

# A Comparative Political Analysis of Political Parties in Uzbekistan and India

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**Keywords:** Election System, Civic Society, Multi-Party System, Democratic Institution, Political Party, and Political Process.

**Abstract:** The article is devoted to studying the concept of a political party, and its role in society as well as the establishment and improvement of political parties, which have great importance in the formation of the political system and civil society of Uzbekistan and India. The article's goal is to compare and contrast the political parties in India and Uzbekistan.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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The development of the political consciousness of mankind, along with the times, has an effect on the improvement of political processes, the political system, and its components. Sustainable activity in modern civil society requires an organic connection with several diverse public organizations, the most important of which are political parties. Political parties are one of the main elements of the social system. The famous English politician Henry St. John Bolingbroke recognizes the political party as a democratic institution and states that "the party is the voice of the nation". Political parties are therefore essential to the way of life of the world's fastest-growing civilizations. Political parties have grown more powerful over the past century as a means of forming government bodies as well as a means of representing the interests of various groupings in society. The creation of political parties "created real opportunities for an entire nation to actively

cooperate with political institutions," according to a French political scientist and the originator of the idea of political parties, Mouris Dyuverdge. So, political parties allow citizens to participate in introducing new laws as well as governing the state. In this case, a political party is the most active part of citizens, connected on the basis of a common ideology, striving to gain, maintain, and implement state power. The specific characteristics of political parties lead to positive results in the conditions of legal competition and contribute to the development of the state and society. (Tashmetov, T. X., 2020- Duverger, M., 2000).

## 2 ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

In political science, concepts such as political party, civil society, democracy, and elections are interrelated and complementary problems. Many scientists have extensively researched the issues of civil society and the participation of political parties in its development. Among the Western scientists who carried out leading scientific research in this field, M. Duverge, T. Parsons, T. Hobbs, M. Weber, J. Sartori, G. Hegel, S. Benhabib, N. Fraser, S. White, D. Chizhov, B. Isaev, S. Lansov, Uzbek scientists M. Kyrgyzbayev, A. Otamurov, Q. Nazarov, S. Berdikulov, R. Hasanov, V. Kochkarov, H. Akhmedov, B. Yakubov, and others have learned.

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It can be seen that the political party is seen as the main link of political processes. This part of the article expresses the formation of political parties in the Republics of Uzbekistan and India and their participation in political processes.

**The development of Political parties in Uzbekistan:** Uzbekistan's political parties have become an important institution in the republic's political life. Five parties have been formally registered by Uzbekistan's Ministry of Justice as of 2023.

Established in 1991, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU). Protecting the interests of the general public, who require targeted and social protection from the state and society, is one of the goals of the PDPU program, which concentrates on social policies. The People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU) is built on the concept of popular democracy, which is founded on the notion of a social state. It occupies a leftist stance in the national political spectrum.

Following the 2014 parliamentary elections, the Uzbek Democratic Party faction declared in the Oliy Majlis Legislative Chamber that it was in opposition to the Bloc of Democratic Forces, which was formed by the Uzbek Democratic Party and the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. A portion of the population in need of specialized social support from the government and society, such as the elderly and disabled, as well as workers from budgetary organizations responsible for their social security and members of the community, comprise its primary constituency.

The main platforms of this party are social security and equality, assistance for low-income families and vulnerable populations, and the maintenance and strengthening of the state's involvement in many areas of society.

In addition to putting more responsibility on local government and economic administration bodies as well as citizens' self-government bodies for the effective implementation of resolutions in the best interests of those groups of people, the PDPU supports solidifying the state's authority and guaranteeing the protection of pensioners, the disabled, and other socially vulnerable populations.

The party's economic priorities include the creation of a regulated and socially conscious market economy that ensures the effective interplay of market mechanisms and social policy regulations set by the government, as well as the equitable distribution of economic benefits in favour of low-income groups. On the other hand, in the social realm, they encompass the implementation of strong policies for

the benefit of the underprivileged and marginalized segments of society.

