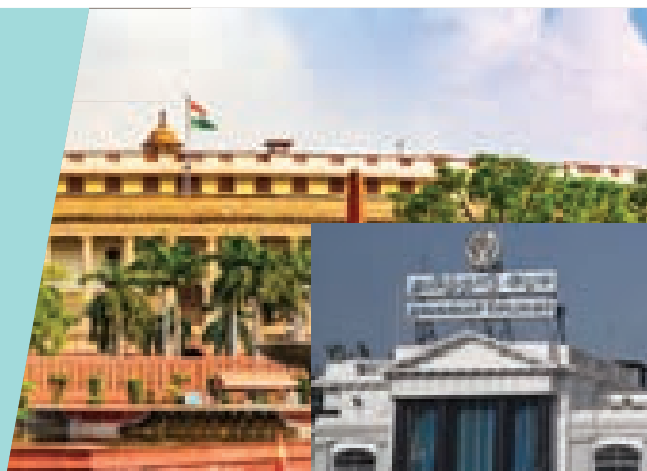


Unit -2

Political Parties



Learning Objectives

- ❖ To define what political party is and to understand the importance of the political party
- ❖ To know the role and function of a political party
- ❖ To understand the party system in India and the role of opposition party



- Student Siva :** Good morning Mam. May I come in?
- Teacher Ms.Aadhi:** Good morning Siva. Always you will be on time. Why are you so late today?
- Siva:** Sorry mam. I was delayed due to a procession.
- Ms. Aadhi:** What is it about? Who arranged this procession?
- Siva :** My uncle said “That is the work of the political party”.
- Ms. Aadhi:** Oh. I see!
- Siva :** What is political party mam? Why are they doing so?
- Ms. Aadhi:** Wait. Today I am going to teach about political parties. Let us know all about that.

In earlier times, emperors and kings ruled India. The king was the supreme head of the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary branches. Governance was in the hands of one person. The welfare of the people depended on the ruler. People had no rights to do against the ruler. Later foreign powers made India as their colonies. The colonies became states after Independence was declared.

In 1950, India became a democratic country. A vibrant democracy needs a strong political party system. Party System is a modern phenomenon. In a democracy, people are able to voice their opinions on any subject.

What are Political Parties?

Political parties are the voluntary associations of individuals with broad ideological identity who agree on some policies, formulate an agenda and programme for the society. Political parties seek to implement their policies by winning people's support through election. Parties vary in size and in the ways they organize themselves as well as in their policies.

Any political party has three basic components

- ❖ the leader
- ❖ the active members
- ❖ the followers

Importance of political parties

Political parties are the backbone of democracy. Parties are not part of the formal arrangement of a government but they are essential elements to form the government. They formulate public opinion. They serve as intermediaries between the citizen and the policy makers.

A party is recognized if

- ❖ it has been engaged in political activity for five years.
- ❖ its candidates secure at least six percent of total votes in the last general election.

