

UNIQUE STUDY POINT BY SUMEET SAHU

Political Parties

Class X — Democratic Politics (Political Science) — Chapter 4

NCERT Comprehensive Notes 2025-26

Section 01

Overview

Political parties are central to the working of democracy. This chapter examines **why we need political parties**, **how many parties are good for a democracy**, introduces the **national and regional political parties in today's India**, and then examines **what is wrong with political parties and what can be done about it**.

★ USP KEY POINTS

- ★ Political parties are the most visible institutions in a democracy — for most citizens, democracy equals political parties
- ★ A political party has three components: leaders, active members, and followers
- ★ Parties perform 7 key functions including contesting elections, forming governments, and shaping public opinion
- ★ India has a multiparty system with 750+ parties registered with Election Commission
- ★ Six recognised national parties (as per ECI notification 2023): AAP, BSP, BJP, CPI(M), INC, NPP
- ★ Four major challenges: lack of internal democracy, dynastic succession, money & muscle power, and lack of meaningful choice
- ★ Reforms include anti-defection law, mandatory affidavits, organisational elections, and suggestions for state funding

Section 02

Why Do We Need Political Parties?

Meaning of a Political Party

Political Party

A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good.

Since there can be different views on what is good for all, parties try to persuade people why their policies are better than others. They seek to implement these policies by winning popular support through elections.

Parties Reflect Political Divisions

Parties are about a part of the society and thus involve **partisanship**. A party is known by which part of society it stands for, which policies it supports, and whose interests it upholds.

Three Components of a Political Party

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
1. The Leaders	Top decision-makers who guide the party's direction, contest elections, and hold key positions
2. Active Members	Dedicated workers who participate in party activities, campaigns, and organisational work
3. The Followers	Supporters who vote for the party and identify with its ideology

Necessity of Political Parties

What If There Were No Parties?

If political parties did not exist: (1) Every candidate would be independent — no one could promise major policy changes. (2) Government may form, but its utility would remain uncertain. (3) No one would be responsible for how the country is run. (4) Even in non-party panchayat elections, villages split into factions that function exactly like parties.

The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of **representative democracies**. Large societies need an agency to gather different views, bring representatives together, and create a mechanism to support or restrain the government. Political parties fulfil these needs. We can say that **parties are a necessary condition for a democracy**.

Section 03

Functions of Political Parties

Political parties fill political offices and exercise political power by performing a series of important functions:

#	FUNCTION	DETAILS
1	Contest Elections	Elections are fought mainly among candidates put up by parties. In USA, members choose candidates; in India, top leaders choose candidates.
2	Policies & Programmes	Parties put forward different policies and voters choose from them. A party reduces a vast multitude of opinions into a few basic positions. Government bases its policies on the ruling party's line.
3	Making Laws	Laws are debated and passed in the legislature. Since most members belong to a party, they follow the party leadership's direction, irrespective of personal opinions.
4	Form & Run Governments	Big policy decisions are taken by political executive from political parties. Parties recruit leaders, train them, and make them ministers.
5	Role of Opposition	Parties that lose elections voice different views, criticise government failures and wrong policies, and mobilise opposition.
6	Shape Public Opinion	Parties raise and highlight issues with lakhs of members and activists. Many pressure groups are extensions of parties. Parties launch movements for resolution of problems.
7	Access to Government	Parties provide people access to government machinery and welfare schemes. For ordinary citizens, it is easier to approach a local party leader than a government officer.

Why Parties Are Necessary Despite Criticism

Although political parties are among the least trusted institutions globally, party membership in India is higher than in advanced countries like Canada (6.1%), Japan (3.4%), Spain (1.3%), and South Korea (2.6%). India's party membership stands at about 11.4%, and the proportion of people feeling "close to a party" has risen steadily from 38% (1971) to 48% (2005).

Section 04

How Many Parties Should We Have?

In a democracy, any group of citizens is free to form a political party. More than **750 parties** are registered with the Election Commission of India. But only a handful are serious contenders. The question is: how many major or effective parties are good for a democracy?