The PDPU's foreign policy aims include proactive and consistent foreign policy focused on fostering positive relationships with other nations based on the ideas of equality, mutual benefit, and non-interference in domestic matters.

The PDPU backed Islam Karimov in the 1991 presidential contest, but its leader, Khotamjon Ketmonov, was nominated for the 2015 contest, in which he received 2.92% of the vote. In the 2014 legislative elections, PDPU secured 27 out of 150 seats, placing them in third place. In the 2019 legislative elections, PDPU secured 18 out of 150 seats, placing them in fourth place.

The National Democratic Party (Fidokorlar) and the National Revival (Milly Tiklanish) Democratic Party (NRDP), which was founded in 1995, combined in June 2008. Fidokorlar and Milliy Tiklanish held 18 and 11 parliamentary seats, respectively, before the merger. The NRDP inspires Uzbeks to develop a stronger sense of national identity as well as to cherish and bolster their loyalty, pride, and love for their motherland. The National Revolutionary Party (NRDP) of Uzbekistan secured 36 seats in the most recent parliamentary elections. It also secured 35 seats out of 150 seats in the 2019 legislative elections, placing it in second place. The NRDP is often categorized as a moderate conservative movement. It is a right-wing political party in the political sphere. Together with the Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), its parliamentary group in the Legislative Chamber (lower house) of the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) established a Bloc of Democratic Forces. Its voters include members of the creative intelligentsia, professionals in the fields of culture, art, and information, young people with a strong sense of patriotism, and artisans.

The national revival problem, which is defined as the reawakening and fortification of national identity, is one to which the party pays particular emphasis. It is shown in favour of the principles of national unity and independence as well as the preservation and advancement of historically structured state and public life in accordance with pertinent national traditions, its moral and legal framework inherent in the nation, religion, and family. In the socio-political sphere, the Milliy Tiklanish DPU considers it necessary to consolidate national statehood and stands in support of traditional democratic institutions, which promote national revival. It backs the goal of strengthening the unity of the populace and all Uzbek citizens, regardless of their origins, socioeconomic class, religion, or ethnicity.

The party supports the growth of traditional forms of national production, such as family entrepreneurship and handicraft, as well as the complete support of domestic commodity producers. In the economic arena, the party views it as critical to maintain the nation's economic and food independence. The growth of tourism as a powerful instrument for popularizing and promoting the history and culture of a country is its top aim.

The party's external aims include actively pursuing foreign policy with the goal of strongly defending national interests, widely publicizing the artistic and cultural accomplishments of the Uzbek people, and enhancing the Republic's reputation abroad.

Founded in 1995, the Social Democratic Justice (Adolat) Party (SDJP) prioritizes trade unions and disadvantaged populations, such as low-income families, in its efforts to improve democratic procedures that uphold national independence. In our nation's political spectrum, the Adolat (Justice) Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (SDPU) occupies the left-centering slot. Access to social and economic possibilities, fairness and solidarity, a dedication to a just civil society, and a market economy with a social focus are among the main tenets of SDPU. The party is in support of building a welfare state that serves everyone, combining the ideas of social justice, freedom, and equality with the active involvement of the general people in determining the direction of the nation's growth.

In terms of society, the party believes it is important to implement the idea of equal rights and opportunities, provide each person with a good standard of life, and avoid social stratification at a high level based on social services and money.

The party in the judicial domain prioritizes strengthening the concepts of openness and transparency in the functioning of courts, equality and competition of the parties in trial procedures, and efficient public monitoring of the operations of law enforcement authorities.

Adolat SDPU supports the execution of international programs in the context of accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals, as well as dynamic external political efforts targeted at maintaining peace, stability, and sustainable development in the nation.

