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**Press Release**

**Analysis of Sitting MPs/MLAs Who Changed Political Parties After Winning Elections in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies (For the Period 2022 to 2026)**


## Association for Democratic Reforms

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# Summary and Highlights

**Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** and **National Election Watch** have analysed **111** current MPs/MLAs who changed parties after being elected to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies. This analysis is based on the elections held between 2022 and 2026 and the by-elections conducted during this period.

For the purpose of this analysis, the **111** cases of sitting MPs and MLAs who changed political parties after being elected have been carefully classified into four distinct categories based on the nature and process of the change. These categories are:

(i) Individual switch / defection, where a legislator voluntarily left one party and joined another without resigning from the House;
(ii) Party merger, where the original party (or a substantial section of its legislative wing) formally merged with another political party, as seen in cases such as NDPP–NPF in Nagaland;
(iii) Resignation + Bye-election, where the legislator first resigned from the Assembly/Parliament, joined a new party, and subsequently contested and won the bye-election; and
(iv) Disqualification + Bye-election, where the member was disqualified under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, later joined another party, and won the seat again through a bye-election.

Note: Every effort has been made to identify and include all relevant cases in this report. However, owing to the lack of systematically maintained and readily accessible official data, it is not possible to ensure that the list is exhaustive. Accordingly, there may be other relevant cases that are not covered in this report.

The previous report on "MPs/ MLAs who changed parties" released on 9 September 2021, covered the period from 2014- 2021. (https://adrindia.org/content/analysis-re-contesting-candidates-and-mpsmlas-who-changed-parties-lok-sabha-and-assembly).

# Election wise Sitting MPs and MLAs who changed parties (as on 12th July 2026)

A total of **111 sitting MPs/MLAs** changed their political parties after being elected to the current Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Assemblies. Among them, **26 were Lok Sabha MPs, 7 were Rajya Sabha MPs and 78 were MLAs**.

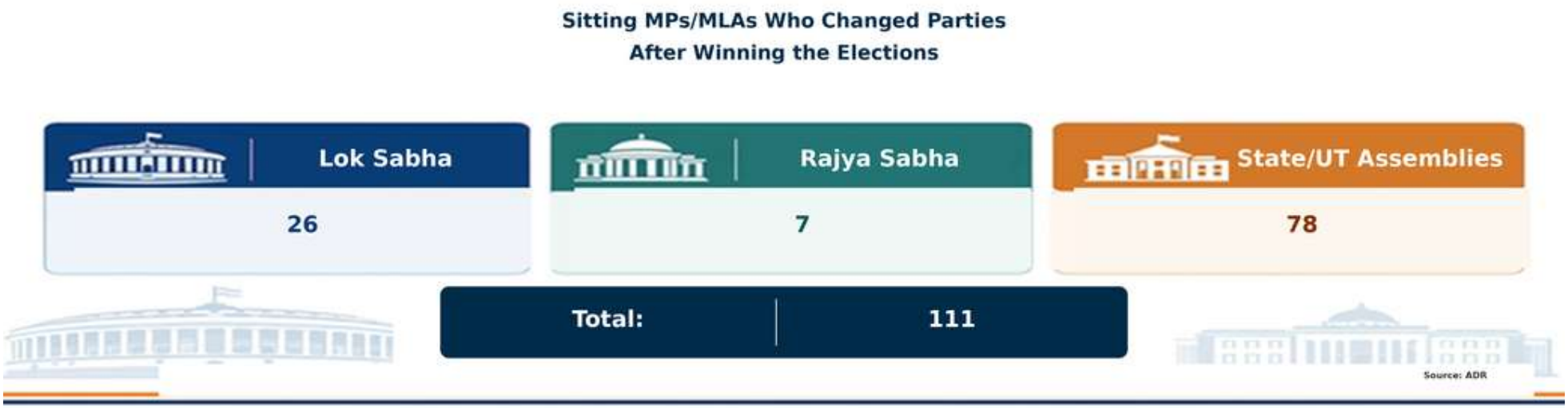


**Figure: Sitting MPs/MLAs who changed parties after winning the elections**

| S.No. | Election | Total Sitting MPs/MLAs Analyzed | Total No. of Sitting MPs/MLAs Who Changed Parties After Winning the Election | % of Sitting MPs/MLAs Who Changed Parties After Winning the Election |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Lok Sabha | 543 | 26 | 5% |
| 2 | Rajya Sabha | 233 | 7 | 3% |
| 3 | State/UT Assemblies | 4100 | 78* | 2% |
| **Total** | | **4876** | **111** | **2%** |