PARTY SYSTEM	FEATURES	EXAMPLES
One-Party System	Only one party is allowed to control and run the government. Not a democratic option as it does not permit free competition for power.	China (only Communist Party rules)
Two-Party System	Power usually changes between two main parties. Other parties may exist and win a few seats, but only two have a serious chance of forming government.	USA (Democrats vs Republicans), UK (Labour vs Conservative)
Multi-Party System	Several parties compete for power. More than two parties have a reasonable chance of coming to power on their own or in alliance. Government formed by coalition.	India (NDA, UPA, Left Front in 2004 elections)

Alliance / Front

When several parties in a multi-party system join hands for the purpose of contesting elections and winning power. Example: National Democratic Alliance (NDA), United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Left Front.

Which System Is Better?

A party system is **not something any country can choose**. It evolves over a long time depending on the nature of society, its social and regional divisions, its history of politics, and its system of elections. India has evolved a multiparty system because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or three parties. **No system is ideal for all countries and all situations.**

Party Systems at State Level in India

SYSTEM TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Two-Party System	Power alternates mainly between two parties (e.g., some states with BJP vs Congress dominance)
Multiparty with Two Alliances	Multiple parties but grouped into two main alliances competing for power
Multiparty System	Several parties compete independently with shifting alliances

Section 05

National Parties

Recognition Criteria by Election Commission

How Parties Are Recognised

Every party must register with the Election Commission. Recognised parties receive a unique election symbol and special facilities.

State Party: Secures at least 6% of total votes in State Assembly election AND wins at least 2 seats.

National Party: Secures at least 6% of total votes in Lok Sabha elections OR Assembly elections in 4 States AND wins at least 4 seats in the Lok Sabha.

According to the Election Commission of India notification issued in **2023**, there are **six recognised national parties** in India. The NCERT textbook (Reprint 2025-26) lists seven including one additional party:

PARTY	FOUNDED	IDEOLOGY / KEY FEATURES	2019 LOK SABHA
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)	26 Nov 2012	Accountability, clean administration, transparency, good governance. Emerged from 2011 anti-corruption movement. Formed governments in Delhi and Punjab.	1 seat
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	1984	Founded by Kanshi Ram. Represents bahujan samaj — dalits, adivasis, OBCs, religious minorities. Inspired by Sahu Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Periyar, Ambedkar. Main base in UP.	3.63% votes, 10 seats
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	1980	Revived from Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951, Syama Prasad Mukherjee). Cultural nationalism (Hindutva), integral humanism (Deendayal Upadhyaya), Antyodaya. Leads NDA. Expanded from north/west to all-India.	303 seats (largest party)
CPI-Marxist (CPI-M)	1964	Marxism-Leninism. Supports socialism, secularism, democracy. Opposes imperialism and communalism. Strong in West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura. Was in power in West Bengal for 34 years.	1.75% votes, 3 seats
Indian National Congress (INC)	1885	One of the oldest parties in the world. Centrist (neither rightist nor leftist). Secularism, welfare of weaker sections. Led UPA (2004-2019). Under Nehru, built modern secular democratic republic.	19.5% votes, 52 seats
National People's Party (NPP)	July 2013	Founded by P.A. Sangma. First party from North-East India to get national party status. Believes in diversity, education and employment for all. Formed government in Meghalaya.	1 seat

Key Party Details to Remember

INC: Founded 1885 (oldest). Ruling party at centre till 1977, then 1980–89. After 1989 support declined. Centrist party.

BJP: Founded 1980 from BJS (1951). Came to power 1998 as NDA leader. Won 303 seats in 2019. Currently leads NDA government.

CPI(M): Founded 1964. Critical of new economic policies. 34 years in West Bengal without break.

BSP: Founded 1984 by Kanshi Ram. Formed UP government several times with support of different parties.

AAP: Born from 2011 anti-corruption movement. Governments in Delhi and Punjab.

NPP: First North-East party with national status. Government in Meghalaya.

Section 06

State / Regional Parties

Other than the national parties, most major parties are classified by the Election Commission as '**State parties**', commonly referred to as **regional parties**. However, these parties need not be regional in their ideology or outlook.

Key Facts About State Parties

Some state parties like **Samajwadi Party** and **Rashtriya Janata Dal** have national-level political organisation with units in several states. Others like **Biju Janata Dal**, **Sikkim Democratic Front**, **Mizo National Front**, and **Telangana Rashtra Samithi** are conscious about their state identity.

