

VIVEKANANDA COLLEGE THAKURPUKUR KOLKATA-700063

NAAC ACCREDITED 'A' GRADE



Topic: Party Systems in India

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Party System in India

India has a multi-party system with recognition 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 recognized national or state level parties based upon objective criteria. A recognized 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.

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 6 national parties, 53 state parties and 2538 unrecognized parties.

National parties

A registered party is recognized as a national party only if it fulfils any one of the following three conditions:

1. A party should win 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha from at least three different states.
2. At a general election to Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, the party polls 6% of votes in any four or more states and in addition it wins four Lok Sabha seats.
3. A party gets recognition as a state party in four states.

There are Eight recognized national parties.

Sr. No	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Founder(s)	Party Supremo
1	Bahujan Samaj Party	BSP	1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kanshi Ram	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayawati
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP	1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Bharatiya Jana Sangh)• Atal Bihari Vajpayee• L. K. Advani	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jagat Prakash Nadda
3	Communist Party of India	CPI	1925	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abani Mukherji• Charu Majumdar• Evelyn Trent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• D. Raja

Sr. No.	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Founder(s)	Party Supremo
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. N. Roy • M. P. T. Acharya • Mohammed Ali • Mohammed Shafiq Siddiqui • Rafiq Ahmed • Rosa Fitinghoff • Sultan Ahmed 	
4	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	CPI(M)	1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. M. S. Namboodiripad • Jyoti Basu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sitaram Yechury
5	Indian National Congress	INC	1885	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Octavian Hume • Dadabhai Naoroji • Dinshaw Wacha • Womesh Chunder Bonnerjee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonia Gandhi (Interim President)
6	Nationalist Congress Party				

State parties

A party has to fulfill any of the following conditions for recognition as a state party:

1. A party should secure atleast 6% of valid votes polled and win atleast 2 seats in a state assembly general election
2. A party should secure atleast 6% of valid votes polled and win atleast 1 seat in a lok sabha general election
3. A party should win minimum three percent of the total number of seats or a minimum of three seats in the Legislative Assembly.
4. A party should win at least one seat in the Lok Sabha for every 25 seats or any fraction thereof allotted to that State.
5. A party should secure at least six percent of the total valid votes polled during general election to a Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly and should, in addition, win at least one Lok Sabha, and two Legislative Assembly seats in that election,
6. Under the liberalized criteria, one more clause that it will be eligible for recognition as state party if it secures 8% or more of the total valid votes polled in the state.

	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Current leader(s)	Recognized in State/Union Territory
1	Aam Aadmi Party	AAP	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arvind Kejriwal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delhi Punjab
2	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	AIADMK	1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O. Paneerselvam Edappadi K. Palaniswami 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu Puducherry
3	All India Forward Bloc	AIFB	1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debabrata Biswas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Bengal
4	All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	AIMIM	1927	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asaduddin Owaisi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telangana
5	All India N.R. Congress	AINRC	2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N. Rangaswamy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puducherry
6	All India United Democratic Front	AIUDF	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Badruddin Ajmal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assam
7	All Jharkhand Students Union	AJSU	1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sudesh Mahto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jharkhand
8	Asom Gana Parishad	AGP	1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atul Bora 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assam
9	Biju Janata Dal	BJD	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naveen Patnaik 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Odisha
10	Bodoland People's Front	BPF	1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hagrama Mohilary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assam
11	Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	DMDK	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vijayakanth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu
12	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	DMK	1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M. K. Stalin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamil Nadu Puducherry
13	Goa Forward Party	GFP	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vijai Sardesai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goa
14	Hill State People's Democratic Party	HSPDP	1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopingstone Lyngdoh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meghalaya
15	Indian National Lok Dal	INLD	1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Om Prakash Chautala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haryana

	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Current leader(s)	Recognized in State/Union Territory
16	Indian Union Muslim League	IUML	1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sayed Hyderali Shihab Thangal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala
17	Indigenous People's Front of Tripura	IPFT	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mevar Kumar Jamatia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripura
18	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	JKNC	1932	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Omar Abdullah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jammu and Kashmir
19	Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party	JKNPP	1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bhim Singh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jammu and Kashmir
20	Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	JKPDP	1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mehbooba Mufti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jammu and Kashmir
21	Janta Congress Chhattisgarh	JCC	2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ajit Jogi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chhattisgarh
22	Janata Dal (Secular)	JD(S)	1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H. D. Deve Gowda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arunachal Pradesh Karnataka Kerala
23	Janata Dal (United)	JD(U)	1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nitish Kumar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arunachal Pradesh Bihar
24	Jannayak Janta Party	JJP	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dushyant Chautala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haryana
25	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	JMM	1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shibu Soren Hemant Soren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jharkhand
26	Kerala Congress (M)	KC(M)	1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. F. Thomas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala
27	Lok Janshakti Party	LJP	2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ram Vilas Paswan Chirag Paswan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bihar
28	Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	MNS	2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raj Thackeray 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maharashtra

	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Current leader(s)	Recognized in State/Union Territory
29	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	MGP	1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deepak Dhavalikar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goa
30	Mizo National Front	MNF	1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoramthanga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mizoram
31	Mizoram People's Conference	MPC	1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lalhmingthanga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mizoram
32	Naga People's Front	NPF	2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. R. Zeliang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manipur Nagaland
33	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	NDPP	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neiphiu Rio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nagaland
34	Pattali Makkal Katchi	PMK	1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anbumani Ramadoss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puducherry
35	People's Democratic Alliance	PDA	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bd. Behring Anal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manipur
36	People's Democratic Front	PDF	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P. N. Syiem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meghalaya
37	People's Party of Arunachal	PPA	1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomo Riba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arunachal Pradesh
38	Rashtriya Janata Dal	RJD	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lalu Prasad Yadav 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bihar Jharkhand
39	Rashtriya Lok Dal	RLD	1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaudhary Ajit Singh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uttar Pradesh
40	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party	RLSP	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upendra Kushwaha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bihar
41	Rashtriya Loktantrik Party	RLP	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hanuman Beniwal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajasthan
42	Revolutionary Socialist Party	RSP	1940	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. J. Chandrachud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerala West Bengal
43	Samajwadi Party	SP	1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Akhilesh Yadav 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uttar Pradesh