In 2003, the Uzbek Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was established. The Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP), also known as the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople, is a center-right political party that espouses liberal democratic values based on modern democracy, which is understood to be a representative democracy, in which political groups compete with one another for the voices of the

electorate. Human rights and liberties, on the other hand, are its main values.

After gaining a majority in the 2014 general elections, this party's parliamentary group in the lower house of parliament teamed up with the Milliy Tiklanish DPU to establish the Bloc of Democratic Forces. For the first time in parliamentary history in Uzbekistan, the LDP submitted a candidate for prime minister, in accordance with Article 98 of the national constitution.

In the 2004 legislative elections, the LDP ran for the Legislative Chamber for the first time, winning 41 of the 120 seats and 34.2% of the total votes cast. Its seats increased to 150 in 2008. It ranked first in the 2009 and 2014 elections, winning 53 and 52 seats respectively. As for the 2019 parliamentary election, LDP belonged to 48 seats in the Legislative Chamber.[8] LDP's nominee for the 2007 and 2015 presidential elections was Islam Karimov as well as for the 2016 and 2023 presidential elections was Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In terms of membership, the LDP is the biggest party in the country.

Among the government's top concerns is protecting the environment and public health, which is the goal of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EMU), which was established in 2008. EMU pays particular attention to the Rogun Dam building, which is causing tensions between nations upstream (Tajikistan) and downstream (Uzbekistan). The legislative elections are not attended by the EMU. The Ecological Party of Uzbekistan was founded in 2019 and is based on the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan. The EMU's highest body appoints the 15 members of the parliament who represent it till 2019. However, in the 2019 parliamentary elections, the Ecological Party of Uzbekistan secured 11 seats.

**The development of political parties in India:** India operates on a multiparty system. Political parties at the federal and state levels are granted recognition by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in accordance with objective standards. A legally registered political party is entitled to certain benefits, such as a reserved party emblem, free airtime on state-run radio and television, influence in choosing election dates, and control over electoral laws and procedures. Other political parties must register with the Election Commission of India in order to run in municipal, state, or federal elections. After a Lok Sabha or state legislative assembly election, registered parties that satisfy the necessary requirements are elevated by the ECI to recognized national parties or state parties. The ECI periodically assesses the recognized party status.

According to the Election Commission of India's May 2023 publications and later notifications, there are 2,597 unrecognized parties, 54 state parties, and 6 national parties. Every registered party running for office must select a symbol from the EC's list of acceptable symbols. Unless the President's rule is imposed under specific circumstances, all 28 states in the nation, as well as the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, and Puducherry have elected governments. India has six national political parties, and these parties have been instrumental in forming democracy in the nation. India has a wide variety of political parties, ranging from the Bharatiya Janata Party to the Indian National Congress, each with distinct ideals and aspirations for the nation.

Founded in 1885, the Indian National Congress stands as one of the country's oldest political organizations. Several of its founders went on to become India's first prime ministers, and it was essential in the country's independence campaign. The party's ideology is based on the principles of secularism, socialism, and democracy. The party has been in power for the majority of India's post-independence history, and its current president is Sonia Gandhi. The party secured 52 seats in the Lok Sabha, the lower chamber of the Indian parliament, in the 2019 general elections. India's reigning party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, was established in 1980. The party's ideology is based on Hindu nationalism, and it advocates for a more conservative and traditionalist vision of Indian society. The party's leader is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and it currently holds a majority in the Lok Sabha, with 303 seats. The party has been in power since 2014 and won a second term in the 2019 general elections with a massive majority. The Communist Party of India was founded in 1920 and is one of the oldest communist parties in the world. The party's ideology is based on Marxist-Leninist principles, and it advocates for a socialist and classless society. The party has been a significant force in Indian politics, particularly in the southern states of Kerala and West Bengal. The party has been in decline in recent years, and in the 2019 general elections, it won just two seats in the Lok Sabha.

