

Role Of Political Parties in Democracy

Before we analyze the role and framework of Indian political parties, students must understand the importance of political parties in a parliamentary democracy.

Parliamentary democracy is a form of government based on consensus and discussion. On vital policy issues, citizens are likely to disagree. Political parties act as organized outlets for people to express their differing viewpoints peacefully. Conflict of ideas may be replaced by a clash of guns in the absence of organized political parties. A coup d'etat may be the order of the day. Indeed, if political parties do not go, governments will be unstable, and their policies will be confused.

They provide alternate government management teams. They present alternative programs to the public and educate about their benefits and drawbacks. No government becomes autocratic or abuses its power if political parties leave. When the opposition wields cudgels to reveal the flaws in the ill-conceived legislation, parliamentary dictatorship is also limited.

The party combats the masses' apathy and indifference to the issues that affect them the most. They make voters aware of their rights and instil a sense of regional or national pride. Election campaigns are primarily educational. Bryce said that "The party strife is sort of education for those willing to receive instruction and something soaks through even into the less interested or thoughtful electors. The Parties keep nations mind alive as the rise and fall of the sweeping tide freshens the water of long ocean inlets".

This is especially true in parliamentary democracy. Political parties keep the public informed and watchful about current government operations.

India's population continues to grow, and as a result, the number of electorates grows each time the country has general elections. As a result, political parties play an essential role in facilitating elections. Before the election, the candidates are nominated by their respective political parties. It enables voters to understand the value of individual candidates and the programs of various political parties well before the elections. Furthermore, political parties allow even a poor but deserving candidate to run for office because the party funding and organization assist him.

Political parties, without a doubt, are the essence of democracy. A significant number of critics have levelled harsh remarks about political parties, owing to various flaws in human nature. The importance of political parties created on ideological grounds cannot be overstated by proponents of party less democracy or advocates of a classless and stateless society.

We might agree with Bryce, who remarked, shall there then always be parties in his concluding remarks on the alternative to political parties. No one has yet demonstrated how such governments could function without them. It is worth noting that the founding fathers of the United States of America, who were adamantly opposed to the mere concept of political parties, witnessed the emergence of political parties in their lifetime. Political parties arose in the United States due to it, which was a new legal development.

Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the birthplace of parliamentary democracy, the party system has proven to be a boon to the workings of England's unwritten constitution. The English opposition was granted official legitimacy because it was deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the government. The opposition leader was elevated to cabinet status. "The Prime Minister of England knows more about the opposition leader than his wife," it is reported. Because of its illustrious party structure, British democracy is regarded as a model parliamentary democracy.

Because of the growing importance of political parties, the latter was thought to be synonymous with democracy. "Democracy without political parties is like a ship without a pilot or a boat without a rudder," Nehru said.