**Table: Sitting MPs/MLAs who changed parties after winning the elections**

*Note on the **78*** Assembly MLAs: **70** switched after being elected; **8** changed parties during their term and then won the respective bye-elections.*

Data in this Kit is presented in good faith, with an intention to inform voters. MPs/MLAs affidavit with nomination papers is the source of this analysis. Website:- www.adrindia.org , www.myneta.info

# State wise Sitting MPs and MLAs who changed parties

- Sitting MPs/MLAs changed parties in **17 States/UTs.**
- **Nagaland** recorded the highest number of party switches with **32 (29%)**, followed by **West Bengal** with **20 (18%)**.

| S.No. | State/UT | Lok Sabha | Rajya Sabha | State/UT Assembly | Total number of MPs/MLAs who left the party | % of MPs/MLAs who left the party |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 32 | 32 | 29% |
| 2 | West Bengal | 20 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 18% |
| 3 | Telangana | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 8% |
| 4 | Goa | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 7% |
| 5 | Punjab | 0 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7% |
| 6 | Maharashtra | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5% |
| 7 | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 5% |
| 8 | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5% |
| 9 | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4% |
| 10 | Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4% |
| 11 | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2% |
| 12 | Rajasthan | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2% |
| 13 | Karnataka | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1% |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1% |
| 15 | NCT of Delhi | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1% |
| 16 | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1% |
| 17 | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1% |
| **Total** | | **26** | **7** | **78** | **111** | **100%** |

**Table: State wise Sitting MPs and MLAs who changed parties**

## Party-wise share of MPs and MLAs who changed Political Parties

- The highest number of party switches was recorded among representatives originally elected from **NDPP (25, 23%)**, followed by **AITC (20, 18%)** and **INC (19, 17%)**. **BRS** accounted for 9 (8%) party switches, while **AAP and NCP** each accounted for 7 (6%). **Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray)** accounted for 6 (5%), followed by **JD(U) with 5 (5%)** and **NPP with 4 (4%)**.
- Overall, **NDPP, AITC and INC together accounted for 64 (58%) of the 111 MPs/MLAs who changed parties.**
- It is noteworthy that the recent fall of governments in some State Assemblies was attributed to defections by their MLAs.

## Party-wise share of MPs and MLAs Who Left the Political Parties

| Original Party | Number of Lok Sabha MPs who left the party | Number of Rajya Sabha MPs who left the party | Number of MLAs who left the party | Total number of MPs/MLAs who left the party | % of MPs/MLAs who left the party |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NDPP | 0 | 0 | **25** | 25 | 23% |
| AITC | **20** | 0 | 0 | 20 | 18% |
| INC | 0 | 0 | **19** | 19 | 17% |
| BRS | 0 | 0 | **9** | 9 | 8% |
| AAP | 0 | **7** | 0 | 7 | 6% |
| NCP | 0 | 0 | **7** | 7 | 6% |
| ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | **6** | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5% |
| JD(U) | 0 | 0 | **5** | 5 | 5% |
| NPP | 0 | 0 | **4** | 4 | 4% |
| BSP | 0 | 0 | **2** | 2 | 2% |
| PDF | 0 | 0 | **2** | 2 | 2% |
| SAD | 0 | 0 | **2** | 2 | 2% |
| Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha | 0 | 0 | **1** | 1 | 1% |
| Sikkim Democratic Front | 0 | 0 | **1** | 1 | 1% |
| SP | 0 | 0 | **1** | 1 | 1% |
| **Total** | **26** | **7** | **78** | **111** | **100%** |