The Nationalist Congress Party was founded in 1999 and is a centrist political party that is primarily based in the state of Maharashtra. The party's ideology is based on social justice, secularism, and democracy. Sharad Pawar is the party's leader, and it won five Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 general elections.

Founded in 1984, the Bahujan Samaj Party is mostly centered in Uttar Pradesh, a state in northern India. The party's ideology is based on social justice and the

empowerment of marginalized communities such as Dalits and OBCs. The party has been a significant force in Uttar Pradesh politics, and it has been able to form governments in the state in the past. In the 2019 general elections, the party won no seats in the Lok Sabha.

An Indian political party is called the Aam Aadmi Party. It was established in November 2012, in the aftermath of the 2011 Indian anti-corruption campaign, by Arvind Kejriwal and his associates. In the Indian states of Punjab and Delhi union territory, the Aam Aadmi Party is now in power. ECI formally awarded AAP the title of National Party on April 10, 2023. Furthermore, India is home to a wide variety of political parties, each with their own philosophies and plans for the nation. (Qarshiyev, N., 2003- Election Commission grants national party status to AAP Dated 10.04.2023, The Hindu. India)

### 3 DISCUSSIONS

**The main difference** between political parties in Uzbekistan and India is stratification. In Uzbekistan, all 5 parties have the same opportunities with regards to participating in political procedures as well as election system. But Indian political parties are divided into 3 groups including national, state and unrecognized parties. Prior to the 2016 modification, which went into effect on January 1, 2014, a political party would lose its recognition if it did not meet the requirements in the next Lok Sabha or state legislative assembly election. The ECI said in 2016 that rather than occurring after each election, such a review would occur after two consecutive elections. As a result, even if a political party doesn't make the cut in the upcoming election, it will still be recognized as such. However, they would lose their status if they didn't satisfy the requirements in the election that followed the next election.

A registered party can only be considered a national party if it satisfies any one of the following three requirements:

- The party secures two percent of the Lok Sabha seats from a minimum of three states.
- The party receives six percent of the votes in any four or more states during a general election to the Legislative Assembly or Lok Sabha, and it also obtains four seats in the Assembly.
- Four states recognize the party as a state party.

A registered party is only recognized as a state party, according to the Election Commission of India, if it satisfies any one of the following five requirements:

- To gain at least two seats in the state legislative assembly, a party must receive at least 6% of the valid votes cast in the election.
- To win at least one seat in the Lok Sabha, a party must receive at least 6% of the valid votes cast in the election.
- A party must get three seats in the Legislative Assembly or three percent of the total number of seats, whichever is higher.
- For every 25 seats in the Lok Sabha, or any portion thereof, assigned to a state, a party must win at least one seat.
- An additional clause under the liberalized criteria states that it will be qualified for state party recognition if it obtains eight percent or more of the total valid votes cast in the state.

**The second difference** has to do with religion. India is a multi-religious country. In comparison with Uzbekistan, there are 18 religious parties and several regional parties in India such as The Indian Union Muslim League, and Muslim League whereas there are no religious parties in Uzbekistan.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, political parties have played a crucial role in shaping Uzbek and Indian democracy. In conclusion, we can say that in Uzbekistan and India, political parties are an important political institution in ensuring the development of civil society, and there are ample opportunities for their free functioning, and full expression of the political will and interests of the electorate. The political importance of a political party is manifested directly in the process of elections and the adoption of laws in the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. And that it serves the democratic development of our country, as well as the improvement of the formation of a free civil society. In the words of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev: "Regardless of which party they belong to, the only and common goal that unites all our compatriots is our beloved Uzbekistan, its great future. This is the goal that calls us all to serve our motherland faithfully". Today, strengthening the activities of political parties in our country has become one of the priorities of state policy. The president always emphasizes the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations in the reform of all spheres of our

society, including the development of a free civil society, and also sets priorities for supporting other civil society institutions. A legal mechanism has been created for the formation of state management bodies of political parties and for monitoring their activities.

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