

PARTY SYSTEMS IN INDIA

INTRODUCTION

political parties are important features of a political system. In a democratic political system, they are important tools in strengthening democracy. And their characteristics consist of organizations, leaderships, ideologies, policies and programmes, support bases and patterns of mobilization of support. Party system indicates number of political parties in a political system, and nature of coalition which political parties forge before and after elections, and in forming governments. about political parties and their types in India. This unit will explain how the political parties in India can be grouped in terms of political systems. The contemporary party system in India originally developed in the context of the struggle for freedom. The purpose of political parties changed after Independence. Before Independence, the political parties were part of national movement with the main purpose of achieving Independence. After Independence, their purpose shifted to gain power and form government. For this purpose, they competed. Consequently, the party system in India underwent transformation from the dominance of a single party to emergence of multiple parties. Although India has a multi-party system, the party system has gone through many phases. For instances, in the first two decades of independence the country had one dominant party vs multiparty system. The concept of the multi-party system and coalition government at the centre became

popular after 1989. Political parties and party system in India have been greatly influenced by cultural diversity, social, ethnic, caste, community and religious pluralism, traditions of the nationalist movement, contrasting style of the party leadership, and clashing ideological perspectives. The Indian Constitution has established a parliamentary form of government both at the Centre and at the State. The members of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha are elected through elections by citizens of the country. Therefore, the political parties which contest the elections become part and parcel of the political system (party system) of the country. The party system is a link between people and the government.