**Table: Party-wise share of MPs and MLAs - who changed parties**

## Party-wise share of MPs and MLAs Who Joined Other Political Parties

- **NPF** received the highest number of representatives, with **32 (29%)** joining the party, followed by **BJP with 29 (26%)** and the **Nationalist Citizens Party of India with 20 (18%)**. **INC** received 9 (8%), while **Shiv Sena** received 8 (7%). **NPP** and **PPA** received 6 (5%) and 4 (4%), respectively.
- Overall, **NPF, BJP and the Nationalist Citizens Party of India together accounted for 81 (73%) of the 111 MPs/MLAs who joined other political parties.**

| Party Joined | Number of Lok Sabha MPs who joined the party | Number of Rajya Sabha MPs who joined the party | Number of MLAs who joined the party | Total number of MPs/MLAs who joined the party | % of MPs/MLAs who joined the party |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NPF | 0 | 0 | **32** | 32 | 29% |
| BJP | 0 | **7** | **22** | 29 | 26% |
| Nationalist Citizens Party of India | **20** | 0 | 0 | 20 | 18% |
| INC | 0 | 0 | **9** | 9 | 8% |
| Shiv Sena | **6** | 0 | **2** | 8 | 7% |
| NPP | 0 | 0 | **6** | 6 | 5% |
| PPA | 0 | 0 | **4** | 4 | 4% |
| AAP | 0 | 0 | **1** | 1 | 1% |
| AD(WPD) | 0 | 0 | **1** | 1 | 1% |
| Sikkim Krantikari Morcha | 0 | 0 | **1** | 1 | 1% |
| **Total** | **26** | **7** | **78** | **111** | **100%** |

**Table: Party-wise share of MPs and MLAs - who Joined other political parties**

# List of Sitting MPs/MLAs who changed Political Parties

The list of **111** sitting MPs/MLAs who changed parties after being elected to the current Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, or State Assemblies is given below:

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rajya Sabha | NCT of Delhi | (2024-2030) | Swati Maliwal | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 2 | Rajya Sabha | Punjab | (2022-2028) | Ashok | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 3 | Rajya Sabha | Punjab | (2022-2028) | Harbhajan Singh | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 4 | Rajya Sabha | Punjab | (2022-2028) | Raghav Chadha | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 5 | Rajya Sabha | Punjab | (2022-2028) | Sandeep Kumar Pathak | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 6 | Rajya Sabha | Punjab | (2022-2028) | Vikramjit Singh Sahney | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 7 | Rajya Sabha | Punjab | (2025-2028) | Rajinder Gupta | AAP | BJP | Defected from AAP to BJP |
| 8 | Lok Sabha | MAHARASHTRA | HINGOLI | Aashtikar Patil Nagesh Bapurao | ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | Shiv Sena | Switched from Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena on 22 June 2026. |
| 9 | Lok Sabha | MAHARASHTRA | MUMBAI NORTH - EAST | Sanjay Dina Patil | ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | Shiv Sena | Switched from Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena on 22 June 2026. |
| 10 | Lok Sabha | MAHARASHTRA | OSMANABAD | Omprakash Bhupalsinh Alias Pavan Rajenimbalkar | ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | Shiv Sena | Switched from Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena on 22 June 2026. |
| 11 | Lok Sabha | MAHARASHTRA | PARBHANI | Jadhav Sanjay ( Bandu ) Haribhau | ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | Shiv Sena | Switched from Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena on 22 June 2026. |
| 12 | Lok Sabha | MAHARASHTRA | SHIRDI (SC) | Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure | ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | Shiv Sena | Switched from Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena on 22 June 2026. |
| 13 | Lok Sabha | MAHARASHTRA | YAVATMAL - WASHIM | Sanjay Uttamrao Deshmukh | ShivSena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) | Shiv Sena | Switched from Shiv Sena (UBT) to Shiv Sena on 22 June 2026. |
| 14 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | ARAMBAG (SC) | Mitali Bag | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 15 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BAHARAMPUR | Pathan Yusuf | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 16 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BANKURA | Arup Chakraborty | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 17 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BARASAT | Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BARDHAMAN PURBA (SC) | Dr. Sharmila Sarkar | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 19 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BARRACKPUR | Partha Bhowmick | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 20 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BIRBHUM | Satabdi Roy | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 21 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | BOLPUR | Asit Kumar Mal | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 22 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | COOCH BEHAR (SC) | Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 23 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | GHATAL | Adhikari Deepak (Dev) | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 24 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | HOOGHLY | Rachna Banerjee | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 25 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | HOWRAH | Prasun Banerjee | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 26 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | JADAVPUR | Sayani Ghosh | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 27 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | JANGIPUR | Khalilur Rahaman | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 28 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | JHARGRAM (ST) | Kalipada Saren Kherwal | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 29 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | KOLKATA DAKSHIN | Mala Roy | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 30 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | KOLKATA UTTAR | Bandyopadhyay Sudip | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 31 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | MATHURAPUR (SC) | Bapi Haldar | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 32 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | MEDINIPUR | June Maliah | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 33 | Lok Sabha | WEST BENGAL | MURSHIDABAD | Abu Taher Khan | AITC | Nationalist Citizens Party of India | Switched from AITC to NCPI on 14 June 2026 |
| 34 | Assembly | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | Tawang | Namgey Tsering | NPP | PPA | Switched from NPP to PPA |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 35 | Assembly | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | Liromoba | Pesi Jilen | NPP | PPA | Switched from NPP to PPA |
| 36 | Assembly | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | Pasighat East | Tapi Darang | NPP | PPA | Switched from NPP to PPA |
| 37 | Assembly | ARUNACHAL PRADESH | Mariyang-Geku | Oni Panyang | NPP | PPA | Switched from NPP to PPA |
| 38 | Assembly | MEGHALAYA | Mylliem | Ronnie V. Lyngdoh | INC | NPP | Switched from INC to NPP |
| 39 | Assembly | MEGHALAYA | Mawhati | Charles Marngar | INC | NPP | Switched from INC to NPP |
| 40 | Assembly | MEGHALAYA | Umsning | Celestine Lyngdoh | INC | NPP | Switched from INC to NPP |
| 41 | Assembly | MEGHALAYA | Nongstoin | Gabriel Wahlang | INC | NPP | Switched from INC to NPP |
| 42 | Assembly | MEGHALAYA | SOHRA (ST) | Gavin Miguel Mylliem | PDF | NPP | PDF merged with NPP |
| 43 | Assembly | MEGHALAYA | MAWKYNREW (ST) | Banteidor Lyngdoh | PDF | NPP | PDF merged with NPP |
| 44 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Khairatabad | Danam Nagender | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 45 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Station Ghanpur | Kadiyam Srihari | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 46 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Bhadrachalam | Tellam Venkat Rao | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 47 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Banswada | Pocharam Srinivas Reddy | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 48 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Jagtial | M. Sanjay Kumar | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 49 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Serilingampally | Arekapudi Gandhi | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 50 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Chevella | Kale Yadaiah | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 51 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Rajendranagar | Prakash Goud | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 52 | Assembly | TELANGANA | Patancheru | Goodem Mahipal Reddy | BRS | INC | Defected BRS to join INC |