Growing Role of State Parties

TREND	DETAILS
Expansion	Over the last three decades, the number and strength of state parties has expanded, making Parliament politically more diverse
Coalition Era	No single national party could secure Lok Sabha majority on its own (until 2014), compelling national parties to form alliances with state parties
Government Participation	Since 1996, nearly every state party has been part of one or other national-level coalition government
Impact	This has contributed to the strengthening of federalism and democracy in India

Notable State Parties Across India

REGION	KEY STATE PARTIES
North India	Samajwadi Party (1992 – UP), Rashtriya Lok Dal (1998 – UP), Indian National Lok Dal (1977 – Haryana), Shiromani Akali Dal (1920 – Punjab)
East India	Rashtriya Janata Dal (1998 – Bihar), Janata Dal (U) (1999 – Bihar), Biju Janata Dal (1977 – Odisha), JMM (1973 – Jharkhand)
West India	Shiv Sena (1966 – Maharashtra), Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (2006), Goa Forward Party (2016)
South India	DMK (1949 – Tamil Nadu), AIADMK (1972 – Tamil Nadu), Telugu Desam Party (1982 – AP/Telangana), YSR Congress (2011)
North-East	Asom Gana Parishad (1985), Mizo National Front (1961), Naga People's Front, Sikkim Democratic Front (1993)
J&K	J&K National Conference (1939), J&K National Panthers Party, J&K People's Democratic Party (1999)
Kerala	Kerala Congress (Mani) (1964), Indian Union Muslim League (1948), Janata Dal (Secular) (1999)

Section 07

Challenges & Reforms**Four Major Challenges Faced by Political Parties**

CHALLENGE	DESCRIPTION	IMPACT
1. Lack of Internal Democracy	Power concentrated in one or few leaders. No membership registers, no regular organisational meetings, no internal elections. Ordinary members lack information and means to influence decisions.	Personal loyalty to leader becomes more important than loyalty to party principles. Those who disagree find it difficult to continue.
2. Dynastic Succession	Since parties lack open and transparent procedures, few ways for ordinary workers to rise to the top. Leaders favour people close to them or family members. Top positions often controlled by one family.	Unfair to other members. People without adequate experience or popular support occupy positions of power. Bad for democracy.
3. Money and Muscle Power	Parties focused on winning elections use short-cuts. They nominate candidates who have or can raise lots of money. Rich people and companies who fund parties influence policies.	Parties sometimes support criminals who can win elections. Growing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics.
4. Lack of Meaningful Choice	Decline in ideological differences among parties worldwide. In Britain, Labour and Conservative differ only in details. In India too, major parties' economic policies have converged.	Voters wanting really different policies have no option. Same leaders keep shifting from one party to another.

Reform Efforts Already Taken

REFORM	DETAILS	LIMITATION
Anti-Defection Law	Constitution amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. If an MLA/MP changes parties, they lose their seat in the legislature.	Has helped bring defection down, but has also made dissent more difficult. MPs/MLAs must accept whatever party leaders decide.
Mandatory Affidavit	Supreme Court order: every election candidate must file an affidavit giving details of property and criminal cases pending.	Makes information available to public, but no system to check if information is true. Impact on reducing criminal influence unclear.
Organisational Elections & IT Returns	Election Commission order: parties must hold organisational elections and file income tax returns.	Parties have started doing so, but sometimes it is mere formality. Impact on internal democracy unclear.

Reform Suggestions (Not Yet Accepted)

Three Major Suggestions

- (1) Regulate Internal Affairs:** Law to make it compulsory for parties to maintain member registers, follow their own constitution, have independent authority for disputes, and hold open elections to highest posts.
- (2) Women's Representation:** Mandatory one-third tickets to women candidates. Quota for women in decision-making bodies of the party.
- (3) State Funding of Elections:** Government to give parties money for election expenses — in kind (petrol, paper, telephone) or in cash based on votes secured in last election.

Two Other Ways to Reform Parties

- 1. Public Pressure:** People can put pressure through petitions, publicity, and agitations. Citizens, pressure groups, movements, and media can play an important role. If parties feel they would lose public support, they become more serious about reforms.
- 2. Active Participation:** Those who want reforms should join political parties. The quality of democracy depends on the degree of public participation. The problem of bad politics can be solved by **more and better politics**.

