SOS POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

M. A POLITICAL SCIENCE II SEM

INDIAN POLITICS II SOCIAL & POLITICAL PROCESS

UNIT-V

TOPIC NAME-POLITICAL PARTIES

Introduction to Political Party

A **political party** is an organized group of people who have the same ideology, or who otherwise have the same political positions, and who field candidates for elections, in an attempt to get them elected and thereby implement the party's agenda.While there is some international commonality in the way political parties are recognized and in how they operate, there are often many differences, and some are significant. Most of political parties have an ideological core, but some do not, and many represent ideologies very different from their ideology at the time the party was founded. Many countries, such as Germany and India, have several significant political parties, and some nations have one-party systems, such as China and Cuba. The United States is in practice a two-party system but with many smaller parties also participating and a high degree of autonomy for individual candidates

These people come together to contest elections in order to hold power in the government. It is a way to mobilize voters to support common sets of interests, concerns, and goals. The primary role of the political party is to fix the political agenda and policies. So, each party tries to persuade people by claiming their policies are better than those of other parties.

In a broader perspective, a political party is a means via which the people can speak to the governmentand have a say in the governance of any country. So, every political party must have three key components:

- Leaders

- Active Members

- Followers

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Functions of a Political Party

Every political party has a number of functions to perform. Here we have listed some of them.

- A political party contests elections by putting up candidates.

- In countries like the USA, the candidates are selected by members and supporters

- of a party.

- On the other hand, in countries like India, the candidates are chosen by top party leaders.

- Every party has different policies and programmes. Voters make a choice in accordance with the policies and programmes liked by them.

- In a democratic country, a large group of people that has certain similar opinions group together and form a party. Then then, give a direction to the policies adopted by the government.

- Those parties which lose elections form the opposition. They voice different views and criticise the government for their failures and mobilize opposition to the government.

- Political parties shape public opinion. With the help of the pressure groups, the parties launch movements for solving problems faced by the people.

- Parties even offer access to government machinery and welfare schemes. The local party leader serves as a link between the citizen and the government officer.

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Importance of Political Parties

A democracy cannot exist without the presence of a political party. This is clear from the function performed by the political parties. In case, there are no political parties then:

- Every candidate in the election would be an independent candidate. Any individual candidate does not have the efficiency to promise any major policy

change to the people. In such a scenario, no one will be responsible for how the country is run.

- In the long run, only a representative democracy can survive. Political parties are the agencies that gather different views on various issues and present them to the government.

Party System

There are three types of party systems:

- One-Party System

- Two-Party System

- Multi-Party System

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One-Party System

In a one-party system, there is no competition in this system. Here, the lone party nominates the candidates and the voters have only two choices i.e.

- Not to vote at all or

- write 'yes' or 'no' against the name of the candidates nominated by the party

Such a political system has been prominent in authoritarian regimes and communist countries such as China, North Korea, and Cuba. Before the collapse of communism, this system was also prevalent in USSR.

Two-Party System

In a two-party system, the power shifts between two major, dominant parties. So, for winning the elections, the winner will have to get the maximum number of votes. However, please know that maximum number of votes is not equivalent to a majority of votes.

So, the smaller parties tend to merge with the bigger parties or they drop out of elections. Such a parliamentary system prevails in Canada and Great Britain, in which there are two parties holding the maximum numbers of seats.

Multi-Party System

The third and the most common form of government is the multi-party system. In such a system, there are three or more parties which have the capacity to gain control of the government separately or in a coalition.

In case, no party achieves a clear majority of the legislative seats, then several parties join forces and form a coalition government. Countries like India, follow a multi-party system. Some people are of the view, that a multi-party system often leads to political instability in a country.

India has a multi-party system, where there are a number of national as well as regional parties. A regional party may gain a majority and rule a particular state. If aparty is represented in more than 4 states, it would be labelled a national party.

