

### 1. State the various functions political parties perform in a democracy.

- **Contest elections:** Political parties put forward candidates to represent them in elections and strive to gain public support to come to power.
- **Form and run governments:** The party (or coalition) with majority seats forms the government, making key decisions and implementing policies.
- **Make policies/programmes:** Parties propose programs and policies to address public issues; their manifestos guide the government's direction.
- **Shape public opinion:** Parties organize campaigns, debates, and discussions to inform and influence the citizens.
- **Provide opposition:** Parties not in power check the ruling party, criticize its policies, and ensure accountability.
- **Link people to government:** Parties listen to public grievances and interest groups, conveying their concerns to the government, thus bridging the gap between citizens and authorities.

### 2. What are the various challenges faced by political parties?

- **Lack of internal democracy:** Many parties are dominated by a few leaders, with little internal consultation.
- **Dynastic succession:** Power often passes down within families, sidelining capable leaders.
- **Role of money and muscle power:** Candidatures or influence are sometimes won through wealth or force, undermining fairness.
- **Declining trust among citizens:** Scandals and unfulfilled promises have led to diminishing confidence in parties' integrity and intentions.

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

- **Enforce internal democracy:** Regular, fair party elections and transparency in choosing candidates.

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- **Transparency in funding:** Parties should declare sources of their funds to avoid corruption.
- **Regulate dynastic politics:** Encourage opportunities for ordinary members, not just relatives of leaders.
- **Encourage voter/civil society participation:** Greater public involvement in internal matters and policy-making.
- **Strict laws against corruption:** Penalize criminal or corrupt practices among party members.

### 4. What is a political party?

A political party is an organized group sharing similar ideas, working to gain political power, contest elections, form the government, and implement their policies.



### 5. What are the characteristics of a political party?

- Parties have an organized structure and membership.
- They represent specific ideologies or viewpoints.
- They aim to contest and win elections for power.
- They aspire to form government and implement their agenda.
- Parties work to mobilize citizens and create public support.

**6. A group of people who come together to contest elections and hold power in the government is called a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Political party** – This is the fundamental definition.

### 7. Match List I (organisations and struggles) with List II:

1. **Congress Party** is a major national party, leader of the United Progressive Alliance.
2. **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** heads the National Democratic Alliance.

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3. **Communist Party of India (Marxist)** leads the Left Front.
4. **Telugu Desam Party** is a notable State party in Andhra Pradesh.

### 8. Who among the following is the founder of the Bahujan Samaj Party?

**Kanshi Ram** founded the BSP to represent Dalits and marginalized communities in India.

### 9. What is the guiding philosophy of the Bharatiya Janata Party?

**Integral humanism** — a philosophy emphasizing balanced development of material and spiritual life, as propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

### 10. Consider the following statements on parties. Which are correct?

- **A.** Many people distrust political parties, citing broken promises or scandals.
- **B.** Scandals involving party leaders are common in the news.
- **C.** The statement that parties are unnecessary for running governments is incorrect: democracy would not function smoothly without structured parties and opposition.

Therefore, **only A and B are correct.**