



Topics

to be covered



- 1 Need for Political Parties
- 2 Functions of Political Parties
- 3 National and State Parties
- 4 Challenges and Reforms





Political Parties and Their Need



- A **Political Party** is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government.
- They agree on some policies and programmes for society with a view to promoting the collective good.
- Parties reflect fundamental political divisions in society. Thus, a party is known by which part it stands for, which policies it supports and whose interests it upholds. A political party has three components:
 - The leaders ✓
 - The active members ✓
 - The followers ✓



Necessity of Political Parties



- We need political parties because they perform all the functions which are mentioned above. _____ ✓
- Apart from this, political parties help represent different views on various issues to the government. _____
- They bring various representatives together so that a responsible government can be formed. ✓
- They work as a mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies, and justify or oppose them. ✓✓
- Political parties fulfil the needs that every representative government has. ✓



Functions of Political Parties

- Parties contest elections. ✓
- Parties put forward different policies and programmes, and the voters choose from them. ✓
- Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a country. ✓
- Parties form and run governments. ✓
- Those parties that lose in the elections play the role of opposition to the parties in power by voicing different views and criticizing the government for its failures or wrong policies. ✓
- Parties shape public opinion. ✓
- Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes implemented by governments. ✓



How Many Parties Should We Have?



- In a democracy, any group of citizens is free to form a political party.
- More than 750 parties are registered with the Election Commission of India.
- But not all these parties are serious contenders in the elections.



How Many Parties Should We Have?



- In some countries, only one party is allowed to control and run the government. These are called **one-party systems**. This system is not considered as a good option for democracy.
- In some countries, power usually changes between the two main parties. Such a party system is called a **two-party system**. E.g., The United States of America and the United Kingdom.
- If several parties compete for power, and more than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power either on their own strength or in alliance with others, it is called a **multiparty system**. E.g., India.



How Many Parties Should We Have?



- ❑ When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power, it is called an **alliance or a front**.



National and State Party



- Every party in the country has to register with the Election Commission. It offers some special facilities for large and established parties.
- The Election Commission has laid down detailed criteria for the proportion of votes and seats that a party must get in order to be a recognised party.



National and State Party



- A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a State and wins at least 2 seats is recognised as a **State Party**.

- A party that secures at least 6% of the total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in 4 States and wins at least 4 seats in the Lok Sabha is recognised as a **National Party**.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
 The logo of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) features the lowercase letters 'aap' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, the full name 'AAM AADMI PARTY' is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. A yellow checkmark is drawn over the 'a' in 'Aam' and the 'A' in 'AADMI'.	Aam Aadmi Party	Formed on 26 November 2012, following the 2011 anti-corruption movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The party was founded on the idea of accountability, clean administration, transparency and good governance.In the year after its formation, AAP emerged as the second largest party in the Delhi Legislative Assembly election.It formed a government with the support of Indian National Congress (INC).

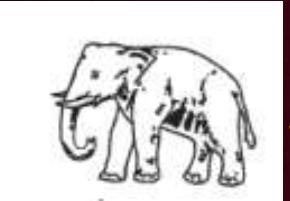


Recognised National Parties

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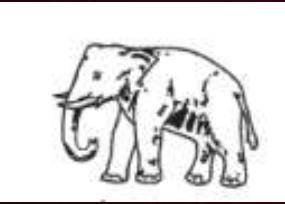


Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Bahujan Samaj Party Leader: Formed under leadership of Kanshi Ram.	1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Seeks to represent and secure power for the bahujan samaj which includes the dalits, adivasis, OBCs and religious minorities.•Draws inspiration from the ideas and teachings of Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar Ramaswami Naicker and Babasaheb Ambedkar.•Stands for the cause of securing the interests and welfare of the Dalits and <u>oppressed people</u>.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Bahujan Samaj Party Leader: Formed under leadership of Kanshi Ram.	1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It has its main base in the state of <u>Uttar Pradesh</u> and presence in neighbouring states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Delhi and Punjab.• Formed government in UP many times by taking support of different parties.• 2019 Lok Sabha Election secured - 3.63 per cent votes and secured 10 seats <u>in the Lok Sabha</u>.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Bhartiya Janta Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded in 1980, by reviving Bhartiya Jana Sangh formed by Syama Prasad Mukherjee in 1951.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wants to build a strong and <u>modern</u> India by taking <u>inspiration</u> from India's ancient culture and values and Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideas of integral humanism and Antyodaya.• Cultural nationalism (or 'Hindutva') is an <u>important</u> element in its conception of Indian nationhood and politics.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Bhartiya Janta Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded in 1980, by reviving Bhartiya Jana Sangh formed by Syama Prasad Mukherjee in 1951.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wants full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India• Uniform civil code for all• Ban on religious conversions• Earlier limited to north and west and to urban areas, the party expanded its support in the south, east, northeast and to rural areas.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Bhartiya Janta Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded in 1980, by reviving Bhartiya Jana Sangh formed by Syama Prasad Mukherjee in 1951.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Came to power in 1998 as the leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) including several regional parties.• Emerged as the largest party with 303 members in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.• Currently leads the ruling NDA government at the Centre.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Communist Party of India-Marxist	1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Believes in Marxism-Leninism. Supports socialism, secularism and democracy and opposes imperialism and communalism.• Accepts democratic elections as a useful and helpful means for securing the objective of socio-economic justice in India.



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	Communist Party of India-Marxist	1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Enjoys strong support in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura.•Critical of new economic policies•The party was in power in West Bengal without a break for 34 years.•In 2019 Lok Sabha Elections-won 1.75% votes and 3 seats



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	<u>INC</u>	<u>1885</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Popularly known as the Congress Party. One of the oldest parties of the world.• Played a dominant role in Indian politics at the national and state level for several decades after India's Independence.• Under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, the party sought to build a modern secular democratic republic in India.

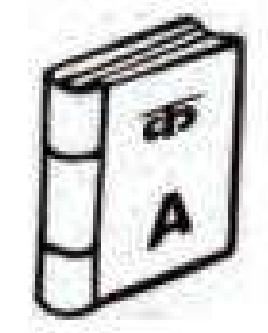


Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruling party at the centre till 1977 and then from 1980 to 1989.• After 1989, its support declined, but it continues to be present throughout the country. A centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist) .• Promotes secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities. The INC supports new economic reforms but with a human face.• Leader of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) .2019 Lok Sabha -52 seats ,19.5%votes	



Recognised National Parties

Party Symbol	Party Name	Formed In	Details
	National People's Party	Formed in July 2013 under the leadership of P.A Sangma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPP is the first political party from North East India to become a national party.• It believes in diversity of the country and recognizes that different regions have different developmental challenges.• The core philosophy of the party is education and employment to all as well as empowerment of all sections of the society.• It formed government in Meghalaya and has presence in many of North Eastern States. In the Lok Sabha election held in 2019, NPP secured one seat in the Lok Sabha.