| 53 | Assembly | GOA | Calangute | Michael Lobo | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 54 | Assembly | GOA | Siolim | Delilah Lobo | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 55 | Assembly | GOA | Saligao | Kedar Naik | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 56 | Assembly | GOA | Santa Cruz | Rodolfo Louis Fernandes | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 57 | Assembly | GOA | Cumbarjua | Rajesh Faldessai | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 58 | Assembly | GOA | Mormugao | Sankalp Amonkar | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 59 | Assembly | GOA | Nuvem | Aleixo Sequeira | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 60 | Assembly | GOA | Margao | Digambar Kamat | INC | BJP | Switched from INC to BJP on 14 September 2022 |
| 61 | Assembly | GUJARAT | Vijapur | C. J. Chavda | INC | BJP | Resigned on 19 January 2024 joined the BJP, and later contested the bye-elections |
| 62 | Assembly | GUJARAT | Porbandar | Arjun Modhwadia | INC | BJP | Resigned on 4 March 2024 joined the BJP, and later contested the bye-elections |
| 63 | Assembly | GUJARAT | Manavadar | Arvindbhai Ladani | INC | BJP | Resigned on 6 March 2024 joined the BJP, and later contested the bye-elections |
| 64 | Assembly | GUJARAT | Khambhat | Chirag Patel | INC | BJP | Resigned on 19 December 2023 joined the BJP, and later contested the bye-elections |
| 65 | Assembly | HIMACHAL PRADESH | Dharamshala | Sudhir Sharma | INC | BJP | Disqualified on 28 February 2024 under the anti-defection law after cross-voting, then joined BJP and elected through bye election |
| 66 | Assembly | HIMACHAL PRADESH | Barsar | Inder Dutt Lakhanpal | INC | BJP | Disqualified on 28 February 2024 then joined BJP and elected through bye election |
| 67 | Assembly | MANIPUR | Thangmeiband | Khumukcham Joykisan Singh | JD(U) | BJP | Switched from JD(U) to BJP |
| 68 | Assembly | MANIPUR | Tipaimukh | Ngursanglur Sanate | JD(U) | BJP | Switched from JD(U) to BJP |
| 69 | Assembly | MANIPUR | Jiribam | Md. Achab Uddin | JD(U) | BJP | Switched from JD(U) to BJP |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 70 | Assembly | MANIPUR | Wangkhei | Thangjam Arunkumar | JD(U) | BJP | Switched from JD(U) to BJP |
| 71 | Assembly | MANIPUR | Churachandpur | L. M. Khaute | JD(U) | BJP | Switched from JD(U) to BJP |
| 72 | Assembly | PUNJAB | Banga (SC) | Sukhwinder Kumar | SAD | AAP | Defected from SAD to AAP |
| 73 | Assembly | PUNJAB | Dakha | Manpreet Singh Ayali | SAD | AD(WPD) | Joined AD(WPD) from SAD. |
| 74 | Assembly | UTTAR PRADESH | Unchahar | Manoj Kumar Pandey | SP | BJP | Switched from SP to BJP in 2024 |
| 75 | Assembly | Sikkim | SHYARI (BL) | Tenzing Norbu Lamtha | Sikkim Democratic Front | Sikkim Krantikari Morcha | Switch from SDF to SKM |
| 76 | Assembly | Karnataka | GANGAVATHI | G Janardhan Reddy | Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha | BJP | KRPP merges with BJP |
| 77 | Assembly | Madhya Pradesh | BINA (SC) | Adv. Nirmla Sapre | INC | BJP | Defected to BJP in May 2024 |
| 78 | Assembly | Nagaland | DIMAPUR-II (ST) | Moatoshi Longkumer | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 79 | Assembly | Nagaland | DIMAPUR-III (ST) | Hekani Jakhalu | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 80 | Assembly | Nagaland | GHASPANI-II (ST) | Zhaleo Rio | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 81 | Assembly | Nagaland | PUNGRO KIPHIRE (ST) | S. Kiusumew Yimchunger | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 82 | Assembly | Nagaland | NORTHERN ANGAMI-I (ST) | Dr.Kekhrielhoulie Yhome | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 83 | Assembly | Nagaland | NORTHERN ANGAMI-II (ST) | Neiphiu Rio | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 84 | Assembly | Nagaland | WESTERN ANGAMI (ST) | Salhoutuonuo Kruse | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 85 | Assembly | Nagaland | ANGETYONGPANG (ST) | Tongpang Ozukum | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 86 | Assembly | Nagaland | AONGLENDEN | Sharingain Longkumer | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 87 | Assembly | Nagaland | IMPUR (ST) | T N Mannen | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 88 | Assembly | Nagaland | JANGPETKONG (ST) | Temjenmenba | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 89 | Assembly | Nagaland | MOKOKCHUNG TOWN | Metsubo Jamir | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 90 | Assembly | Nagaland | MONGOYA | Imkongmar | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 91 | Assembly | Nagaland | TAPI (ST) : BYE ELECTION ON 07-11-2023 | Wangpang Konyak | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 92 | Assembly | Nagaland | TEHOK (ST) | C.L John | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 93 | Assembly | Nagaland | WAKCHING (ST) | W Chingang Konyak | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 94 | Assembly | Nagaland | PEREN (ST) | Taditui Rangkau Zeliang | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 95 | Assembly | Nagaland | CHAZOUBA (ST) | Kudecho Khamo | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 96 | Assembly | Nagaland | CHIZAMI (ST) | K. G Kenye | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 97 | Assembly | Nagaland | MELURI (ST) | Z.Nyusietho Nyuthe | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 98 | Assembly | Nagaland | SHAMATOR CHESSORE (ST) | S Keoshu Yimchunger | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 99 | Assembly | Nagaland | SANIS (ST) | Mhathung Yanthan | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 100 | Assembly | Nagaland | AGHUNATO (ST) | G Ikuto Zhimomi | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 101 | Assembly | Nagaland | SATAKHA (ST) | G. Kaito Aye | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 102 | Assembly | Nagaland | ZUNHEBOTO (ST) | K Tokugha Sukhalu | NDPP | NPF | Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 103 | Assembly | Nagaland | TENNING (ST) | Namri Nchang | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NDPP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 104 | Assembly | Nagaland | ATOIZU (ST) | Picto | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NDPP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 105 | Assembly | Nagaland | SURUHUTO (ST) | S. Toiho Yeptho | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NPF |
| 106 | Assembly | Nagaland | WOKHA (ST) | Y Mhonbemo Humtsoe | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NDPP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |

| S.No. | Election | State/UT | Term/Constituency | Name | Previous Party | Current Party | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 107 | Assembly | Nagaland | MON TOWN (ST) | Y Mankhao Konyak | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NDPP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 108 | Assembly | Nagaland | LONGLENG (ST) | A Pongshi Phom | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NDPP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 109 | Assembly | Nagaland | NOKLAK (ST) | Puthai Longon | NCP | NPF | Switched from NCP to NDPP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party merged with NPF in Oct 2025 |
| 110 | Assembly | Rajasthan | SADULPUR | Manoj Kumar S/O Swai Singh | BSP | Shiv Sena | Merged With Shiv Sena From BSP |
| 111 | Assembly | Rajasthan | BARI | Jaswant Singh Gurjar | BSP | Shiv Sena | Merged With Shiv Sena From BSP |

**Table: List of MPs/MLAs who changed the party**

* The list of current sitting MPs/MLAs has been updated in this report as per Legislative Assembly, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha websites and Wikipedia.

## Observations of ADR

1. ***The principles of democracy rely upon 'government of the people, by the people and for the people' where 'interest of citizens' is of paramount importance in comparison to 'private interest of our politicians'.*** This fundamental principle, however, has been skewed by the failing standards of ethical and moral propriety in India's parliamentary democracy. The ***'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram'*** syndrome and the never- ending '***hunger for power and money'*** have become a common practice amongst our Legislators and Political parties***. The most plausible reasons behind such defections and switching of parties are;***
   - ***I. Absence of value-based politics***
   - ***II. Lust for money and power***
   - ***III. Strong nexus between money and muscle***
   - ***IV. Lure of office***
   - ***V. Dearth of efficient, honest and credible leaders***
   - ***VI. Silent/absent laws on political parties functioning***
   - ***VII. Concerns regarding the decision of the Speaker/Chairperson as the adjudicating authority under the Tenth Schedule, since the speaker or chairperson are usually from the ruling party.***
   - ***VIII. Prolonged judicial proceedings in disqualification matters, which has weakened the deterrent effect of the Tenth Schedule.***
   - ***IX. Misuse of power under Section 321 of the Cr.PC by withdrawal from prosecution against a particular politician(s) and unimpeded entry of criminals into politics***.
2. Until and unless these trends are not reined in, our current electoral and political situation is bound to deteriorate further. The '***Conduct of Politics' necessitates fairness, freedom, reliability, equality, integrity, honesty, and credibility.*** It will be a mockery of democracy if we fail to plug these loop-holes because of which such defections, changing/switching of party by MPs and MLAs are happening***. It is high time that our legislators and political parties put an end to the 'politics of convenience and self-gain' and start practicing 'politics of conviction, courage and consensus'.***
3. The recent developments in West Bengal further highlight the deepening crisis of political ethics and party discipline. After the 2026 West Bengal Legislative Assembly elections, in which the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) suffered a major setback and was reduced to the opposition, the party underwent a sharp internal split. A

large number of its newly elected MLAs broke away from the official leadership and formed a rival faction that successfully claimed the post of Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. Simultaneously, 20 of the party's Lok Sabha MPs merged with the little-known Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) and extended support to the ruling NDA. These events have effectively divided AITC into competing factions. Such large-scale post-election realignments - whether through individual switches or mass mergers - once again demonstrate how the mandate given by voters is frequently undermined by the politics of convenience, power and opportunism.