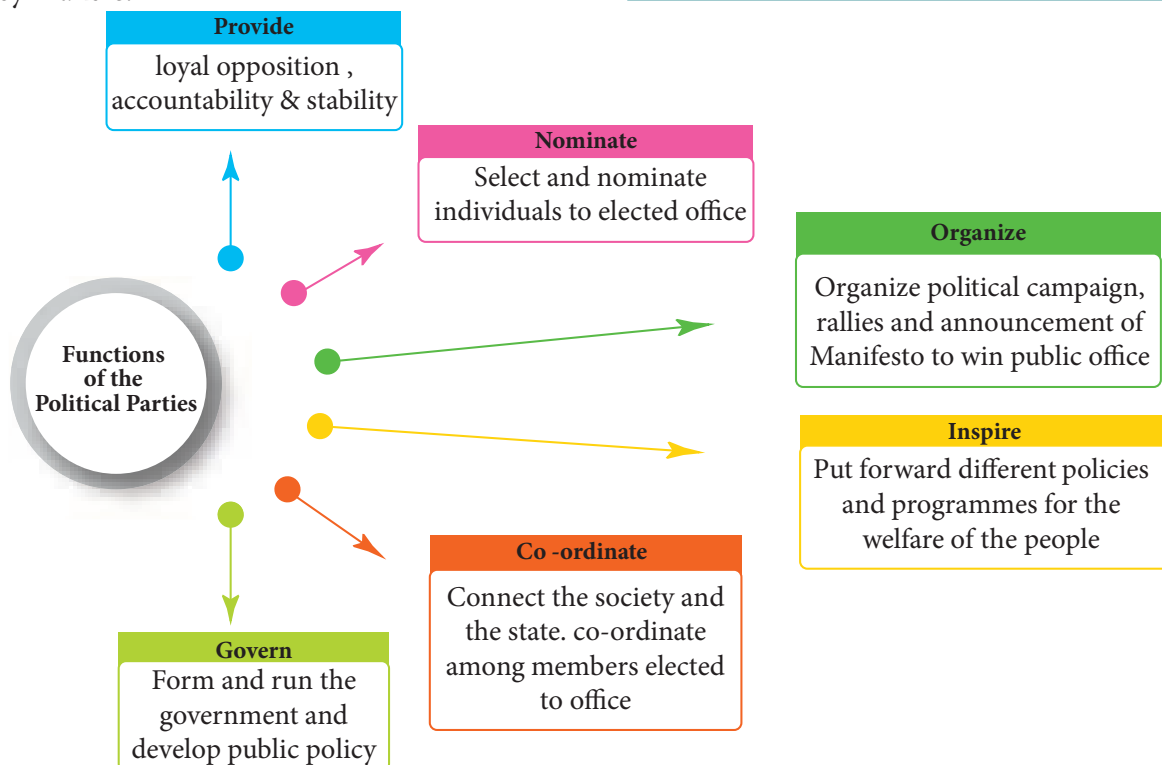
Characteristics of Political Parties

Political parties

- ❖ consist a group of persons of common goals and shared values.
- ❖ have its own ideology and programme.
- ❖ capture power only by constitutional means.
- ❖ endeavour to promote the national interest and national welfare.

Party 'manifesto'

During the campaign before election, the candidates announce the programmes and policies that their party will undertake if voted to power.



Types of Party System

There are three major types of party system.

Single Party System: a system in which a single political party has the right to form the government. Single party is existed in the communist countries such as China, North Korea and Cuba.

Bi – Party System: In Bi –Party system the power is usually shared between two parties. Of the two parties one becomes the ruling party and the other becomes opposition. eg Bi-Party system can be seen in U.K. (the Labour Party and the Conservative Party) and in U.S.A (the Republican Party and the Democratic Party)

Multi – Party System: When the competition for power is among three or more parties, the system is known as multi party system. This type of party system is in existence in India, France, Sweden and Norway etc.

Party system in India

Countries that follow a federal system have two kinds of parties. India's party system originated in the late 19th century. In fact India has the largest number of political parties in the world. In India we find the existence of political parties at three levels. They are National parties, Regional parties, and Registered but unrecognised parties (independent candidates). Every party in the country has to register with Election Commission.

Election Commission – Statutory body

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous, constitutional authority responsible for administering elections. Its head quarter is located in New Delhi.



HOW TO FORM A POLITICAL PARTY?

Must get registered with Election Commission of India



Must have atleast 100 members. Each member needs to hold a voting card.

