



CHAPTER - 4

POLITICAL PARTIES

How many Parties should we have? → More than 750 P.P are registered with EC of India

* Most visible institutions in a democracy?

→ Evolution of Political parties over the period of hundred years

"A Political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government"

* A Political party has three components

→ The leaders

→ The Active members

→ The followers



Partisanship

* Feeling of commitment towards Party, group or factions.

Functions of Political Parties

* Political parties contest elections.

* Parties put forward different policies and Programmes.

* Different opinion → Parti opinion → Government takes decision on line of Ruling Party.

* Party play a decisive role in making laws for a country

* Parties form and run government

* Parties play the role of opposition

* Parties shape public opinion.

* Access to government machinery and welfare schemes

→ Ordinary citizen - can easily reach leaders - Gateway to reach Programmes.

Political Parties

Ideologies

↓
Persuade People

↓
Vote

↓
Elections



Necessity of Political Parties

- * Perform functions which are mentioned above.
- * Helps in representing different views on various issues to the government.
- * Forms responsible government.
- * work as a mechanism to support or restrain the government, make Policies

Types of Political Party system

- One party system → One party is allowed to control and run the government eg. China's communist party
 - Two-Party system → Chances of winning is between two main Parties. eg. US and UK
 - Multi-Party system → More than two parties compete for power
 - Coalition government is observed.
 - NDA, UPA and Left Front [India]
- * No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.
 - * Party system for a country evolves over a period of time depending on the nature of society, its social and religious division, its political history.

National Parties

- * Parties work broadly on National lines and have their units in various states.
- * Required to register with the election commission
- * It offers some special facilities to large and established parties
- * Given a unique symbol and called recognised Political parties.
- * According to these Proportions of votes and seats there were seven national parties in the country in 2017



Criteria for recognised Party

- * 6% of seats in Lok Sabha elections OR
- * 6% of votes in Assembly in four states. OR
- * Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha elections.

[Bhartiya Janata Party]

- Founded in 1980, earlier it was Bharatiya Jan Sangh formed by Shyama Prasad in 1951.
- India's ancient culture and value, Integral Humanism and Antyodaya.
- Cultural nationalism → Indian nationhood
- Presently in Power.

[INDIAN National Congress]

- * One of the oldest Party [1885]
- * Played a dominant role in Indian Politics for decades after Independence.
- * it Aspire to build modern secular democratic republic in India.
- * Centrist party, supports new economic reform with human face.
- * Ruling Party at the Center till 1977 - 1980-89.
- * Leader of UPA (2004-14) then Principal opposition Party.

[All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)]

- * Launched on 1 Jan 1998
- * Headed by Mamta Banerjee
- * Recognised as N.P. in 2016.
- * Committed to Secularism and Federalism.
- * In power since 2011 in West Bengal.
- * 4th largest party in 2014



[Nationalist Congress Party]

- * Formed in 1999 - Split in congress
- * Promotes democracy, Gandhian Secularism, equity, social justice and federalism.
- * Wants that high offices in government be confined to natural born citizens of country
- * A major party in Maharashtra.
- * member of UPA since 2004.

[Communist Party of India [CPI]]

- Formed in 1925 → Got split in 1964 and became CPI(M)
- It believes in Marxism - Leninism, secularism democracy.
- Opposed forces of secessionism and communalism.
- Significant presence in the states of Kerala, west Bengal, Punjab.
- Strong pillar in left front.

[Communist Party of India - Marxist]

- Founded in 1964.
- its ideology same as CPI, supported by poor factory worker, farmers agricultural labourers and intelligentsia.
- Critical of New Economic policies that allow free flow of foreign capital and goods.
- Was in power in west bengal without a break for 34 years.
- Enjoys strong support in W.B., Kerala and Tripura.

[Bahujan Samaj Party]

- Formed in 1984 → Under the leadership of Kanshi Ram.
- Seek to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj [Dalits, adivasis, OBC's and religious minorities]
- Works on the ideological base of:
 - Sahu Maharaj • Periyar Ramaswami
 - Mahatma phule • Ambedkar



- Having a strong hold in Uttar Pradesh, formed government for several times by taking of different parties.
- Presence in M.P., Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Punjab.

State Parties

- Other than national parties many are classified as "State Parties"
- Also known as 'Regional Parties'
- Making Indian Parliament diverse.
- Vote proportion and seats to be recognised as a state party.
- 6% votes in state legislative Assembly and wins at least 2 seats.
- National Parties are compelled to form alliances with state parties.
- Strengthening of federalism and democracy.
- Eg. Samajwadi party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Shiv Sena, Telugu Desam Party.

Challenges to Parties

- Lack of Internal democracy
- Challenge of dynastic succession. i.e. family domination on top position.
- Muscle and Muscle power used by Political parties.
- Corporate + Politics = Matter of concern
- Lack of Meaningful choice i.e. no significant difference among the Political parties in term plans and policies.

How can Parties be reformed

- * Reform v/s willingness to reform
- Efforts and suggestion to reform P.P.
- Constitutional amendment → to stop MLAs and MPs from Defection.



- Candidates are required to file an Affidavit → To reduce money and Muscle power.
- Election commission - Mandatory for political parties to hold their organisational election and file their Income tax returns
- Law to regulate internal affairs should be made.
- Minimum number of ticket should be given to women.
- There should state funding of elections.
- Role and Active involvement of those who wants the reform.