



36 Biradaris

Why in News?

Recently, as the Haryana Assembly elections approach, political parties frequently refer to the “**36 biradaris**” to signal their commitment to various caste groups.

Key Points

- **Meaning of Biradari:**
 - Derived from the Persian word baradar, meaning “**brotherhood**” or “**clan.**”
 - In North India, biradari is often synonymous with caste, though terms like *kaum* or *jaat* may also be used.
- **Origin of '36 Biradaris':**
 - The phrase “36 biradaris” is not literal; it generally refers to various caste groups.
 - Historical sources, such as the **Ajmer-Merwar Gazetteer** and **Lt. Col. James Todd’s writings**, mention 36 dynasties or communities in medieval North India.
- **Social Role:**
 - Biradaris are akin to extended families and play roles in marriages, caste disputes, and social identity.
 - The concept promotes unity and social security, especially in Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

National Party

- **About:** As the name suggests, it has a nationwide presence as opposed to a regional party that is restricted to only a particular state or region.
 - A certain stature is sometimes associated with being a national party, but this does not necessarily translate into having a lot of national political influence.
- **Conditions for Declaring a Party ‘National’:**
 - As per the **ECI’s Political Parties and Election Symbols, 2019** handbook, a political party would be considered a national party if:
 - It is ‘recognised’ in four or more states
 - If its candidates have secured at least 6% of total valid votes in **at least 4 states** (in latest [Lok Sabha](#) or Assembly elections) and the party has at least 4 MPs in the last LS polls
 - If it has won at **least 2% of the total seats in the LS from at least 3 states.**

State Party

- A party is recognised as a state party in a state if any of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - If it **secures 6% of the valid votes** polled in the state at a general election to the respective state legislative assembly (state LA) and also, **it wins 2 seats** in the same state LA.
 - If it **secures 6% of the total valid votes** in the state at a general election to the LS; and also, it wins **1 seat in the LS from the same state.**
 - If it wins **3% of seats in the LA** at a general election to the legislative assembly of the **state concerned or 3 seats in the assembly (whichever is more).**

- If it wins **1 seat in the LS for every 25 seats** or any fraction thereof allotted to the state at a general election to the LS from the state concerned.
- If it secures **8% of the total valid votes polled in the state at a General Election to the LS from the state or to the State LA.**

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