



Registered Unrecognised Political Parties Increased: ADR

Why in News

According to a report by **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, the number of **registered unrecognised political parties** has increased two-fold from 2010 to 2019.

- **ADR** is an Indian **non-governmental organization** established in 1999 situated in New Delhi.

Key Points

- **Registered Unrecognised Political Parties:**

- **Meaning:**

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

- **Recognised Political Party:**

- A **recognised political party** shall **either be a National party or a State party** if it meets certain laid down conditions.
- **To become a recognised political party** either at the state or national level, a party **has to secure a certain minimum percentage of polled valid votes or certain number of seats** in the state legislative assembly or the Lok Sabha during the last election.
- The **recognition granted by the Commission to the parties determines their right to certain privileges** like allocation of the party symbols, provision of time for political broadcasts on the state-owned television and radio stations and access to electoral rolls.

- **Election Commission's Guidelines:**

- The **Election Commission of India** issued guidelines on '**Transparency and Accountability in party funds and election expenditure - submission of reports by unrecognised political parties**' which were applicable to all political parties w.e.f 1st October, 2014.
- **As per these guidelines:**
 - All **unrecognised parties are required to submit their requisite reports** in the office of the respective state **Chief Election Officers (CEOs)**.
 - Scanned copies of **annual audited accounts, contribution reports and**

statements of election expenditure shall be uploaded on the websites of CEOs of the respective states, within three days of receipt of the same for viewing by the public.

▪ **Findings:**

◦ **Increased Number:**

- There are **2,360 political parties registered** with the **Election Commission of India** and **97.50% of them are unrecognised**.
- From **1,112 registered unrecognised parties in 2010**, the number has increased to **2,301 in 2019**.

◦ **Donation to these Parties:**

- The **contribution reports of only 78 or 3.39% of the total 2,301 registered unrecognised parties are available** in the public domain for Financial Year (FY) 2018-19.

▪ **Recommendations of ADR:**

- **255 parties were delisted in 2016** from the list of registered unrecognised parties as they were no longer in existence or functioning.
 - This exercise should continue so as to **weed out all political parties which do not contest in any election for more than 5 years** and also as a means to strengthen the registration process.
- Regulation of registration of political parties is crucial to **avoid money laundering, corrupt electoral practices and abuse of money power**.
 - Thus, the ECI should impose strict norms for the registration of an association of persons as a political party apart from **taking the stringent step of de-listing those parties** which fail to adhere to the rules.
- **IT scrutiny of unrecognised parties should be taken up**, especially of those which do not contest in elections but declare receipt of voluntary contributions.

[Source: TH](#)

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