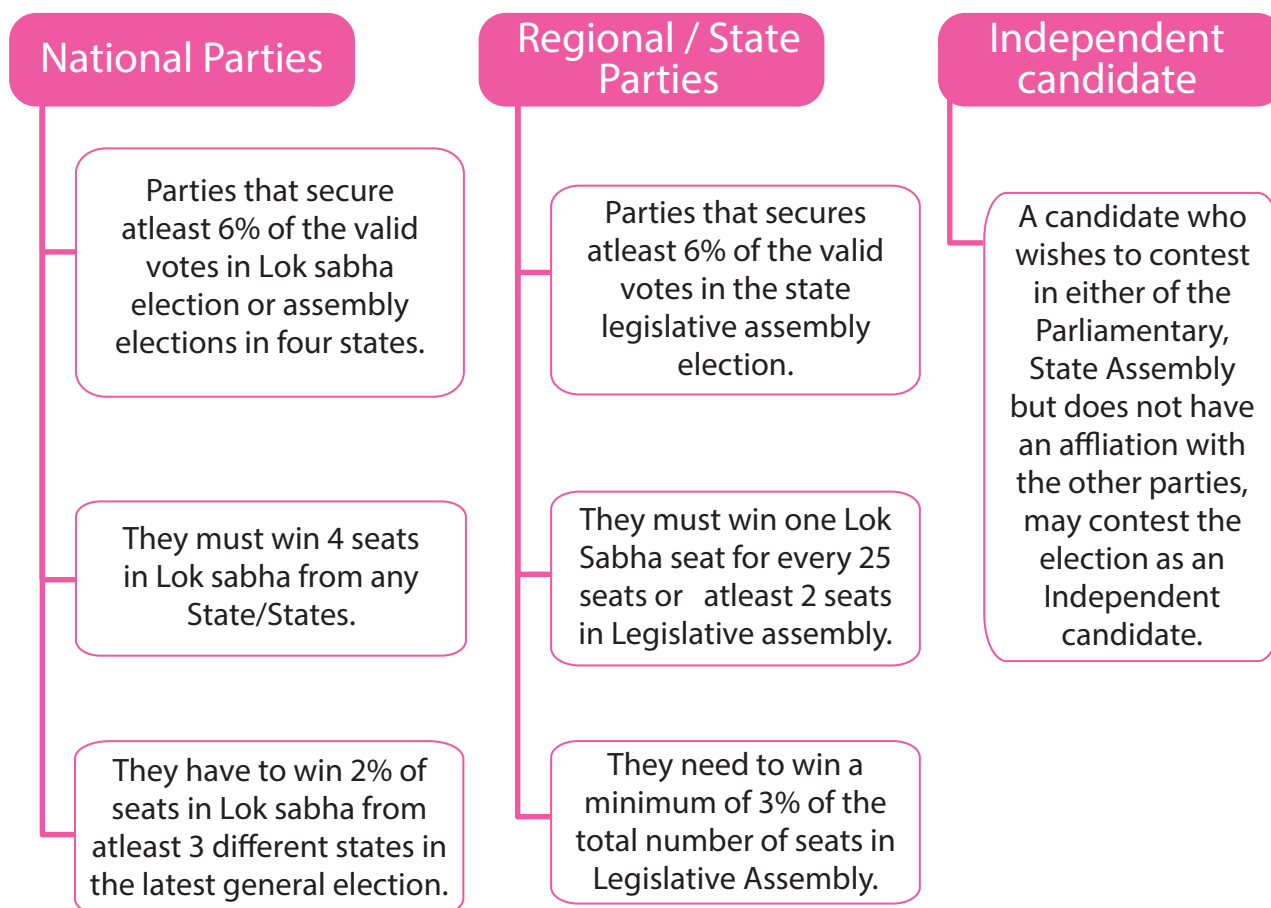


Must write a Party Constitution



Criteria for Recognition

The Election Commission of India has some criteria for the recognition of political parties in India.



Recognized parties

Parties that fulfill these criteria are called recognized parties. They are given a unique symbol by the Election Commission.

A registered but unrecognized political party cannot contest election on its own symbol. This party has to choose one symbol from free symbol 'poll panel' announced by the Election Commission.

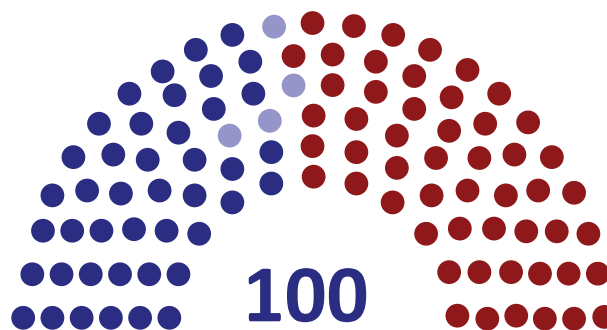
Free symbols 'Poll panel'

As per the Election Symbols order 1968, symbols are either reserved or free.

- A reserved symbol is meant for a recognized political party.
- A free symbol is reserved for unrecognized party.

Majority Party

The Political Party whose number of candidates elected is more than the others is called the majority party. The Majority Party forms and runs the government. They select and appoint their ministers to run the government. They play a decisive role in making laws for the country.



Minority Party

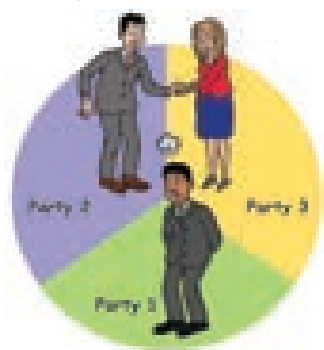
Those with lesser number of elected candidates are called the minority party.

Opposition Party

The party which gets second largest number of seats next to the majority party in the election is called the Opposition party. An effective opposition is very essential for the successful operation of the democracy. They are as important as that of ruling party. They check the autocratic tendencies of the ruling party. They critically examine the policies and bills introduced by the government. They raise their voice on the failures and wrong policies. They highlight important issues which are not acted upon by the Government. The leader of the opposition party enjoys the rank of Cabinet Minister.

Coalition Government

In a Multiparty system a single party sometimes may not secure the majority



required to form the government. In such a case, some parties join together to form the government. Such government is called Coalition Government.

Electoral Symbols and its importance

An electoral symbol is a standardised symbol allocated to a political party. They play an important role in elections. They can be easily identified, understood, remembered and recognized by the voters. The Election commission has stopped allotting animals as symbols. The only exceptions are the lion and the elephant. The symbol of nationally recognized parties is standard throughout India. That symbol will not be allotted to any other party or individual.

State parties are allotted to certain symbols that no other party can use the symbol in that particular state but which different parties in different states can use the same symbol. (e.g Shiv Sena in Maharashtra and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand use bow and arrow as their symbol).

Both National and Regional parties trigger the growth of the nation and work for the welfare of the people.

