Election Commission of India to implement “Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System” (PPRTMS)

Syllabus subtopic: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

News: The Election Commission of India has reviewed the system and process of registration of political parties. The new guidelines will be effective from 1st January, 2020. Accordingly the “Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System” (PPRTMS) will be implemented through an online portal, to facilitate tracking of status of application by applicants.

Prelims and Mains focus: about Election Commission, the registration of the political parties, use of technology in the election process

About PPRTMS

The salient feature in the Political Parties Registration Tracking Management System is that the applicant (who is applying for party registration from 1st January, 2020 onwards) will be able to track the progress of his / her application and will get status update through SMS and email.

The applicant is required to provide contact mobile number and email address of the party / applicant in his application if he/she wishes to track the progress of the application.

Procedure for registration of political parties

The Registration of Political Parties is governed by the provisions of section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

A party seeking registration under the said section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation in prescribed format with basic particulars about the party such as name, address, membership details of various units, names of office bearers, etc, as required under sub-section (4) of the said section, and such other particulars that the Commission has specified under sub-section (6) of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, as mentioned in the Guidelines for registration.
Recognition as a National/State party

The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968
A registered political party is accorded the status of a recognized state or national party as per the criteria listed in ‘The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968’. This order was amended from time to time.

Recognition as a National Party
For any political party to be eligible for recognition as a National Party, it has to satisfy any of the three conditions listed below.

Recognition as a State Party
For any political party to be eligible for recognition as a State Party in a state, it has to satisfy any of the five conditions listed below.

6B. Conditions for recognition as a National Party – A political party shall be eligible to be recognized as National party, if, and only if, any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

(i) The candidates set up by the party, in any four or more States, at the last general election to the House of the People, or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned, have secured not less than six percent of the total valid votes polled in each of those States at that general election; and, in addition, it has returned at least four members to the House of the People at the aforesaid last general election from any State or States; or

(ii) At the last general election to the House of the People, the party has won at least two percent of the total number of seats in the House of the People, any fraction exceeding half being counted as one; and the party’s candidates have been elected to that House from not less than three States; or

(iii) The party is recognized as State party in at least four States.]
Note: National People's Party became the 8th political party to be recognized as a National Party in the country in 2019. BJP, Congress, CPI, CPI(M), BSP, NCP & AITC are seven other political parties to be recognized as National Parties.