


Criteria for Recognised and Unrecognised Political Party	
Registered Unrecognised Political Party	Recognised Political Party
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECI registers political parties and grants them recognition as national or state parties on the basis of their poll performance. • A recognised political party shall either be a National party or a State party if it meets certain laid down conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It shall be treated as a recognised political party in a State, if such party has been engaged in political activity for a continuous period of five years and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » at least 1 member to the Lok Sabha for every 25 members of the House; » or at least 1 member to the Legislative Assembly of that State for every 30 members of that Assembly. - Total number of valid votes polled is not less than 6% at such general election in the State. - If a political party is treated as a recognised political party in four or more States, it shall be known as a 'National Party'.
<p>Associations can also contest elections without getting registered with ECI. However, they will not be eligible for availing of benefits under Representation of the People Act, 1951.</p>	

Benefits of recognized political party

- **Exclusive allotment of election symbols** to the candidates fielded by the party. A RUPP can select a symbol only from a list of free symbols.
- **Need only one proposer** for filing the nomination.
- **Entitled for two sets of electoral rolls** free of cost.
- **Get broadcast/telecast facilities** over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.
- **Can have a maximum of 40 Star campaigners** and a RUPP can nominate a maximum of 20 Star Campaigners.
- **Eligible for subsidized lands** for party offices.

1.6. ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

Why in news?

Recently, Parliament enacted the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021.

Background

- **The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996** was enacted with a view to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration, enforcement of foreign arbitral awards and the law relating to conciliation.
- Further, the act was **amended in 2015**, to make arbitration process user friendly, cost effective and ensure speedy disposal and neutrality of arbitrators.
- It was **again amended in 2019** to promote institutional arbitration in the country.
- **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020** was brought to ensure that all the stakeholder parties get an opportunity to seek unconditional stay of enforcement of arbitral awards.

About Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021

- Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021 replaces the **Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020**.