## Recommendations of ADR:

1) **Amendment to the 10th Schedule of the Constitution**: As per the recommendations of various committees such as the Dinesh Goswami Committee (1990), the 170th Law Commission Report(1999), National Commission to Review the Working of Constitution (NCRWC) Report (2002),) to curb the frequent practice of defections by members of legislative houses or parliament, the 10th Schedule of the Constitution should be amended and ***instead of the Presiding Officer (i.e Chairman or the Speaker), the decision to disqualify a member should be made by the President (in case of MPs) or the Governor (in case of MLAs) on the advice of the Election Commission***. In addition, ***a provision should be made for debarring the defector from holding public office or any remunerative post until the next fresh elections or the duration of the remaining term of the legislature. The vote cast by a defector to topple a government should be treated as invalid. The practice of having an oversized Council of Ministers must also be prohibited by law***. A ceiling on the number of Ministers in any State or the Union Government be fixed at the maximum of ten percent of the total strength of the popular House of the Legislature.

2) **Law to Bar Turncoats from Assuming Public Office:** The 10th schedule should be amended to provide that when a legislator is disqualified for defection, or voluntarily changes his party by resigning, he should be barred from re-entering public office through indirect or "back door" means, including nomination to the Rajya Sabha, a Legislative Council, or any other government post, until he is duly re-elected through a general election, excluding by-elections held in the interim. Similarly, a provision regarding fixed statutory timeline for decision should be inserted that the disqualification petition be adjudicated within six months from the date of submission of the disqualification petition.

*3)* **Declare Political parties as Public Authorities:** It is the political parties that form the government, man the Parliament and run the governance of the country. Bringing political parties under the ambit of Right to Information Act, 2005 will not only usher transparency and accountability in the functioning of political parties and party

leaders but it will also give a chance to the citizens to play their part in a democracy by acting as a watchdog. The ***public character, nature of duties and criticality of the role being played by the political parties*** **in our democratic set up mandates that** ***the 3rd June, 2013 CIC order that declared six national political parties namely; INC, BJP, CPI, CPI(M). NCP & BSP as public authorities is implemented in its letter and spirit.***

***4)*** **A comprehensive law to regulate political parties' affairs:** Political parties are the ultimate repository and guardian of our whole constitutional, democratic, social-economic set up but we don't have a single law dealing with political parties. ***In absence of a comprehensive law***, **citizens cannot** ***question, appraise*** **and** ***audit*** **the** ***functioning of political class and politicians.*** Therefore, there is a dire need for a comprehensive legislation ***regulating the functioning of political parties, recognition of their party constitution, election at various levels of party organs, conditions for registration and de-registration, compulsory maintenance of accounts, women representation at organisational positions,*** as recommended in the *'170th Law Commission Report, Part III, Chapter I'* and *Chapter 8 of the NCRW report.*

**5)** **Prior announcement of candidates contesting elections:** ***List of candidates*** contesting elections should be ***announced 3 months prior to elections*** and they should be required ***to submit affidavits stating specific reasons for changing/joining a particular party*** **expected and** ***approximate amount to be spent by them in the next elections and of the source thereof***. **All this information should be brought in the public domain.**

***6)*** **Introduce provisions for inner-party democracy within political parties:** Inspite of being one of the largest democracies in the world, our political parties which run this democracy are painfully undemocratic in their functioning. Political parties have miserably failed in their 'Code of conduct' and self-initiated reforms for themselves. Therefore, mandatory provisions should be made to ***introduce inner-party democracy, transparent decision-making, ticket distribution, elections of office bearers, financial transparency and stronger organisational discipline*** within the political parties. This should include ***mandatory secret ballot voting for all elections for all inner party posts and selection of candidates, as suggested by the 170th Law Commission Report***.