State Parties

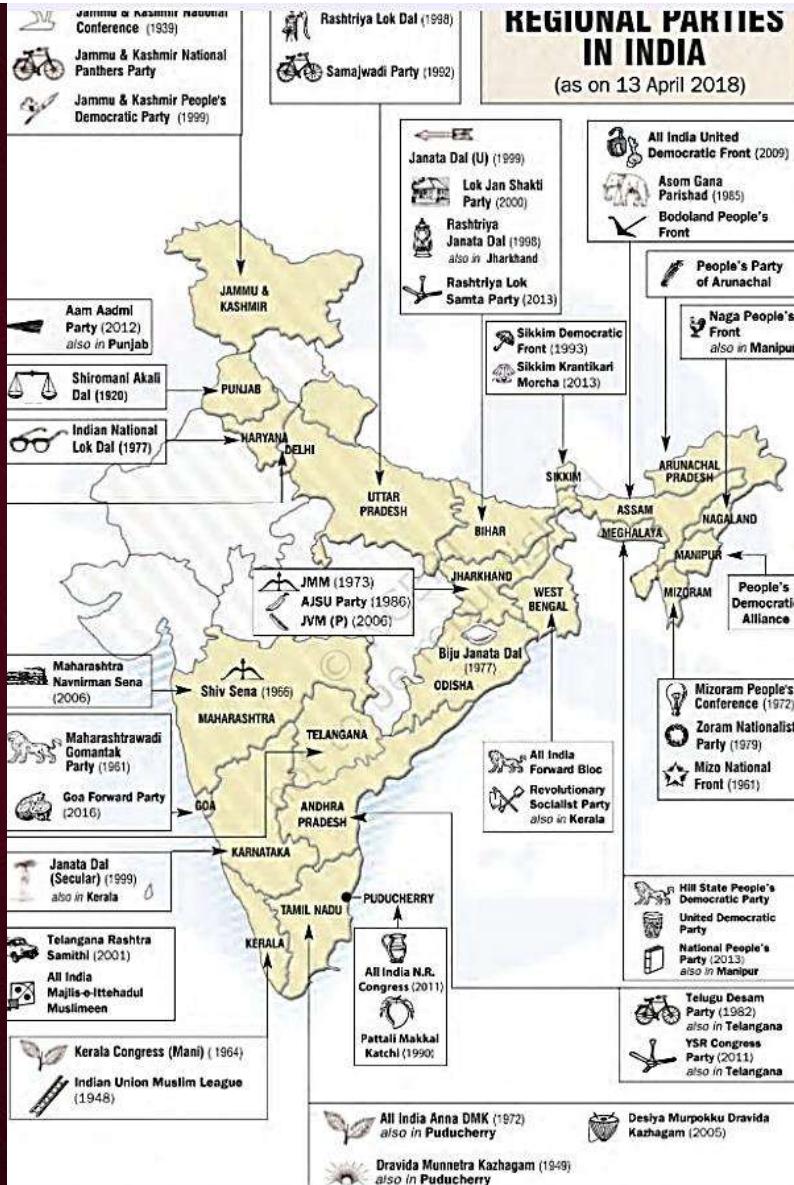


- ❑ The Election Commission has classified some of the major parties of the country as 'state parties'. These are also referred to as regional parties. Some of these parties are:
 - ❑ Biju Janata Dal
 - ❑ Sikkim Democratic Front
 - ❑ Mizo National Front
 - ❑ Telangana Rashtra Samithi



REGIONAL PARTIES IN INDIA

(as on 13 April 2018)





Challenges



1. Lack of internal democracy within parties. Parties do not keep membership registers, do not hold organisational meetings, and do not conduct internal elections regularly.
2. Most political parties do not practice open and transparent procedures for their functioning, so there are very few ways for an ordinary worker to rise to the top of a party. In many parties, the top positions are always controlled by members of one family.



Challenges

3. The third challenge is about the growing role of money and muscle power in parties, especially during elections. Since parties are focused only on winning elections, they tend to use shortcuts to win elections. In some cases, parties support criminals who can win elections. 

 4. People do not find parties to be a meaningful choice for their votes. Sometimes people cannot even elect very different leaders either because the same set of leaders keeps shifting from one party to another.



How Can Parties Be Reformed ?



- The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties.
- The Supreme Court passed an order to reduce the influence of money and criminals. Now, it is mandatory for every candidate who contests elections to file an AFFIDAVIT giving details of his property and criminal cases pending against him.
- The Election Commission passed an order making it necessary for political parties to hold their organisational elections and file their income tax returns.



Suggestions ?

- A law should be made to regulate the internal affairs of political parties.
- It should be made mandatory for political parties to give a minimum number of tickets, about one-third, to women candidates. Similarly, there should be a quota for women in the decision-making bodies of the party.
- There should be state funding of elections. The government should give parties money to support their election expenses.



Other Ways

- There are two other ways in which political parties can be reformed.
- People can put pressure on political parties. This can be done through petitions, publicity and agitations.
- Political parties can improve if people who want change can join political parties. It is difficult to reform politics if ordinary citizens do not take part in it and simply criticise it from the outside.