

Regional Parties in India

The existence of several cultural, ethnic, religious, linguistic, and caste groups within the Indian community is significantly liable for the source and development of regional parties of India. TDP or Telugu Desam Party is considered the first regional party after India gained independence and became the main competitor in the 8th Lok Sabha (1984). Political Parties like Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) are regional parties.

Characteristics of Regional Parties in India

Regional parties of India express provincial welfare and recognize a distinct religious, ethnic, cultural, or linguistic group. The other features of **regional political parties** in India are as follows:

- Its electoral ground is restricted to a specific state or region.
- Regional parties in India mainly involves using the provincial resources of discontentment or maintaining a mixture of primordial needs based on caste, language, community, or region.
- It concentrates on regional or local matters and seeks to capture political power at the state level. It has no preference for growing and maintaining the central government.
- It has a political wish for greater provincial independence of states in the Indian Union.

Themes of Regional Political Parties in India

Regional parties in India are established based on themes like– Autonomy, Identity, Statehood, and Development etc. Get the complete details of the themes of the regional parties in India and the rise of them.

- **Autonomy** demands greater potency to the Indian states (for example, the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir).
- **Identity** consists of opposing the glory of the cultural privileges of a group (like the DMK resisting the originality of the Dalits or the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra).
- **Statehood** consists of battling for an autonomous state within the country (for instance, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi requested a different state of Telangana).
- **Development** comprises regional parties considering that they can bring change to the individuals of a certain province.
- Regional parties form 'cultural specificities' sometimes for electoral profits.

Role and Significance of Regional Political Parties in India

The regional parties in India produce more competitive politics and widespread participation in the political process more expansive at the grassroots. Regional parties broaden the option for voters in assembly and parliamentary elections. The voters can vote for any party they think aspires to foster the interest of the region or state. The **roles and significance of the regional parties in India** are given below.

- At the regional level, they provide a steady government and better governance.
- They challenged the one-party prevalent method in India and led to a reduction in their dominance.

- Regional parties in India strongly influence the approach of center-state ties. The tension areas in center-state relations and the demand for the contribution of greater autonomy make central supervision more responsive to the requirements of the regional actors.
- They have flourished in revealing the prejudiced role of the Governors in the designation and layoff of the Chief Minister and in allocating rules and reservation of bills for the consideration of the President.
- Regional parties of India provide a chance against the domineering tendencies of the central government. They oppose the ruling party at the center on certain issues.
- They increase the people's political consciousness and their interest in politics.
- They make a significant contribution to the successful functioning of parliamentary democracy. The regional parties have played this role successfully by being ruling parties in some states and opposition parties at the centre.
- The regional parties in India have assumed an important role in national politics after the dawn of the era of coalition politics.

Rise of Regional Parties in India

Numerous factors can be attributed to the rise of regional parties in India such as the . failure of national politics to satisfy the regional aspirations. Some of the reasons for the rise of regional parties in India have been illustrated herein:

- Charismatic personality of the regional leaders
- Absence of a strong opposition party at the central level
- Desire of certain sections to maintain separate identities due to historical factors
- Role of caste and religion in the political process
- Factional fights within the larger parties
- Economic disparities and regional imbalances in development
- Alienation and discontent among the tribal groups
- Cultural and ethnic pluralism of Indian society.
- Reorganisation of states based on language
- Centralising tendencies of the congress party
- Self-interest of the deposed Maharajas and dispossessed Zamindars

Provisions of Regional Parties of India

The creation of regional parties in India takes place in the same way as any other political parties by registering with the Election Commission of India. Before establishing a political party, it is essential to fulfilling the guidelines defined in the Representation of the People Act 1951.

- It is the sole responsibility of the ECI to recognize a party as a state, unrecognized, recognized, or national party.
- The Election Commission does not recognize a regional party separately.

Criticism Faced by Regional Parties

The rise of regional parties of India made politics a cruel rivalry. It encouraged using wrong-headed means, including muscular force and money, to acquire power politically. It is seen during the elections in various states of India in the form of violence.

- They also make it hard to execute foreign contracts and procedures on schedule.
- Regional parties have put national interests at risk by favouring narrow regional objectives more.
- The deterioration of national parties led to the instability of the Government.
- Regional parties initiated the trend of state division along racial lines, like caste, tribe, language, and some other attributes.
- The parties focus on populist initiatives, including standard loan forgiveness by different states, to extend their support base. It damages the Government's revenue balance.

