



NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY - POLITY

News: *BSP risks losing national party status after rout in Lok Sabha polls*

What's in the news?

- The ECI has laid down the technical criterion for a party to be recognised as a national/state party in the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968, as amended from time to time.
- A party may gain or lose national/state party status from time to time, depending on the fulfilment of these laid-down conditions.

How is a party's status decided



A party needs to fulfill any of the following conditions to get national or state tag

For national status

Votes in LS, state polls: A party should secure at least 6% of the votes polled in four or more states in Lok Sabha or assembly elections, and, in addition, have at least four members in the Lok Sabha

Seats in LS: It should have at least 2% of the total Lok Sabha seats, and have candidates from not less than three states

Must be a state party: It is recognised as a state party in at least four states

For state tag

Votes in assembly polls: The party must get at least 6% of the votes and win at least two seats in the assembly election

1 MP must in LS: It gets at least 6% of the votes polled and has at least one MP in the Lok Sabha

Assembly seats: It has at least 3% of the votes or three MLAs in the assembly, whichever is more

Strength in House: The party has at least one Lok Sabha member for every 25 assembly members, or any fraction thereof allotted to the state

Performance in past polls: It has at least 8% of the total valid votes polled in the state in the previous election to the Lok Sabha or assembly in the state

Perks of national party

Common party symbol across states

Free airtime during elections on public broadcasters

Space for a party office in New Delhi





Criteria for a Party to be Recognised as a National Party:

A political party would be considered (if it satisfies any of the below conditions) a national party if:

- it is 'recognised' in **four or more states** as a state party; or
- if its candidates polled **at least 6% of total valid votes** in any four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or Assembly elections and has **at least four MPs** in the last Lok Sabha polls; or
- if it has **won at least 2% of the total seats** in the Lok Sabha from not less than three states.

The BJP, Congress, CPI(M), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), National People's Party (NPP) and the AAP are the national parties now.

Criteria for a Party to be Recognised as a State Party:

To be recognised as a state party, a party need:

- at least **6% vote-share** in the last Assembly election and have at least **2 MLAs**; or
- have **6% vote-share in the last Lok Sabha** elections from that state and at least **one MP** from that state; or
- at least **3% of the total number of seats** or **three seats**, whichever is more, in the last Assembly elections; or
- at least **one MP for every 25 members** or any fraction allotted to the state in the Lok Sabha; or
- have at least **8% of the total valid votes** in the last Assembly election or Lok Sabha election from the state.

DMK in Tamil Nadu, BJD in Odisha, YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh, RJD in Bihar, TRS in Telangana are the names of some of the state political parties.

Benefits of being a Recognised Party:

- If a party is recognised as a State Party, it is entitled for **exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol** to the candidates in the **State** in which it is so recognised.
- If a party is recognised as a National Party, it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates **throughout India**.
- Recognised 'State' and 'National' parties need only **one proposer** for filing the nomination.
- They are also entitled for **two sets of electoral rolls free of cost** at the time of revision of rolls and their candidates get one copy of electoral roll free of cost during General Elections.
- Further, they get **broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan** during general elections.
- A recognised National or State party can have a **maximum of 40 "Star campaigners"** and a registered unrecognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 "Star Campaigners".
 - However, the travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.