

Class-X Civics Political Parties

Why do we need political parties?

∴ 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”

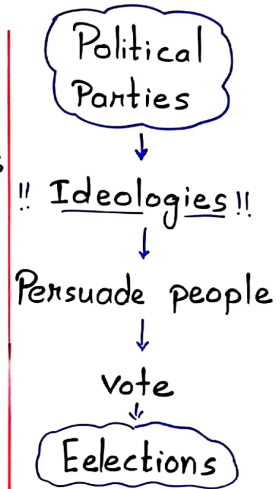
∴ A political party has three components:

- The leaders.
- The active members.
- The followers.



Partisanship 😞??

• Feeling of Commitment toward party, group or faction



Class-X Civics Political Parties

Functions of Political Parties

- * Political Parties Contest elections. → [Candidates]
- * Parties put forward different policies and programmes.
 - Different opinions → Party opinion → Government takes decisions on line of Ruling Party.
- * Parties play a decisive role in making laws for a Country. [Direction of Party leadership].
- * Parties form and run government → [Ministers, Prime Minister]
- * Parties play the role of opposition → [keeps a check on the working of government]
- * Parties shape public opinion → [Lakhs of Members] [Opinions based on Party's Stand]
- * Access to government machinery and welfare schemes.
 - Ordinary Citizen → Can easily reach local leaders → Gateway to reach programmes.

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Necessity of Political Parties??

✿ Imagine a situation without political parties.

→ Independent Candidates 😞

- No uniform decision
- No Major decision
- accountability would be limited to Constituency only.
- No one would be responsible to look after the Country.

✿ Representative democracies

→ Large Societies → Need representation



Represented through
Political Parties

✿ Different views/opinions of Society can be expressed through single agency.

✿ Responsible government could be formed.

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How many parties should we have?

∴ Citizens/Groups are free to form political parties → [More than 750 Political Parties are registered with EC of India.]

→ But not all are serious contenders 😞??

∴ One-party System.

→ One party is allowed to control and run the government. [China → Communist Party]
→ It is not a democratic option.

∴ Two-Party System

→ Chances of winning is between two main parties [US and UK].

∴ Multi-Party System

→ More than two parties compete for power.
→ Coalition government is observed.
→ NDA, UPA and Left front [India]

∴ So, which of these system is best?

→ This is not a very good question. 😞??
• 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.

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National Parties

∴ Country wide parties → National Parties

→ These Parties have their units in various states → Works broadly on National lines.

→ Required to register with the election Commission

↓
It offers some special facilities to large and established parties.

- ∴ Given a unique symbol
- ∴ Recognised political parties.

∴ According to these proportion of votes and seats there were seven national parties in the country in 2017.

Criteria for recognised party.



- 6% of votes in Lok Sabha election
- or
- 6% of votes in Assembly elections in four states.

and

- Wins at least 4 seats in Lok Sabha elections.

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Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]

∴ Founded in 1980 → Reviving Bharatiya Jan Sangh Formed by Syama prasad M. [1951]

∴ Ideology ☹??

→ India's ancient culture and value, Integral Humanism and Antyodaya.

→ Cultural nationalism → Indian nationhood

→ Integration of J&K, uniform Civil Code

∴ Increase in support base → 1998

[2014] largest party ← NDA ↓

Indian National Congress [INC]

∴ One of the oldest party [1885]

∴ Played a dominant role in Indian politics for decades after Independence.

∴ Ideology ☹??

→ Aspires 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.

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All India Trinamool Congress (AITC)

※ Launched on 1 Jan 1998

↓
Mamata Banerjee



※ Recognised as N.P in 2016.

※ Committed to Secularism and federalism

※ In power since 2011 in West Bengal

[A.P, Manipur and Tripura]

※ General election 2014

→ 3.84% votes and 34 seats.

→ 4th largest party [2014 Lok Sabha]

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)

※ Formed in 1999 → [Split in Congress]

※ Ideology ☹️??



→ 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.

[Meghalaya, Manipur and Assam]

→ Since 2004, a member of United Progressive
Alliance.

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Communist Party of India [CPI]

∴ Formed in 1925 → Got split in 1964 and CPI(M).

∴ Ideology

→ Believes in Marxism-Leninism, Secularism and democracy.

→ opposed forces of secessionism and Communalism.

∴ Significant presence in the states of Kerala, West Bengal, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh.

→ Strong pillar in left front.

Communist Party of India - Marxist [CPI-M]

∴ founded in 1964

∴ 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.

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Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

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

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State Parties

∴ Other than national parties many parties 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 atleast 2 seats.



∴ Regional in outlook but plays a very important role in national politics. 😊?!

→ National Parties are Compelled to form alliances with state parties.
→ Strengthening of federalism and Democracy.

Parties ∴ Samajwadi party, Rashtriya Janta Dal, Shiv Sena, Telugu Desam party.

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Challenges to Political Parties?

❖ lack of Internal democracy

- Concentration of power in one or few top leaders. → Decisions are taken by them only.
- No Organisational meetings, Internal election and power to ordinary members.
- Personal loyalty becomes more important.

❖ Challenge of dynastic Succession

- Family domination on top positions.
- People with less experience or popular support come to occupy positions of Power.

❖ Money and muscle power.

- Use of short-cuts to win elections 😊??
[Candidates with money, Criminal record are given priority]
- Corporate ⊕ Politics = Matter of Concern.

❖ Lack of Meaningful Choice.

- No significant difference among the political parties in terms plans and policies.
- Fundamental principals remains same.
- Ex ÷ Labour party and Conservative party In Britain.

Class X Civics Political Parties

How Can Parties be reformed?

∴ Reform v/s Willingness to reform

∴ Efforts and Suggestions to reform political parties:

→ 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 elections 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 be state funding of elections.

→ Role of People [Petition, Publicity and agitations], Active involvement of those who wants the reform.