

## 1. Election Commission grants national party status to AAP

**Prelims Syllabus:** Election & Electoral Reforms

**Mains Syllabus:** GS-II Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary  
Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations  
and their role in the Polity.



### Why in News?

- The EC stripped the national party status of Trinamool Congress, the NCP and the CPI, and recognised the AAP as a national party.

### What are unrecognised political parties?

- Either newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a State party or those which have never contested in elections since being registered are considered unrecognised parties. Such parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.

### Unrecognised political parties in India:

- There are 2,360 political parties registered with the Election Commission of India and 2,301 or 97.50% of them are unrecognised.

### Registration of political parties:

- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

- A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Election Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Commission of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

#### **To be eligible for a 'National Political Party of India:**

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
- In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.
- It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States.

#### **To be eligible for a 'State Political Party:**

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in the State at a general election, either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned
- In addition, it wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
- It wins at least three percent (3%) of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State, or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more.

#### **Benefits:**

- If a party is recognised as a State Party', it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it in the State in which it is so recognised, and if a party is recognised as a 'National Party' it is entitled for exclusive allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.
- Recognised 'State' and 'National' parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination and 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.
- They also get broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
- The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.