Section 08

Glossary of Key Terms

Political Party

A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government, agreeing on policies to promote collective good.

Partisan

A person strongly committed to a party, group, or faction. Marked by tendency to take a side and inability to take a balanced view.

Ruling Party

The political party that runs the government after winning elections.

Opposition Party

Party that loses elections and plays the role of criticising government, voicing different views, and mobilising opposition.

Coalition

Government formed by various parties coming together in a multiparty system.

Alliance / Front

When several parties join hands for contesting elections and winning power. Examples: NDA, UPA, Left Front.

Defection

Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected (to a legislative body) to a different party.

Affidavit

A signed document submitted to an officer, where a person makes a sworn statement regarding personal information (property, criminal cases).

National Party

Party securing at least 6% votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in 4 states AND winning at least 4 Lok Sabha seats.

State Party

Party securing at least 6% votes in State Assembly election AND winning at least 2 seats. Also called regional party.

Section 09

Q&A, MCQs & Case Studies**NCERT Exercise Questions with Answers****Q1 State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.**

Political parties perform seven key functions: (1) **Contest elections** by putting up candidates. (2) Present different **policies and programmes** for voters to choose from. (3) Play a decisive role in **making laws** — members follow party direction in legislature. (4) **Form and run governments** — recruit, train leaders, make them ministers. (5) Play the **role of opposition** by criticising government and mobilising dissent. (6) **Shape public opinion** by raising issues and launching movements. (7) Provide people **access to government machinery** and welfare schemes.

Q2 What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

Political parties face four major challenges: (1) **Lack of internal democracy** — power concentrated in one or few leaders, no regular internal elections, ordinary members lack information and influence. (2) **Dynastic succession** — top positions controlled by one family, no transparent procedures for ordinary workers to rise. (3) **Growing role of money and muscle power** — parties nominate candidates who can raise money or win by any means, sometimes supporting criminals. (4) **Lack of meaningful choice** — declining ideological differences among parties, same leaders shifting between parties.

Q3 Suggest some reforms to strengthen parties so that they perform their functions well.

Several reforms have been implemented and more have been suggested: **Already implemented:** (a) Anti-defection law prevents MLAs/MPs from switching parties. (b) Supreme Court mandated affidavits disclosing property and criminal cases. (c) Election Commission requires organisational elections and income tax filing. **Suggested reforms:** (a) Law to regulate internal affairs — member registers, own constitution, independent dispute authority, open elections. (b) Mandatory one-third tickets to women and quota in decision-making bodies. (c) State funding of elections in kind or cash. **Other ways:** (a) Public pressure through petitions, publicity, agitations by citizens, pressure groups, and media. (b) Active participation — people who want reforms should join political parties.

Q4 What is a political party?

A political party is a group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government. They agree on some policies and programmes for the society with a view to promote the collective good. They try to persuade people that their policies are better than others and seek to implement them by winning popular support through elections.

Q5 What are the characteristics of a political party?

The key characteristics of a political party are: (1) It is a group of people who agree on policies and programmes. (2) It aims to contest elections and hold power in government. (3) It seeks to promote the collective good of society. (4) It has three components — leaders, active members, and followers. (5) It reflects fundamental political divisions in society and involves partisanship. (6) It is known by which part of society it stands for, which policies it supports, and whose interests it upholds.

Additional Short Answer Questions**Q6 Explain the criteria for recognition as a national party and a state party.**

National Party: Must secure at least 6% of total votes in Lok Sabha elections or Assembly elections in four states AND win at least four seats in the Lok Sabha. **State Party:** Must secure at least 6% of total votes in an election to the Legislative Assembly of a state AND win at least two seats. Recognised parties get a unique election symbol that only their official candidates can use.

Q7 Why has India evolved a multiparty system?

India has evolved a multiparty system because the social and geographical diversity in such a large country is not easily absorbed by two or even three parties. The country has multiple religions, castes, languages, and regional identities. Each country develops a party system conditioned by its special circumstances. India's diversity naturally led to the formation of numerous parties representing different interests. In 2004, there were three major alliances — NDA, UPA, and Left Front — showing how coalition politics accommodates this diversity.

