

## Class 10 Civics – Chapter 4: Political Parties

### ◆ Why Do We Need Political Parties?

- **Political party:** A group of people who come together to **contest elections** and **hold power** in the government.
- Parties reflect different **ideologies and social interests**, and are necessary for the working of a representative democracy.

Without political parties:

- No one can make policies or promises.
- Elected representatives would be **independent**, unaccountable for national policies.
- **Stable government** would be difficult to form.



◆ (Fig. 1 – Cartoon about political graffiti on walls)

### ◆ Functions of Political Parties

1. **Contest elections** – Most candidates are nominated by parties.
2. **Put forward policies** – Voters choose among party-based ideologies.
3. **Make laws** – Most laws are made by party-backed legislators.
4. **Form and run governments** – The executive is formed by the ruling party.
5. **Act as opposition** – Criticize government failures, propose alternatives.
6. **Shape public opinion** – Raise issues, lead movements, mobilize support.
7. **Provide access to government** – Common people approach local party leaders more easily than officials.



✦ Add: (Fig. 2 – Photos of party-led protests, welfare activities)

## ◆ Types of Party Systems

Type	Description	Examples
<b>One-party</b>	Only one legal party exists	China
<b>Two-party</b>	Two major parties dominate	USA, UK
<b>Multi-party</b>	Many parties compete; coalitions common	India, Italy, France

India has a **multi-party system** due to its vast **social and regional diversity**.

## ◆ Party Systems in Indian States

System Type	State Examples
Two-party system	Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh
Multiparty system with two main fronts	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
Pure multiparty system	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra

## ◆ National and State Parties

**Criteria to be Recognised:**

- **State Party:** 6% votes in Legislative Assembly + 2 seats
- **National Party:** 6% votes in 4 or more states + 4 Lok Sabha seats

### ◆ National Parties (as of 2019)

Party	Key Features
<b>INC</b>	Founded in 1885, secular, centrist, led UPA
<b>BJP</b>	Formed in 1980, promotes Hindutva, leads NDA
<b>CPI-M</b>	Marxist, strong in Kerala & West Bengal
<b>CPI</b>	Leftist, democratic socialism
<b>BSP</b>	Upliftment of Dalits, OBCs, minorities
<b>AITC</b>	Formed by Mamata Banerjee, in power in West Bengal
<b>NCP</b>	Split from INC, active in Maharashtra

### ◆ State Parties (Regional Parties)

- These parties operate in **specific states** but may influence national politics.
- **Examples:** BJD (Odisha), TRS (Telangana), DMK (Tamil Nadu), RJD (Bihar)
- **Impact:**
  - Strengthen **federalism**
  - Force **coalition governments**
  - Represent **local identities**

## ⚠ Challenges to Political Parties

1. **Lack of internal democracy:**
  - Few party leaders dominate.
  - No regular elections within parties.
2. **Dynastic succession:**
  - Power passes to family members.
  - Reduces opportunities for ordinary workers.
3. **Money and muscle power:**
  - Rich candidates dominate.

- Criminal backgrounds common.
4. **Lack of meaningful choice:**
- Ideological differences shrinking.
  - Leaders switch parties easily.



♥ Add: (Fig. 5 – Cartoons on dynasty and corporate influence)

## ✓ Reforms and Solutions

### ✓ Legal Reforms Taken

- **Anti-defection law:** MPs/MLAs lose seat if they switch parties.
- **Affidavits:** Candidates must declare **criminal and property records**.
- **Party registration rules:** Must file **income tax returns** and conduct **internal elections**.

### ✓ Suggestions for Further Reforms

1. Law to regulate **party functioning** and internal elections.
2. **One-third seats reserved** for women in parties.
3. **State funding** of elections to reduce money influence.

### 🧑 Role of Citizens in Reform

- Public pressure, petitions, and media can force parties to act.
- More **educated, honest people** should join politics to change the system from inside.

📌 *Key Message: “Bad politics can be corrected only with better politics.”*



## CBSE Question Trends

Question Type	Common Topics
1 mark	Define political party, dynastic succession
3 marks	List functions, name challenges
5 marks	Suggest reforms, explain types of party systems
Map/chart	Identify national parties & states where they operate