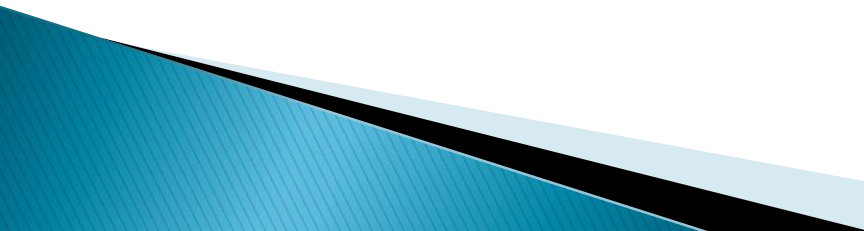


# POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

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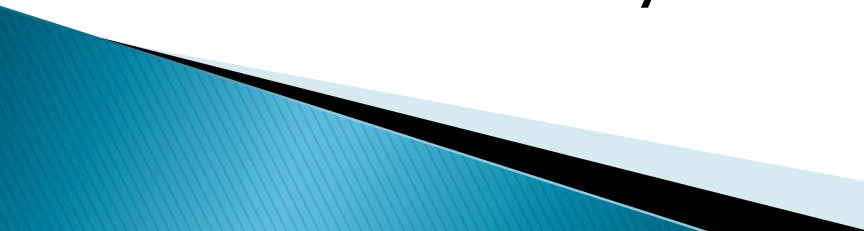
# Introduction:

- ▶ “Political party is the agency by which public opinion is translated in to reality.” – **Mac Iver.**
  - ▶ “A political party consists of a group of citizens more or less organized, who acts as a political unit and who by the use of their voting power, aim to control the government and carryout their general policies. It is the most elaborate and comprehensive form in which public opinion is organized and made effective in government.”  
**R.G. Gettel.**
  - ▶ “A party is a group men professing the same political doctrine.” – **Benjamin Constant.**
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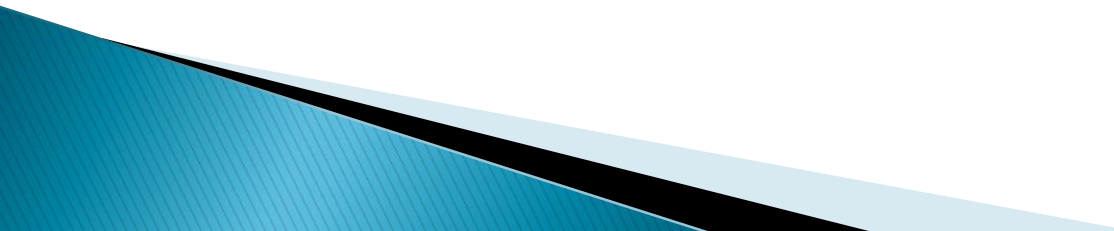
# Introduction.....

- ▶ Thus party is a body of persons –
  1. Who have **common views on important issues** of national importance,
  2. **Who aim at securing power** for the achievement of their broad objectives, and
  3. **Who have faith in the use of constitutional methods only.**
- ▶ These parties are **extra constitutional growth** in modern democracies – there is no provision for the compulsory formation of political parties.
- ▶ But the freedom to form associations and free election give rise to political parties .
- ▶ **These parties are the connecting link between the government & the people.**


# Importance of political Parties:

1. They are needed in a democracy to **represent different shades of opinion.**
  2. They are also needed to **fight elections.**
  3. They provides flexibility in the structure of the government – **provides scope for alternative government without violence.**
    - ▶ **Representative government cannot function without political parties.**
    - ▶ **As Bryce puts it “Parties are inevitable. No free country has been without them.”**
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# Pre-requisites of a Political Party:

1. It should have a **ideology** of its own.
  2. It should have a **effective organization** of its own to propagate its programmes and capture power.
  3. Have its own **objectives & programmes**.
  4. They should aim at **promoting the national interest** and not the narrow sectional interests.
  5. They seek to power in order to **promote public interest**.
  6. They should **employ constitutional means & work within the constitutional framework**.
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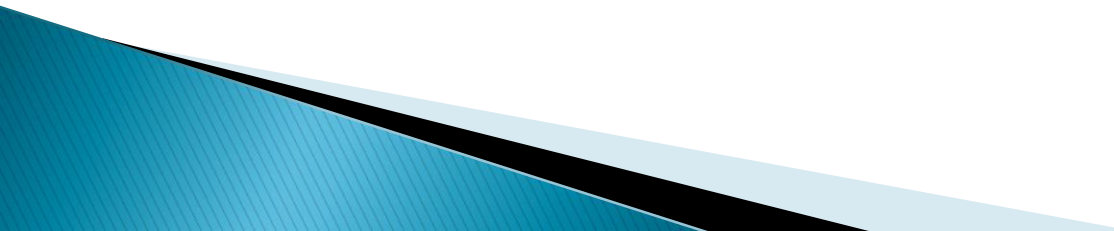
# Common Functions of P. Parties:

1. **Building party cadres,**
  2. **Organizing public opinion** on issues affecting public.
  3. **Ventilating public grievances** and communicating them to the government.
  4. **Selecting candidates** to contest elections.
  5. **Provide political leadership** to the people.
  6. **To formulate public policies** and implement after coming to power.
  7. **To organize and strengthen the party.**
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# Nature/feature of Indian Party system:


- ▶ India has a **unique multi-part system.**
- ▶ The party system in India has its own characteristic features like –

# 1. Extra-constitutional growth:

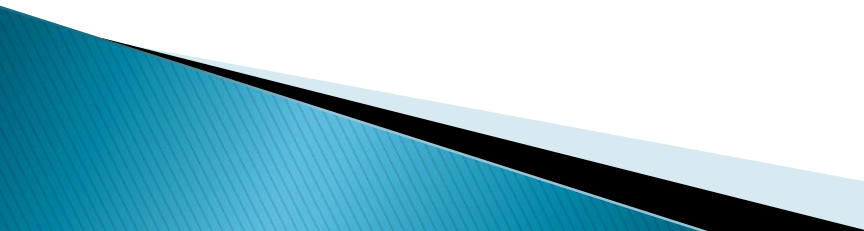
- ▶ The constitution does not make any direct mention about the organization and functioning of the political parties.
  - ▶ They are extra- constitutional growth like in many other democratic countries.
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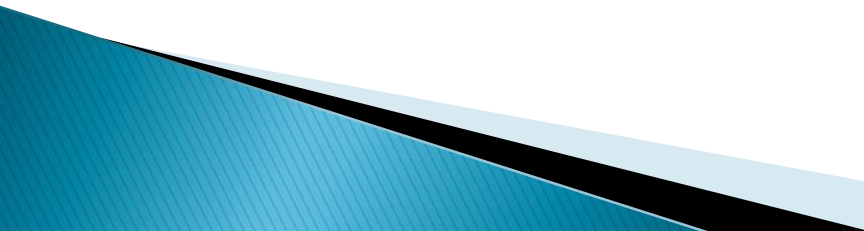
## 2. Unique Multi-party system:

- ▶ The multi-party system exist in India does not resemble the French system where each party is almost as weak or strong as the other parties.
  - ▶ But in India we have wide varieties of parties varying very much in their strength and organization.
  - ▶ **In India multi-party system reflects diversity, pluralism and individualism.**
  - ▶ It has the largest number of parties in the world.
  - ▶ There are national, regional, communal, local & fringe political parties.
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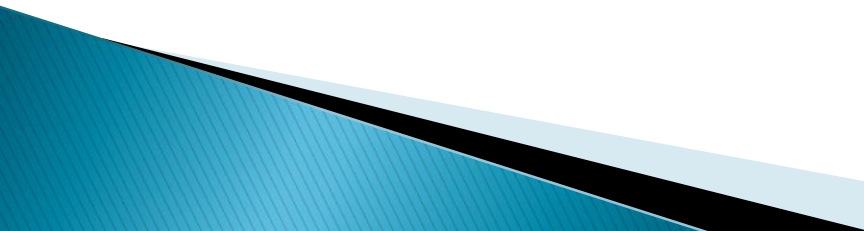
# 3. Multiple party system:

- ▶ Till 1977, at the national level there was the dominance of the Congress party at the national level within a multi-party system.
  - ▶ Today, BJP and its allies(NDA) and Congress and its allies(UPA) are the serious contenders for power at the national level.
  - ▶ **But at the state level there are different party systems operate at different states.**
  - ▶ E.g. T.N. has 2 party system, other states multi-party system and in some other states coalition system.
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## 4. Fragmentation and Polarization of parties:

- ▶ This happens in India for the sake of political power.
  - ▶ For example, in 1964 the Communist Party split into CPI & CPM.
  - ▶ In 1969 there was a split in the Congress party into Congress(O) Congress(R).
  - ▶ Again in 1978 the Congress split into Indira Congress & Reddy Congress.
  - ▶ Again in 1995 Congress splintered Arjun Singh & N.D. Tiwary went out of the Congress led by PVN.
  - ▶ In T.N. the DMK split into DMK and AIDMK.
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# Fragmentation & polarization...