National Party	Regional /State Party
National parties are political parties which participate in different elections all over India.	Regional parties are political parties which participate in different elections but only within one state.
It should be strong enough in at least four states.	It should be strong enough in at least one or two states.
It has an exclusive symbol throughout the country.	A symbol is reserved for it in the state in which it is recognized. But the same symbol can be allotted to different parties in different states.
It resolves State, National and International issues.	It promotes regional and state interest.

Summary

- ❖ Modern age is an age of mass society and of large population and party system is a modern phenomenon.
- ❖ A group of people with broad common interest who organize to win elections, control government and thereby influence government policies.
- ❖ There are three major types of party system (i.e.) single party system, Bi - party system, and Multi - party system.
- ❖ In India we have Multi – party system.
- ❖ Individual citizen who are not members of a party may also be elected. They are known as Independents.
- ❖ Election Commission is responsible for free and fair elections in India.

Glossary

Democracy	Government by the people	மக்களாட்சி
Election manifesto	a public declaration of policies and aims by political parties	தேர்தல் அறிக்கை
Opposition party	a party opposing to the other parties	எதிர்க்கட்சி
Federal system	system of government in which several states form a unity but remain independent in internal affairs	கூட்டாட்சி அமைப்பு
Election commission	a body for implementation of election procedures	தேர்தல் ஆணையம்
Electoral symbols	symbols allocated to a political party	தேர்தல் சின்னங்கள்
Cabinet Minister	member of a parliament or legislative assembly cabinet	கேபினட் அமைச்சர்



Evaluation

I. Choose the correct answer

1. What is meant by Bi-party system?
 - a) Two parties run the government.
 - b) Two members run a party.
 - c) Two major political parties contest election.
 - d) None of these.



2. Which system of government does India have?
 - a) Single-party system
 - b) Bi-party system
 - c) Multi-party system
 - d) None of these
3. Recognition of a political party is accorded by _____.
 - a) The Election commission
 - b) The president
 - c) The supreme court
 - d) A committee



4. Political parties are generally formed on the basis of _____.
 - a) Religious principles
 - b) Common interest
 - c) Economic principles
 - d) Caste
5. Single-party system is found in _____.
 - a) India b) U.S.A
 - c) France d) China

II. Fill in the blanks

1. _____ form the back bone of democracy.
2. Every party in our country has to register with _____.
3. Political parties serve as intermediaries between the _____ and _____.
4. A registered but _____ political party cannot contest election on its own symbol.
5. The leader of the opposition party enjoys the rank of _____.

III. Match the following

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Democracy | criticize the government policies |
| 2. Election | forms the government commission |
| 3. Majority party | rule of the people |
| 4. Opposition party | free and fair election |

IV. Consider the following statements. Tick (✓) the appropriate answer

1. Which of the following statement is/are correct?
 - a) Every party in the country has to register with the election commission.
 - b) The commission treats all the parties equally.

- c) Election commission allots a separate symbol for recognized parties.
 - d) All the above.

2. **Assertion:** Majority party plays a decisive role in making laws for the country.

Reason: The number of candidates elected is more than the others in the election.

- a) R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) R is wrong A is correct.
- d) A and R are wrong.

V. Answer in one or two sentences

1. Which are the basic components of a political party?
2. Name the three major types of party system.
3. Name the countries which follow Bi – party system.
4. Write a note on Coalition Government.

VI. Answer the following

1. Write any four functions of political party?
2. When is a political party recognized as a National Party?

VII. HOTs

1. Is political party necessary for a democratic country?
2. Give any three names of National party, Regional party, and Registered but unrecognized party.

VIII. Activity

1. Write an election manifesto (if you were a party leader).



ICT CORNER

Political Parties

This activity enables the students to know about the Election Commission of India

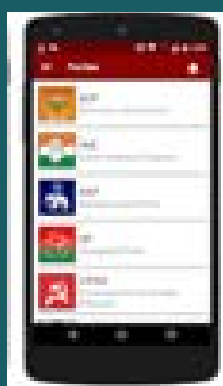


PROCEDURE :

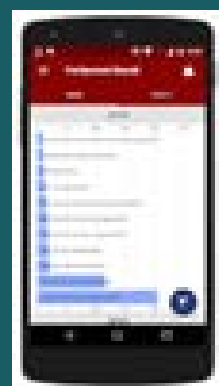
- Step 1:** Open the Browser and Install the URL link given below
- Step 2:** Select “Election India” (Eg: Parties) to get a brief information about “National Parties”
- Step 3:** Click the Menu button and select any title (E.g Leaders) to view about the leaders profile
- Step 4:** Touch the menu button and select “Dash board” to know about the status Of upcoming elections and National parties



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

URL:

<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=election> (or) scan the QR Code

*Pictures are indicative only

*If browser requires, allow Flash Player or Java Script to load the page.

