

# Political Parties in India

Political Parties coordinate the elections and have become a significant part of the politics in the country. Some countries have only one political party, but India has a multi-party system with various parties.

Political parties in India possess different dynamic features. However, all these political parties are often structured commonly. The **political parties in India** are composed of a party leader and a few executives. The leader represents the party and is primarily responsible for overseeing the party's strategies and policies. In contrast, all the party executive works according to the party leader.

## Types of Political Parties in India

Political parties are organized groups or voluntary associations of individuals sharing the same political views. These individuals try to gain power as per Constitutional means with the desire to influence and promote national interests.

The four different types of political parties in modern democratic states are as below-

- **Radical parties** - The Radical parties establish the new order by displacing the existing institutions.
- **Liberal parties** - They aim to reform and change the existing institutions.
- **Conservative parties** - These parties believe in the ideology of status-quo.
- **Reactional parties** - These parties cling to political and socio-economic institutions.

According to the different ideologies, the political parties in India are classified as the following-

- Conservative and reactionary parties on the right. e.g., BJP.
- Liberal parties in the centre, e.g., Congress.
- Radical parties on the left, e.g., CPI and CPM.

## Party System in India

The party system in India is divided into these three types-

- **One-party system:** In this system, only one party has the power to rule. There is no party in the opposition. For example, the Soviet Union.
- **Two-party system:** In this system, two major parties exist. One of them rules the country while the other exists in the opposition. For example, Democrats and Republicans in the US.
- **Multi-party system:** In this system, various parties form the government, either separately or by a coalition. For example, Switzerland, France, and India.

## Features of Party System in India

Here are the salient features of the party system in India:

- **Multi-party System:** India is a vast country with many people. There are a lot of political parties in India that are further divided into categories like right parties, centrist and left parties. The coalition governments hung assemblies, and hung parliaments have been static phenomena in Indian politics.
- **Lack of Clear Ideology:** In India, only three parties work with a clear ideology: BJP, CPM, and CPI. In contrast, the rest lack a clear-cut ideology and possess a similar ideology regarding policies and programs. These parties work on the principles of socialism, secularism, democracy, and Gandhism.

- **One-dominant Party Systems:** India is a democratic country. Yet, only one party ruled the country for quite a long time after independence. Because of this, an eminent political analyst, Rajni Kothari, called the Party system in India the Congress System or the one-party dominance system.
- **Personality Cult:** In India, the political parties represented the ideology of their leaders. Thus, the leader or his ideology is of more importance rather than what they put up in their manifesto. For example, Congress became more popular because of Nehru and Gandhi's significant leadership.
- **Based on Traditional Factors:** Most political parties in India were formed by the people based on political and socio-economic programmes. In contrast, the rest of the parties are created based on culture, language, caste, or religion. For example, Hindu Maha Sabha, Muslim League, Shiv Sena, etc.
- **The Emergence of Regional Parties-** There is a growing role of regional parties in India that emerged over the party system. E.g., Akali Dal in Punjab, AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, BJD in Orissa, etc.
- **Lack of Effective Opposition-** A democracy would not work well without effective opposition. An effective opposition would keep a check on the tendencies of the ruling party that would instead work as an alternative government. Even after years of independence, India lacks in terms of effective opposition.




## National Political Parties in India






In India, a political party is recognized as a national party if it fulfills the following criteria-

- A party must have secured a minimum of 6% of the valid vote in a Lok Sabha or an Assembly general elections in four or more states. Out of these 6, it must have won a minimum of 4 seats in an election of the Lok Sabha from a state or states.
- If a party has won 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha and candidates for the party are elected from three or more states.
- If a party is recognized as a state party in more than three states.

