dissent and resolve differences. They act as mediators between various groups and the government, reducing the potential for social unrest.

- Example: In India, regional parties like TMC negotiate the interests of states like West Bengal, ensuring peaceful resolutions to issues related to federalism and autonomy.

### Functions of Political Parties – Table Summary

Function	Description	Example
Contesting Elections	Nominate candidates, organize campaigns, and compete in elections.	BJP, Congress fielding candidates in national elections.
Policy Formulation	Develop policies and manifestos for governance.	BJP's manifesto focusing on economic reforms and nationalism.
Representation of Interests	Represent diverse social, regional, and economic interests.	BSP representing Dalit interests, DMK representing Tamil Nadu.
Formation of Government	Winning party forms the government and implements its agenda.	BJP forming the government after 2019 elections.
Opposition	Hold the ruling party accountable and offer alternative policies.	Congress as the main opposition in India.
Political Education	Educate the public on political issues and mobilize voters.	BJP's digital campaigns to engage voters on national issues.
Recruitment of Leaders	Identify and groom political leaders for public office.	Narendra Modi's rise through BJP's leadership ranks.
Conflict Management	Resolve societal conflicts through peaceful democratic processes.	TMC negotiating West Bengal's federal issues peacefully.



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Conflict Management	Resolve societal conflicts through peaceful democratic processes.	TMC negotiating West Bengal's federal issues peacefully.

10. Ensuring Accountability and Good Governance Political parties, through competition and opposition, ensure that the government remains accountable to the public. The presence of opposition parties helps prevent authoritarianism and ensures transparency.

- Example: In parliamentary debates, opposition parties like Congress raise questions on policy failures or allegations of corruption, ensuring that the government is held accountable.

## Characteristics of Political Parties – Summary

Political parties have distinct characteristics that define their structure and function in a democracy. They are organized groups with shared ideologies, focused on contesting elections, shaping public policy, and representing various societal interests. Their activities are marked by a clear political agenda, organizational structure, and public engagement.

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### Detailed Explanation

1. Organized Group Political parties are well-structured organizations with defined leadership roles and hierarchy. They function through various committees and branches that ensure smooth communication and implementation of their goals.

- Example: In India, major political parties like the BJP and Congress have national, state, and district-level committees to manage operations across the country.

2. Shared Ideology or Political Beliefs Members of a political party usually share a common ideology or set of beliefs that guide their actions and policies. This ideology influences their stance on issues like economy, social justice, or foreign policy.

- Example: The Indian National Congress follows a centrist, secular ideology, while the BJP promotes a right-wing, nationalist agenda.

3. Focus on Elections The primary aim of political parties is to contest elections and win political power. Parties nominate candidates for various levels of government, from local to national elections, and organize electoral campaigns to gain support from the public.

- Example: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) contested elections in Delhi and emerged victorious, forming the state government after its success in the 2015 assembly elections.

4. Policy Formulation and Decision-Making Political parties are responsible for developing policies that reflect their ideology and agenda. These policies are presented to the public in their manifestos and are implemented when they come into power.

- Example: The 2019 BJP manifesto emphasized national security, economic reforms, and infrastructure development as key policy priorities.

5. Representation of Societal Interests Political parties represent the diverse interests of different segments of society, such as economic classes, ethnic groups, and regional communities. By providing a platform for these interests, parties ensure that a wide array of voices is heard in the political process.

- Example: The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) represents the interests of Dalits, while Shiv Sena advocates for the interests of Maharashtra's Marathi-speaking population.

6. Role in Governance Political parties not only contest elections but also form and run governments when they win a majority. The party in power is responsible for governance, policy implementation, and administration.

- Example: After winning the 2014 general elections, the BJP formed the central government, with Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister, implementing policies aligned with their vision.

7. Role of Opposition When not in power, political parties function as the opposition, holding the ruling government accountable. They critique the policies of the government and offer alternatives to voters.

- Example: The Indian National Congress, as the principal opposition party, raised concerns about issues like unemployment and economic slowdown during BJP's tenure.

8. Bridge between Government and Citizens Political parties act as a bridge between the government and the citizens, facilitating communication between the people and the state. Through campaigns, rallies, and public engagements, they mobilize voters and keep them informed about political developments.

- Example: During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP and Congress extensively used social media platforms to reach out to young voters and explain their policies.

## Characteristics of Political Parties – Table Summary

Characteristic	Description	Example
Organized Structure	Well-structured with leadership roles and committees.	National and state committees of the BJP and Congress.
Shared Ideology	Members share a common ideology or set of political beliefs.	BJP (right-wing nationalism), INC (centrist secularism).
Focus on Elections	The primary goal is to contest elections and gain political power.	AAP contesting and winning Delhi elections in 2015.
Policy Formulation	Develop and implement policies aligned with their ideology.	BJP's policies on economic reforms and infrastructure.
Representation of Interests	Represent diverse social, economic, or regional interests.	BSP representing Dalits, Shiv Sena representing Maharashtra.
Role in Governance	Form governments and implement policies after winning elections.	BJP forming the central government after 2014 elections.
Role of Opposition	Hold the government accountable and provide alternatives.	Congress criticizing BJP's handling of economic issues.
Bridge between People & Govt	Mobilize and educate citizens on political issues.	Political parties' use of social media during the 2019 elections.

9. Voluntary Membership Political parties are voluntary organizations. Individuals join parties based on their alignment with the party's ideology and goals. Membership in political parties is open to all citizens willing to support the party's agenda.

- Example: The Indian National Congress and BJP offer membership opportunities for ordinary citizens who wish to participate in political activities and leadership.



## Origin of PP.

### ① Ancient civilizations (1500 BCE - 500 BCE)

- Ancient Greece - oligarchs & democrats
- Ancient Rome - optimates & popularis
- Ancient China - Confucianism & Taoism

### ② Medieval period (500 BCE - 1500 CE)

- Guilds & trade associations
- Noble fam. & aristocratic factions

### ③ Early Modern period 16th & 17th century (1500 - 1800 CE)

- \* Modern nation-states, representative assemblies
- \* Intr. grps - Whigs & Tories in England

### ④ 18th & 19th Century:

- \* Modern Pol. Party emerged.

eg:

1792 - Democratic-Republican party (US)

1830s - Liberal party (UK)

late 19th - Socialist & labor party cent in Europe

### ⑤ 20th Century (1900 - 2000 CE) Contemporary Era

\* Expansion - Suffrage & democratisation  
growth of P.P.

\* New parties emerged with diff ideologies

Europe - Nationalist & fascist parties

USSR - Communist party.

### ⑥ Contemporary Era (2000 CE - Present)

Globalization, Technology,  
Mass media, Electrical bonds.

1500 - 500 BCE

500 - 1500 CE

1500 - 1800 CE

1800 - 1900 CE

1900 - 2000 CE

2000 CE - Present

### Definition of Pol. Party:

grp of ppl of some interest

1. Indispensable instruments in a democratic system
2. Formed with definite ideology
3. Programme of action
4. Prescribe alternation
4. Propaganda & education
5. Competition b/w parties

→ A pol. party is a organised group of ppl who share similar ideas, principles & objectives

→ They aim to capture pol. power & implement their policies

### Characteristics

- 1) Ideology
- 2) Programme of Action
- 3) Organisation
  - Leaders
  - Active memb
  - followers
- 4) Funding
  - donations
  - members fees

challenges - Lack of democracy, corruption, nepotism, ...