

## **Election Commission Of India Gives National Party Status To AAP NCP, TMC And CPI Lose National Party Status, What it Means for 2024?**

The list of national parties underwent significant revisions by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was officially recognised as a national party by the ECI. Meanwhile, three additional political parties Trinamool Congress (TMC), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Communist Party of India (CPI) had their national party statuses withdrawn by the ECI. The delighted AAP celebrated the achievement in grand style. The Election Commission also revoked the state party registration that had been awarded to the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) in Uttar Pradesh, the Mizoram People's Conference (MPC) in Mizoram, the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) in Manipur, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) in West Bengal, the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) in Puducherry, and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Andhra Pradesh.

### **What is A 'National Party'?**

According to the definition, a national party is one that is active "nationally," as opposed to a regional party, which is active only in a particular state or region. In India, national parties like the Congress and the BJP are frequently the bigger party. Yet, some smaller parties are also recognised as national parties. Being a national party is occasionally associated with a certain magnitude, but this does not always indicate having substantial political clout at the federal level. The DMK in Tamil Nadu, the BJD in Odisha, the YSRCP in Andhra Pradesh, the RJD in Bihar, or the TRS in Telangana are just a few examples of parties that remain regional even if they are the dominant force in a sizable state.

### **Criteria of Being A National Party**

The ECI has defined the technical standards for a party to be recognised as a national party. A party might occasionally gain or lose national party status depending on how frequently these conditions are satisfied. According to the ECI's Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019 handbook, a political party would be regarded as a national party if it meets one of the following three requirements :

- (1) it has "recognition" in at least four states; or
- (2) if its candidates received at least 6% of all valid votes cast in four or more states at the most recent Lok Sabha or Assembly elections, and during the most recent Lok Sabha elections, at least four of those candidates won seats as MPs; or
- (3) if it has won not fewer than three states, but at least 2% of the Lok Sabha's total seats.

## **Criteria of Being A State Party**

***The following prerequisites must be satisfied in order for a state to be recognised as a party. The following are these:***

- (1) at least 6% of the vote in the most recent Assembly election and at least two legislators; or have at least one MP from that state and 6% of the vote in the most recent Lok Sabha elections; or*
- (2) at least three seats, or 3% of the total number of seats, in the most recent Assembly elections;*
- (3) at least one MP for every 25 members of the Lok Sabha, or any portion thereof, assigned to the state;*
- (4) have at least 8% of the state's total legitimate votes from the most recent Assembly or Lok Sabha election.*

## **How is the AAP Now A National Party?**

*Based on its electoral success in Delhi, Punjab, Goa, and Gujarat, the EC recognised AAP as a national party since it satisfied the requirement of Paragraph 6B(iii), which is recognition as a state party in four states. In Delhi and Punjab, the party has significant majorities and a sizable share of the vote. It garnered 6.77% of the vote in the Goa Assembly elections held in March of last year. In order to be recognised as a state party in a fourth state and become eligible for national party recognition, AAP needs to receive 6% of the vote in the Assembly elections in either Gujarat or Himachal Pradesh. The party received 13% of the vote in Gujarat, helping it to win the coveted title of national party.*

## **Advantages of Becoming A National Party**

### **Party symbol**

*A political organisation has the right to reserve a symbol for its candidates running across the nation once it has been recognised as a national party. A party can use a symbol to enable people who cannot read or write to recognise their party. Like the "Lotus" for the BJP and the "Hand" for the Congress.*

## ***National party candidate***

*Candidates from national parties need only one proposer to submit their nominations. Individuals have a right to two sets of free electoral rolls.*

## ***Broadcast slots***

*Dedicated broadcast slots are available to national parties during the general elections on government-run television networks like Doordarshan and All India Radio.*

## ***Star campaigners***

*During general elections, a national party may nominate up to 40 "star campaigners," whose travel costs are not included in a candidate's poll expense reports.*

## ***National presence***

*By achieving the status of a national party, a political organisation is able to run candidates in any state and participate in elections nationwide, which aids in enhancing its visibility across the country.*

## ***Land allocation***

*The government provides land for a national party to erect its headquarters.*

## ***Implication of Not Being A National Party***

*When a party no longer qualifies as a national party, then*

- (1) When national party names appear first on the EVM or voter list, the election emblem will no longer be displayed on the first few names on the ballot.*
- (2) When the EC calls an all-party meeting, the party will not be guaranteed a call.*
- (3) There may be a change in political funding.*
- (4) A reduction in airtime.*

(5) *There were less prominent candidates throughout the elections.*

## **List of National Parties in India**

- (1) *Bharatiya Janata Party*
- (2) *Indian National Congress*
- (3) *Bahujan Samaj Party*
- (4) *Communist Party of India (Marxist)*
- (5) *National People's Party (NPP)*
- (6) *Aam Aadmi Party*

## **Road Ahead for AAP**

*Although currently having no representatives in the Lok Sabha after receiving national recognition, the AAP has the advantage of being the only party (apart from the CPI-M and CPI) that the BJP's accusation of dynasty politics does not apply to. AAP's reputation as the successor to the India Against Corruption campaign is considerably damaged by the imprisonment of two prominent Delhi politicians, including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, pending trial. Arvind Kejriwal, the leader of the AAP and the Chief Minister of Delhi, called the Election Commission's ruling "nothing less than a miracle." The national status of AAP enhances its lustre as 2024 approaches. However the upcoming route is treacherous and incline.*