## List of National Political Parties in India

There are 8 national parties in India positioned as the centre, centre-left, left-wing, and right-wing. Here is the list of national political parties in India, along with their flags and political position:

National Political Party	Political position	Symbol/ Flag
National People's Party	Centre	
Nationalist Congress Party	Centre-left	
Indian National Congress	Centre	

Communist Party of India (Marxist)	Left-wing	
Communist Party of India	Left-wing	
Bharatiya Janata Party	Right-wing	
Bahujan Samaj Party	Centre-left	
All India Trinamool Congress	Centre-left	


## State Political Parties in India











The following 5 conditions must be fulfilled by recognized political parties in India to be recognized as a state political party:












- In an election to the state legislative Assembly, the said party must gain at least six percent of the valid votes. Also, the result must be that the particular political party must win at least 2 seats in the assembly.
- At least 6% of the valid votes must be secured by the party in the Lok Sabha election. It must win 1 seat in the Lok Sabha elections.
- A minimum of three seats or at least 3% of the total seats must be won by the Legislative Assembly (the condition depends upon whichever is higher).
- For every 25 seats in the Lok Sabha, the party must win a minimum of 1 seat. The fraction depends upon the number of seats allotted to that state.
- The party should secure 8% or more of the total votes polled in the state.













## List of State Political Parties in India




The list of State political parties in India, along with their symbol, is as follows-

State Political Parties	Symbol/ Flag
Zoram Nationalist Party	-
United People's Party Liberal	
United Democratic Party	-

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha	
Sikkim Democratic Front	
Shiv Sena	
Shiromani Akali Dal	
Samajwadi Party	
Rashtriya Loktantrik Party	
Rashtriya Lok Dal	
People's Party of Arunachal	-
People's Democratic Front	-
People's Democratic Alliance	-
Pattali Makkal Katchi	
Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party	
Mizoram People's Conference	-
Mizo National Front	-
Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party	-
Maharashtra Navnirman Sena	

Lok Janshakti Party	
Kerala Congress (M)	
Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	-
Jannayak Janta Party	-
Janta Congress Chhattisgarh	-
Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	-
Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party	-
Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	
Indigenous People's Front of Tripura	
Indian Union Muslim League	
Indian National Lok Dal	
Hill State People's Democratic Party	
Goa Forward Party	
Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam	
Communist Party of India (Marxist–Leninist) Liberation	
Bodoland People's Front	

Biju Janata Dal	
Asom Gana Parishad	
All Jharkhand Students Union	
All India United Democratic Front	
All India N.R. Congress	
All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen	
All India Forward Bloc	-
Bharat Rashtra Samithi	
Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party	-
Telugu Desam Party	
Revolutionary Socialist Party	
Rashtriya Janata Dal	
Naga People's Front	
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	
Janata Dal (United)	
Janata Dal (Secular)	-
Aam Aadmi Party	

## Unrecognised Political Parties in India

The list of unrecognised political parties in India is as under:

Revolutionary Goans Party	Lok Insaaf Party	NISHAD Party
YSR Telangana Party	Vikasheel Insaan Party	Goa Suraksha Manch
The Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance	Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi	Apna Dal (Sonelal)
Indian Secular Front	Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohiya)	Hindustani Awam Morcha
Rashtriya Jan Jan Party	Makkal Needhi Maiam	Jan Shakti Party of India
Raijor Dol	Loktantrik Janata Dal	Jan Adhikar Party Loktantrik
Plurals Party	Jansatta Dal Loktantrik	All India Hindustan Congress Party
Jammu and Kashmir Workers Party	Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazagam	Param Digvijay Dal
Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party	All India Mahila Empowerment Party	Jana Sena Party
Punjab Ekta Party	Swaraj India	Odisha Janmorcha
Kongunadu Makkal Desia Katchi	Indian Gandhian Party	Bahujan Mukti Party
Welfare Party of India	Socialist Party (India)	Hindu Sena
Samajwadi Janata Dal Democratic	Quami Ekta Dal	Indhiya Jananayaga Katchi

Naam Tamilar Katchi	Social Democratic Party of India	Manithaneyya Makkal Katchi
Rashtriya Ulama Council	Peace Party of India	Gorkha Janmukti Morcha
Lok Satta Party	Rashtriya Samaj Paksha	Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party
Tamil Nadu Kongu Ilaingar Peravai	People's Democratic Front	Ittihad-e-Millat Council
Kongunadu Makkal Katchi	Tamil Manila Congress	Puthiya Tamilagam
Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar)	Samata Party	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
Kerala Congress (Jacob)	Gondwana Ganatantra Party	Kerala Congress (B)
Bharatiya Minorities Suraksha Mahasangh	Amra Bangali	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi
Lokdal	Uttarakhand Kranti Dal	Manipur Peoples Party
Kerala Congress	United Goans Party	-