India adopted a multi party system because:

- There is social and geographical diversity in India.
- India is such a large country which is not easily absorbed by two or three parties.
- The system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation.

Merits: (i) This system allows a variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation. (ii) People can make a choice between several candidates.

Demerits: (i) No one party is likely to gain power alone. Therefore, it leads to difficulty in formation of government. (ii) Leads to political instability and often appears to be very messy.Read more on Sarthaks.com - https://www.sarthaks.com/76526/what-is-a-multi-party-system-explain-merits-and-demerits-of-multi-party-system

ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTS

As with any other democracy, political parties represent different sections among the Indian society and regions, and their core values play a major role in the politics of India. Both the executive branch and the legislative branch of the government are run by the representatives of the political parties who have been elected through the elections. Through the electoral process, the people of India choose which representative and which political party should run the government. Through the elections any party may gain simple majority in the lower house. Coalitions are formed by the political parties, in case no single party gains a simple majority in the lower house. Unless a party or a coalition have a majority in the lower house, a government cannot be formed by that party or the coalition.

India has a multi-party system, where there are a number of national as well as regional parties. A regional party may gain a majority and rule a particular state. If a party is represented in more than 4 states, it would be labelled a national party. Out of the 72 years of India's independence, India has been ruled by the Indian National Congress(INC) for 53 of those years, as of January 2020.

The party enjoyed a parliamentary majority save for two brief periods during the 1970s and late 1980s. This rule was interrupted between 1977 and 1980, when the Janata Party coalition won the election owing to public discontent with the controversial state of emergency declared by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The Janata Dalwon elections in 1989, but its government managed to hold on to power for only two years.
Between 1996 and 1998, there was a period of political flux with the government being formed first by the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) followed by a left-leaning United Front coalition.
 In 1998, the BJP formed the National Democratic Alliance with smaller regional parties, and became the first non-INC and coalition government to complete a full five-year term. The 2004 Indian elections saw the INC winning the largest number of seats to form a government leading the United Progressive Alliance, and supported by left-parties and those opposed to the BJP.
On 22 May 2004, Manmohan Singh[13] was appointed the Prime Minister of India following the victory of the INC & the left front in the 2004 Lok Sabha election. The UPA ruled India without the support of the left front. Previously, Atal Bihari Vajpayee[14] had taken office in October 1999 after a general election in which a BJP-led coalition of 13 parties called the National Democratic Allianceemerged with a majority. In May 2014, Narendra Modi of BJP was elected as Prime Minister of India.

Formation of coalition governments reflects the transition in Indian politics away from the national parties toward smaller, more narrowly based regional parties. Some regional parties, especially in South India, are deeply aligned to the ideologies of the region unlike the national parties and thus the relationship between the central government and the state government in various states has not always been free of rancor. Disparity between the ideologies of the political parties ruling the centre and the state leads to severely skewed allocation of resources between the states.

Election parties

accorded to national and state and district level parties. The status is reviewed periodically by the Election Commission of India. Other political parties that wish to contest local, state or national elections are required to be registered by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Registered parties are upgraded as recognised national or state level parties based upon objective criteria. A recognised party enjoys privileges like a reserved party symbol,[A] free broadcast time on state run television and radio, a

consultation in setting of election dates and giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations.[1]

This listing is according to the 2019 Indian general election and Legislative Assembly elections and any party aspiring to state or national party status must fulfil at least one of the concerned criteria. In addition, national and state parties have to fulfill these conditions for all subsequent Lok Sabha or State elections, or else they lose their status.[1] As per latest publication from Election Commission of India, the total number of parties registered was 2599, with 8 national parties, 53 state parties and 2538 unrecognised parties.[2][3][4][5]

All registered parties contesting elections need to choose a symbol from a list of available symbols offered by the EC. All 28 states of the country along with the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Puducherry have elected governments unless President's rule is imposed under certain conditions.