Q8 How does the anti-defection law work? What is its limitation?

The Constitution was amended to prevent elected MLAs and MPs from changing parties. If any MLA or MP changes parties, they will lose their seat in the legislature. This was done because many elected representatives were indulging in defection to become ministers or for cash rewards. **Limitation:** While the law has helped bring defection down, it has also made dissent more difficult. MPs and MLAs now have to accept whatever the party leaders decide, even if they disagree, since opposing the party line could be treated as defection.

Q9 Describe the ideology of BJP and INC.

BJP: Founded in 1980, reviving the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951). Draws inspiration from India's ancient culture and values, and Deendayal Upadhyaya's ideas of integral humanism and Antyodaya. Cultural nationalism (Hindutva) is an important element. Wants full integration of J&K, uniform civil code, and ban on religious conversions. Leads the NDA. **INC:** Founded in 1885, one of the oldest parties in the world. A centrist party (neither rightist nor leftist). Under Nehru, sought to build a modern secular democratic republic. Espouses secularism and welfare of weaker sections and minorities. Supports new economic reforms with a human face. Led the UPA from 2004 to 2019.

Q10 Why do we say that political parties are a necessary condition for democracy?

Political parties are necessary because: (1) Without parties, every candidate would be independent and unable to promise major policy changes. (2) No one would be responsible for how the country is run. (3) Parties gather different views and present them to government. (4) They bring representatives together to form responsible governments. (5) They provide a mechanism to support or restrain the government, make policies, justify or oppose them. (6) Even in non-party panchayat elections, factions naturally emerge that function like parties. The rise of political parties is directly linked to the emergence of representative democracies.

Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Q6 (NCERT). A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a _____.

Answer: Political Party

Q7 (NCERT). Match List I with List II:

List I: 1. Congress Party, 2. BJP, 3. CPI(M), 4. Telugu Desam Party

List II: A. NDA, B. State party, C. UPA, D. Left Front

(a) C, A, B, D (b) C, D, A, B (c) C, A, D, B (d) D, C, A, B

Answer: (c) 1→C (UPA), 2→A (NDA), 3→D (Left Front), 4→B (State party)

Q8 (NCERT). Who among the following is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party?

A. Kanshi Ram B. Sahu Maharaj C. B.R. Ambedkar D. Jotiba Phule

Answer: A. Kanshi Ram

Q9 (NCERT). What is the guiding philosophy of the Bharatiya Janata Party?

A. Bahujan Samaj B. Revolutionary democracy C. Integral humanism D. Modernity

Answer: C. Integral humanism

Q10 (NCERT). Consider the following statements on parties:

A. Political parties do not enjoy much trust among the people.

B. Parties are often rocked by scandals involving top party leaders.

C. Parties are not necessary to run governments.

Which are correct?

(a) A, B, and C (b) A and B (c) B and C (d) A and C

Answer: (b) A and B. Statement C is incorrect — parties ARE necessary for running governments.

Q11. How many parties are registered with the Election Commission of India?

A. More than 500 B. More than 750 C. More than 100 D. Exactly 6

Answer: B. More than 750

Q12. Which country is an example of a one-party system?

A. India B. United Kingdom C. China D. USA

✔ **Answer: C. China (only Communist Party allowed to rule)**

Q13. Which party is the first from North-East India to get national party status?

A. Mizo National Front B. Asom Gana Parishad C. National People's Party (NPP) D. Bodoland People's Front

✔ **Answer: C. National People's Party (NPP), founded by P.A. Sangma**

Q14. When was the Indian National Congress founded?

A. 1947 B. 1885 C. 1920 D. 1951

✔ **Answer: B. 1885 — one of the oldest parties in the world**

Q15. What is 'defection' in the context of political parties?

A. Forming a new party B. Changing party allegiance after getting elected C. Contesting as independent D. Criticising the ruling party

✔ **Answer: B. Changing party allegiance from the party on which a person got elected to a different party**

Q16. To be recognised as a national party, a party must win at least how many seats in the Lok Sabha?

A. 2 seats B. 4 seats C. 6 seats D. 10 seats

✔ **Answer: B. 4 seats (along with 6% votes in Lok Sabha or Assembly elections in 4 states)**

Q17. Which of the following is NOT a challenge to political parties?