- ▶ Likewise in Punjab Akalidal divided into two viz Badal group & Tohar group.
  - ▶ Likewise parties have also fused together many a time.
  - ▶ E.g. in 1977 Congress (o) Jan Sangh Socialist Party BLD joined together to form the Janatha Party.
  - ▶ In 1998 The Janatha Dal was formed with the merger of 3 Parties – Janatha Party, Jan Morcha and Lok Dal under the leadership of V.P.Singh.
  - ▶ In 1999 Janatha Dal was split into JDU (Sharad Yadav), Janatha Dal Secular (Deve Gowda), Lok Shakthi (Paswan), RJD (Lallu Prasad Yadav).
  - ▶ In this process of frequent splits and fusion many parties loose their distinct identity.
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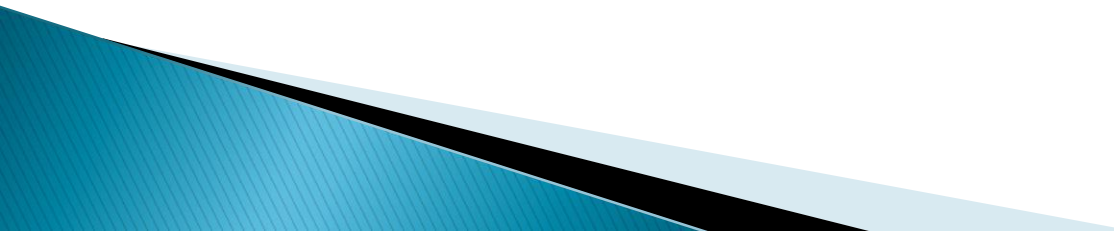
# 5. Absence of Strong Ideology:

- ▶ Parties in India lacks the necessary ideological commitments due to the frequent splits and fusions for the sake of power.
- ▶ Bargaining and adjustments have become the common features of all political parties.
- ▶ It is the anti Congressism and anti- BJP ism that unites the parties despite their strong ideological differences.
- ▶ Despite the absence of strict adherence to a particular ideology there are some parties which tend to be called Rightists(BJP), Leftists(CPI& CPIM) and Centrists like Congress.
- ▶ Rightists are conservatives, leftists are revolutionaries & centrists are moderates.

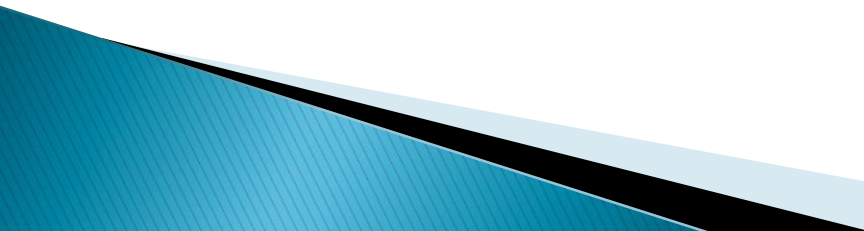
# 6. Strong and Able leadership:

- ▶ The popularity and the very survival of the parties depends on the ability of the leader
- ▶ This is true not only in the case of national parties but also of the regional parties.
- ▶ For example the congress party declined in its importance after the death of Pt. Nehru.
- ▶ Likewise the Karnataka Kranthiranga disappeared after the death of Devaraj Urs in the state.
- ▶ The role of M.G. Ramachandran in the case of AIADMK, N.T. Rama Rao's role in TDP, Mulayam Singh in SJP in UP, Laloo Prasad Yadav in In the RJD in Bihar, etc.

# 7. Existence of the Temporary and Small Parties:

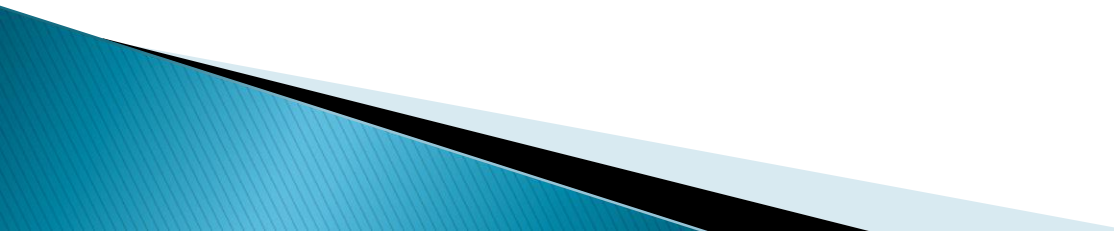
- ▶ There are innumerable small political organizations which have their identity under some conditions loses its existence shortly.
  - ▶ There are Para-political parties, e.g. in 1988 some of the members of the Congress party led by V.P. Singh formed a body called Jan Morcha (Peoples Front).
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## 8. Parties Dominated by Caste and Communal forces:

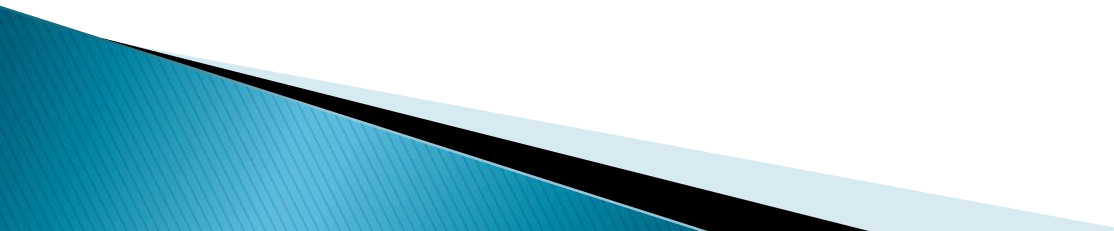
- ▶ Parties in India are dominated by caste and communal considerations.
  - ▶ **BJP, Muslim League, Akali Dal, Shiva Sena are communal parties.**
  - ▶ **BSP & SP in UP is caste based parties.**
  - ▶ Many a time candidates for election are selected on the basis of caste and communal considerations.
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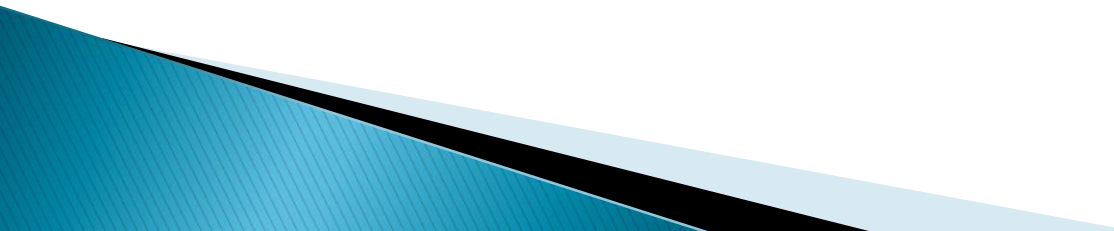
# 9. Lack of strong opposition:

- ▶ It lacks strong and well organized opposition.
  - ▶ **The opposition is weak and disunited.**
  - ▶ The opposition is essential for highlighting the short comings of the government.
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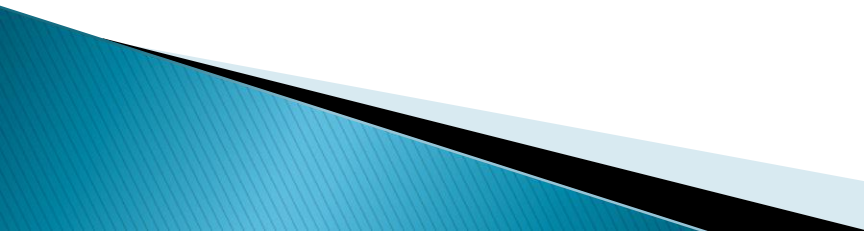
# 10. Emergence of Regional Parties:

- ▶ National parties have suffered in strength and Regional Parties grown in numbers and influence.
  - ▶ These parties articulate and defend regional identities and interests.
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# 11. Use of unconstitutional means to power:

- ▶ Political parties frequently exploit the political or social discontent to their advantage.
  - ▶ They do not hesitate to use such means as civil disobedience, mass demonstrations, strikes and protest rallies, Bandhs to embarrass the party in power and some of these tactics may become violent.
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# 12. Politics of Defection:

- ▶ It means the opportunistic transfer of loyalties from one political party to another.
  - ▶ A legislator elected on the ticket of one party joins another party for selfish reasons without his voters consent is called defection.
  - ▶ The anti-defection Act passed in 1985 to stop this menace.
  - ▶ It was Rajiv Gandhi who get passed the 52<sup>nd</sup> amendment in 1985 and banned defection.
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# 13. Closely resembling policies of parties:

- ▶ Close resemblance of the policies of the parties.
- ▶ **Policies and programmes look alike.**
- ▶ Like raising the standard of life, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, checking price rises, etc.

# 13. Limited Membership

- ▶ People are not openly committed to any political parties and not that political conscious too.
- ▶ **When compared to western democracies membership of the parties in India is rather very low – lack of political participation & education.**