Dynamics of elevation of political parties to State or National Party

Any Indian citizen who is more than 25 years old and is registered as a voter can contest elections even without forming a party. Similarly, associations can also contest elections without getting registered by the Election Commission. They, however, will not be identified as political parties and hence will not be eligible for availing of benefits under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA).

There are many benefits of registering a party. Firstly, the RPA allows political parties to accept contributions voluntarily offered to it by any person or company other than a government company. Apart from this, candidates of registered parties get preference in allotment of election symbols. Other Candidates are identified as independents and do not get preference in symbol allocation.

Registered political parties, in course of time, can get recognition as `State Party' or National Party' subject to the fulfillment of the conditions prescribed by the Commission in the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, as amended from time to time.

If a party is recognised as a State Party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State in which it is so recognised, and if a party is recognised as a `NationalParty' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India. Recognised `State' and `National' parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination and are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost at the time of revision of rolls and their candidates get one copy of electoral roll free of cost during General Elections. Further they get broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections. Political parties are entitled to nominate "Star Campaigners" during General Elections. A recognized National or State party can have a maximum of 40 "Star campaigners" and a registered un-recognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 'Star Campaigners". The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

A political party shall be treated as a recognised political party in a State, if and only if the political party fulfills any of the following conditions:

➢ At General Elections or Legislative Assembly elections, the party has won 3% of seats in the legislative assembly of the State (subject to a minimum of 3 seats).

- At a Lok Sabha General Elections, the party has won 1 Lok sabha seat for every 25 Lok Sabha seat allotted for the State.
- At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly , the party has polled minimum of 6% of votes in a State and in addition it has won 1 Lok Sabha or 2 Legislative Assembly seats.
- At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party has polled 8% of votes in a State.

For National Status:

- The party wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha (11 seats) from at least 3 different States.
- At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in four States and in addition it wins 4 Lok Sabha seats.
- A party gets recognition as State Party in four or more States.

Both national and state parties have to fulfill these conditions for all subsequent Lokshabha or State elections. Else, they lose their status.

One can see the change in status of National parties and State parties who loses their party position and benefit when they don't fulfill the required qualification of being National or State party for the next election, following chart shown as Figure 1 shows number of political parties registered and participated in General Elections 2004 & 2009 and total number of Political parties as of 14 February, 2014:

Currently, there are 8 National parties in India. But in July 2019, the Election Commission of India had issued notice to CPI, TMC and NCP to withdraw their status of a national party. As of now the decision of ECI is on standby.

A recognized party enjoys privileges like reserved party symbol, free broadcast time on state-run television and radio in the favour of the party.

National Party:
A registered party is recognised as a National Party only if it fulfills any one of the following three conditions:
. If a party wins 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha (as of 2014, 11 seats) from at least 3 different States. or
2. At a General Election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in four States in addition to 4 Lok Sabha seats. or
3. A party is recognised as a State Party in four or more States.
What is Election Model Code of Conduct?
List of all the National Parties in India are given below:

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year
1.	Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP	1980
2.	Indian National Congress	INC	1885
3.	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	CPI-M	1964
4.	Communist Party of India	CPI	1925
5.	Bahujan Samaj Party	BSP	1984
6.	Nationalist Congress Party	NCP	1999
7.	All India Trinamool Congress	TMC	1998
8.	National People's Party	NPP	2013

Source: Election Commission of India

A registered party has to fulfill any of the following conditions to be known as the State political Party:
1. A party should win a minimum 3% of the total number of seats or a minimum of 3 seats in the Legislative Assembly. or
2. A party should win at least 1 seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to that State. or

3. A political party should secure at least 6% of the total valid votes polled during the general election to a Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly and should, in addition, win at least 1 Lok Sabha, and 2 Legislative Assembly seats in that election. or
4. Under the liberalized criteria, one more clause has been added to provide that even if a Party fails to win any seat in a State in a general election to the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly of the State, the party will still be eligible for recognition as State Party if it secures 8% or more of the total valid votes polled in the State. As of Feb. 7, 2020 some parties in the list given below is no more state parties.

