

Party Systems and Challenges

Chapter 16: Political Parties · Topic 2

Key Concept

A one-party system has only one legal party, often limiting political competition, while a two-party system, like in the US, typically has two dominant parties.

A multi-party system, like India's, has several parties competing for power, which can better represent diverse interests but sometimes leads to unstable coalition governments.

Challenges facing party systems include internal party democracy issues, the role of money and criminalisation in politics, and maintaining accountability to voters.

Election Commission regulations and continuous political reforms aim to address these challenges, striving to strengthen party systems and improve democratic governance overall.

Quick Revision Notes

- Party systems can be one-party, two-party or multi-party.
- A one-party system limits political competition.
- A two-party system has two dominant parties, like the US.
- India follows a multi-party system.
- Multi-party systems represent diverse interests.
- They can lead to unstable coalition governments.
- Challenges include money and criminalisation in politics.
- Reforms aim to strengthen party systems and governance.

Practice Questions

- 1 Compare one-party, two-party and multi-party systems.
- 2 Research a challenge facing India's party system.
- 3 Discuss why coalition governments can be unstable.
- 4 Research the role of the Election Commission in regulating parties.
- 5 Explain the term 'criminalisation of politics'.
- 6 Debate the advantages and disadvantages of multi-party systems.