	Name	Abbreviation	Foundation year	Current leader(s)	Recognized in State/Union Territory
44	Shiromani Akali Dal	SAD	1920	• Sukhbir Singh Badal	• Punjab
45	Shiv Sena	SS	1966	• Uddhav Thackeray	• Maharashtra
46	Sikkim Democratic Front	SDF	1993	• Pawan Kumar Chamling	• Sikkim
47	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	SKM	2013	• Prem Singh Tamang	• Sikkim
48	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	TRS	2001	• K. Chandrashekar Rao	• Andhra Pradesh • Telangana
49	Telugu Desam Party	TDP	1982	• N. Chandrababu Naidu	• Andhra Pradesh • Telangana
50	United Democratic Party	UDP	1972	• Metbah Lyngdoh	• Meghalaya
51	YSR Congress Party	YSRCP	2011	• Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy	• Andhra Pradesh • Telangana
52	Zoram Nationalist Party	ZNP	1997	• Lalduhawma	• Mizoram



Salient Features of Party System in India

1. One Party Dominance System:

The party system operating in India does not conform to the two party systems of Britain and the USA.

At the same time, it is basically different from the multiparty model of countries like France and Italy because one of India's several parties has overshadowed all others by having dominated the political scene ever since independence.

The Congress system emerged after the country had attained independence. From 1947 to 1967 and from 1971 to 1977 as well as from 1980 to 1989, this system was at the centre of Indian Politics, spanning three distinct stages in its post-independence development.

Thus, the Congress, which functioned as broad-based nationalist movement before independence, transformed itself into the dominant political party of the nation. That is why the observers of Indian politics like Morris Jones described the Indian Party system as a system of "one party dominance" While Rajni Kothari went to the extent of calling "One Party Dominance System" or "The Congress System".

2. A Multi-Party System:

Since the disintegration of the consensus based Congress system in 1967, the Indian Parties have fit the category of a multi-party system. India has as many as Seven National Parties and 48 State parties.

3. Lack of Strong Opposition:

India lacks a strong well-organized opposition party. A strong opposition is essential for the success of parliamentary democracy. The main function of the opposition is to highlight the shortcomings of the government and to compel it to become responsive to the public opinion.

4. Personality Cult:

Indian Party system values the role of the leader. When a party ceases to have a charismatic leader, it starts declining. After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru and Mrs. Indira Gandhi Congress suffered adversely. Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee's death caused irreparable loss to the Jan Sangh. Similarly the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and C. Rajagopalachari witnessed very fast decline of the socialist forces and Swatantra Party respectively.

5. Lack of Ideological Commitment:

In India politics has become issue oriented rather than based on ideology. The existence of the National Front Government at the centre was a candid example of issue oriented politics which got support from the extreme left CPI (M) to the extreme right (BJP). Since 1971, elections have been won not on the basis of the inherent strength of the ideology of a political party but on the basis of issue of immediate concern to the electorate.

6. Emergence of Regional Parties:

In India, several all-India parties have suffered in strength and regional parties have grown in number and influence. Thus, Tamil Nadu has become a stronghold of the DMK followed by the ADMK; the Punjab is dominated by the Akali Dal; Assam has been ruled by the AGP; Jammu & Kashmir is governed by the National Conference and Shiv Sena has emerged a powerful force in Maharashtra politics.

Some regional parties such as the DMK, Shiromani Akali Dal and National Conference emerged soon after the country's independence. These parties articulate and seek to defend a regionally-based ethnic or religious-cultural identity.

7. Factions within the Parties:

All political parties tend to be factionalised. In non-communist parties the faction leaders tend to be community, caste or religious leaders who have skillfully built-Patron-client relationship among the members of different castes or communities.

Such factional leaders vie among themselves for political influence within the party and the government, entering into political alliances with one another in order to keep their political rivals out of power. Most of these factional alliances are non-ideological; they also tend to shift a good deal, thus keeping the parties in a state of flux.

8. Communalism and Casteism:

Communalism is not a phenomenon confined only to India and other countries of Asia but it can be seen in many parts of the world like Germany, Sweden, and Denmark etc. What is peculiar about India is that even the so called secular persons and parties adopt an opportunist attitude towards communalism.

9. The Use of Extra-Constitutional Means to Power:

Although electioneering and campaigning is an effort to capture a maximum number of seats in public offices are said to be the main functions of the parties, very few parties are able to make a respectable showing using only these legitimate methods. As a result political parties of all ideological persuasions frequently try to exploit political or social discontent to their advantage.

They do not hesitate to use such non- parliamentary means as civil disobedience, mass demonstrations, strikes and protest rallies to embarrass the party in power and some of these tactics may become violent.

10. Politics of Defection and Anti-Defection Act:

Defection is the term used for opportunistic transfer of loyalties from one political party to another. When a legislator is elected on the ticket of one party, but later joins another party, for selfish reasons, without his voters' consent, it is called defection.

The Anti-Defection Act, 1985 sought to stop defections, so that representatives elected on certain principles and an certain party tickets would not be allowed to betray the trust which was reposed in them by the electorate at the time of their elections.

