

**MEANING**

1. A Political Party is a group of people who come together to contest elections & hold power in the govt.
2. They agree on some policies & programs for the society to promote collective good.
3. Parties reflect fundamental political divisions in a society because of PARTNERSHIP.
4. Political Party has three components:
  - (1) The leaders ; (2) The active members ; (3) The followers

**FUNCTIONS**

Basically, PP hold political offices & exercise political power by performing a series of functions

- (1) Parties contest elections
- (2) They put forward different policies & programs
- (3) Parties form & run the govt.
- (4) Parties make laws
- (5) Parties play the role of opposition party.
- (6) Parties shape Public opinion
- (7) Parties are bridge between people & govt. machinery

\* We need PP because they perform these functions to let representative democracy run & fulfill needs of people.



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How many parties should we have?

3 types of Party System

1. One/Mono PS : China [Only one Party]

2. Two/Bi PS : USA & UK [Two Parties]

3. Multi PS : India [more than two parties]

Note : One PS is undemocratic

Out of Bi-Party System & Multi Party system

choice depends upon NATURE OF SOCIETY

& historical evolution of the country.

National Political Party

That Party which gets ~~more than~~

6% vote share in Lok Sabha or 4 seats

State/Regional Political Party

6% vote share in Legislative Assembly of that state / 2 seats

Challenges to Political Parties

① Lack of internal democracy [No internal election]

② Dynastic Succession [Role of relatives]

③ Money Power

④ Muscle Power

⑤ No meaningful choice to the voters

Terms - PARTISANSHIP, DEFECTION