A. Lack of internal democracy B. Dynastic succession C. Contesting elections D. Money and muscle power

✔ **Answer: C. Contesting elections is a function of parties, not a challenge**

Case-Based Questions

Case Study 1: Muhammad Yunus & Nagarik Shakti

Muhammad Yunus, a famous economist of Bangladesh, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 along with Grameen Bank. In February 2007, he decided to launch a political party called Nagarik Shakti (Citizens' Power) to contest parliamentary elections. His objective was to foster proper leadership, good governance, and build a new Bangladesh. While many welcomed his decision, leaders of traditional parties were apprehensive, questioning whether an outsider could handle politics.

1. Do you think Yunus made a right decision to float a new political party?
2. How would you want this new party organised to be different from others?

Suggested Answer: Yunus's decision was right because existing parties lacked clean governance. A new party could bring fresh perspectives and raise public expectations. The party should be organised with transparent internal elections, no dynastic succession, regular audits, grassroots democratic decision-making, mandatory women representation, and a focus on anti-corruption measures — addressing all four challenges identified in the chapter.

Case Study 2: The Coalition Dilemma

In the 2004 parliamentary elections in India, three major alliances competed — the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), and the Left Front. No single party could win a majority on its own. The UPA, led by INC, came to power with the support of the Left Front and other parties. State parties like DMK, NCP, and RJD played crucial roles in government formation.

1. What type of party system does this example illustrate?
2. How has the coalition era strengthened federalism?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a multiparty system?

Answers: (1) This illustrates a multiparty system with alliances/coalitions. (2) State parties getting opportunities in national coalition governments since 1996 has given states a stronger voice in national politics, strengthening federalism and democracy. (3) **Advantages:** Allows variety of interests and opinions to enjoy political representation, gives voice to regional concerns. **Disadvantages:** Can appear messy, may lead to political instability, complex coalition management.











Case Study 3: Reforming Political Parties

The Supreme Court of India passed an order making it mandatory for every candidate contesting elections to file an affidavit giving details of property and criminal cases pending. The Election Commission also ordered parties to hold organisational elections and file income tax returns. Despite these measures, many citizens feel that political parties have not changed enough. Some suggest state funding of elections, while others argue that over-regulation could be counter-productive.

1. What was the purpose of the Supreme Court's order on affidavits?
2. Why might over-regulation of political parties be counter-productive?
3. What other ways can citizens contribute to reforming political parties?

Answers: (1) The purpose was to reduce the influence of money and criminals in elections by making information about candidates' wealth and criminal background available to voters. (2) Over-regulation could force parties to find ways to cheat the law, and parties themselves would not agree to pass laws they don't like. Legal solutions alone cannot solve political problems. (3) Citizens can: (a) Put pressure through petitions, publicity, and agitations. (b) Join political parties to improve them from within. The quality of democracy depends on public participation — bad politics can be solved by more and better politics.

Exam Preparation Tips

-  Memorise the 7 functions of political parties — a frequently asked 5-mark question
-  Remember the 4 challenges: Internal Democracy, Dynastic Succession, Money & Muscle Power, Lack of Meaningful Choice
-  Know all 6 national parties with their founding year, founder/ideology, and 2019 Lok Sabha performance
-  Learn the recognition criteria: National Party = 6% votes in 4 states + 4 Lok Sabha seats; State Party = 6% votes + 2 Assembly seats
-  Three party systems: One-Party (China), Two-Party (USA, UK), Multi-Party (India) — with examples
-  Three reform efforts already taken: Anti-defection law, mandatory affidavits (Supreme Court), organisational elections (EC)
-  Three reform suggestions: Regulate internal affairs, one-third women tickets, state funding of elections
-  Key data: 750+ parties registered, India party membership 11.4%, INC founded 1885, BJP founded 1980, BSP by Kanshi Ram 1984
-  NCERT MCQs Q6–Q10 are directly from exercises — practice the matching question (Congress→UPA, BJP→NDA, CPI(M)→Left Front, TDP→State party)
-  For case-based questions, focus on Muhammad Yunus passage (Q11 NCERT) and coalition politics scenarios

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