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation Year	States/UT
1.	Aam Aadmi Party	AAP	2012	Delhi, Punjab
2.	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	AIADMK	1972	Puducherry, Tamil Nadu
3.	All India Forward Bloc	AIFB	1939	West Bengal
4.	All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	AIMIM	1927	Telangana
5.	All India N.R. Congress	AINRC	2011	Puducherry
6.	All India United Democratic Front	AIUDF	2004	Assam
7.	All Jharkhand Students Union	AJSU	1986	Jharkhand

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation Year	States/UT
8.	Asom Gana Parishad	AGP	1985	Assam
9.	Biju Janata Dal	BJD	1997	Odisha
10.	Bodoland People's Front	BPF	1985	Assam
11.	Desiya Murpokku Dravidar Kazhagam	DMDK	2005	Tamil Nadu
12.	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	DMK	1949	Puducherry, Tamil Nadu
13.	Haryana Janhit Congress (BL)	HJC(BL)	2007	Haryana
14.	Hill State People's Democratic Party	HSPDP	1968	Meghalaya
15.	Indian National Lok Dal	INLD	1999	Haryana
16.	Indian Union Muslim League	IUML	1948	Kerala
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	JKNC	1932	Jammu & Kashmir

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation Year	States/UT
	National Conference			
18.	Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party	JKNPP	1982	Jammu & Kashmir
19.	Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party	JKPDP	1998	Jammu & Kashmir
20.	Janata Dal (Secular)	JD(S)	1999	Karnataka, Kerala
21.	Janata Dal (United)	JD(U)	1999	Bihar
22.	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	JMM	1972	Jharkhand
23.	Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik)	JVM(P)	2006	Jharkhand
24.	Kerala Congress (M)	KC(M)	1979	Kerala
25.	Lok Janshakti Party	LJP	2000	Bihar

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation Year	States/UT
26.	Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	MNS	2006	Maharashtra
27.	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	MGP	1963	Goa
28	Manipur State Congress Party	MSCP	1997	Manipur
29.	Mizo National Front	MNF	1959	Mizoram
30.	Mizoram People's Conference	MPC	1972	Mizoram
31.	Naga People's Front	NPF	2002	Manipur, Nagaland
32.	National People's Party	NPP	2013	Meghalaya
33.	Pattali Makkal Katchi	PMK	1989	Puducherry, Tamil Nadu
34.	People's Party of Arunachal	PPA	1987	Arunachal Pradesh
35.	Rashtriya Janata Dal	RJD	1997	Bihar, Jharkhand
36.	Rashtriya Lok Dal	RLD	1996	Uttar Pradesh

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation Year	States/UT
37.	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	RLSP	2013	Bihar
38.	Revolutionary Socialist Party	RSP	1940	Kerala, West Bengal
39.	Samajwadi Party	SP	1992	Uttar Pradesh
40.	Shiromani Akali Dal	SAD	1920	Punjab
41.	Shiv Sena	SS	1966	Maharashtra
42.	Sikkim Democratic Front	SDF	1993	Sikkim
43.	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	SKM	2013	Sikkim
44.	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	TRS	2001	Telangana
45.	Telugu Desam Party	TDP	1982	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
46.	United Democratic Party	UDP	1972	Meghalaya
47.	YSR Congress Party	YSRCP	2011	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

S.No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation Year	States/UT
48.	Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)	SJP	1990	Uttar Pradesh

Source: Election Commission of India

A political party is a group of people who share similar political views, come together to contest elections and try to hold power in the government. The members of the political parties agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promoting the collective good.

Political parties that wish to contest local, state or national elections are required to be registered with the Election Commission of India (EC). The number/status of national, state and regional parties increases or decreases on the basis of their performance in the elections.