**7)** **Criteria for selection of candidates**: There should be a strict criterion for selection of candidates by political parties. As per the ***Supreme Court judgment*** dated ***13th February, 2020***, **political parties** are already required to give ***reasons for selection*** of candidates and ***why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates.*** As per the judgment the reasons as to selection shall be with reference to the ***qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate concerned***, and **not mere "winnability"** at the polls.

8) **Cross- verification of assets of re-contesting MPs and MLAs:** There should be a strict mechanism for ***cross- verification of assets of MPs and MLAs including their immediate family members; spouse/children/other dependents*** who have defected, changed/joined a particular political party and where it is seen that ***there is a dubious multiplication of assets of an MP/MLA after changing/switching a particular political party.***

9) **Fast tracking of cases for MLAs/MPs**- All pending cases against MPs and MLAs should be fast tracked and brought to conclusion ***within a period of one year as mandated by the Supreme Court orders dated 10th March, 2014 and 1st November, 2017*** so that ***politicians do not defect/change/join a particular political party with the mere intention of 'withdrawal from prosecution' by 'party in power' under Section 321 of the Cr.P.C.*** This will also help in ensuring that such unbridled and arbitrary power given under Section 321 is not misused by the governments of the day by ordering withdrawal of cases pending against powerful politicians, ministers and other rich and powerful people.

10) **Annual Report by MPs and MLAs** - Elected MPs and MLAs should be required to submit an '***Annual Report' to their constituency giving details of their accomplishments for the previous year and the plan for the next year.*** This report can be made available either on the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha website or on the Election Commission's website.

*11)* **First -past -the -post,"50% + 1 of the registered votes cast":** As per the recommendations given by various committees like the Law Commission and NCRW, '***no candidate should be declared elected unless he or she secures more than 50% of the votes cast'***. In the case when no candidate gets required number of voters***, there should be a runoff between the top two candidates getting maximum votes.*** It is worth noting that the First-Past-the-Post System is an easier requirement for being declared elected, a more stringent requirement, and the ideal to ensure appropriate and proper representation, would be 50%+1 of the registered votes.

*12)* **Disallowance of contesting by candidates from more than two constituencies:** As per the recommendation given by NCRW (2001) in its report titled *"Review of Working of Political Parties Specially in Relation to Election and Reforms", Para No. 8.7(e),* ***candidates should not be allowed to contest election simultaneously for the same office from more than one constituency.***

13) **Practice of creating number of offices at ministerial level should be completely banned**: As per the recommendation given by NCRW (2001) in its report titled *"Review of Working of Political Parties Specially in Relation to Election and Reforms",* Para 8.16, point no. 4, ***the practice of creating a number of political offices equivalent to the position or privileges of a minister should also be stopped.*** Any new administrative organization should only be created through regular administrative procedures and only if the provisions have been made in the regular budget estimates of the government concerned.

14) **Affidavit information of candidates to be certified by Political Parties:** Since the candidates are given tickets largely by political parties without any public debate or involvement of their primary members**, *the information submitted in their affidavits should be certified by political parties.*** It is after all these parties only that know these candidates to be worthy enough to get their tickets. In case **the *information furnished by the candidates is found incorrect, the political party and its officer bearers should be held accountable***.

15) **Remove the nexus between muscle and money from elections** –The nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and criminal elements in our society has been on the rise, the adverse effects of which are increasingly being felt on various aspects of social life in India. Therefore, ***it is high time that such a strong criminal-political-bureaucratic nexus in our electoral and political process is strongly confronted by choosing honest, credible, clean and deserving candidates.***

16) **Cancellation of tax exemptions given under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act:** As a step towards free and fair elections, there should ***be cancellation of tax exemption*** given to the political parties who deliberately give tickets **to *undeserving, dishonest, corrupt, moneyed and tainted* candidates**. In addition, the Election Commission of India (ECI) should exercise powers under Article 324 of the Constitution to ***de-register and de-recognise*** any political party if ***it knowingly puts up such candidates***.

17) Following the Supreme Court's 2024 judgment striking down the Electoral Bonds Scheme, there is a need for a transparent political funding mechanism, where donations are reported with full public disclosure of donor identity, amount, and recipient party along with real-time disclosure of election expenditure, including digital and social media ad spend, and stricter RTI/audit scrutiny of corporate and foreign-linked funding to political parties.

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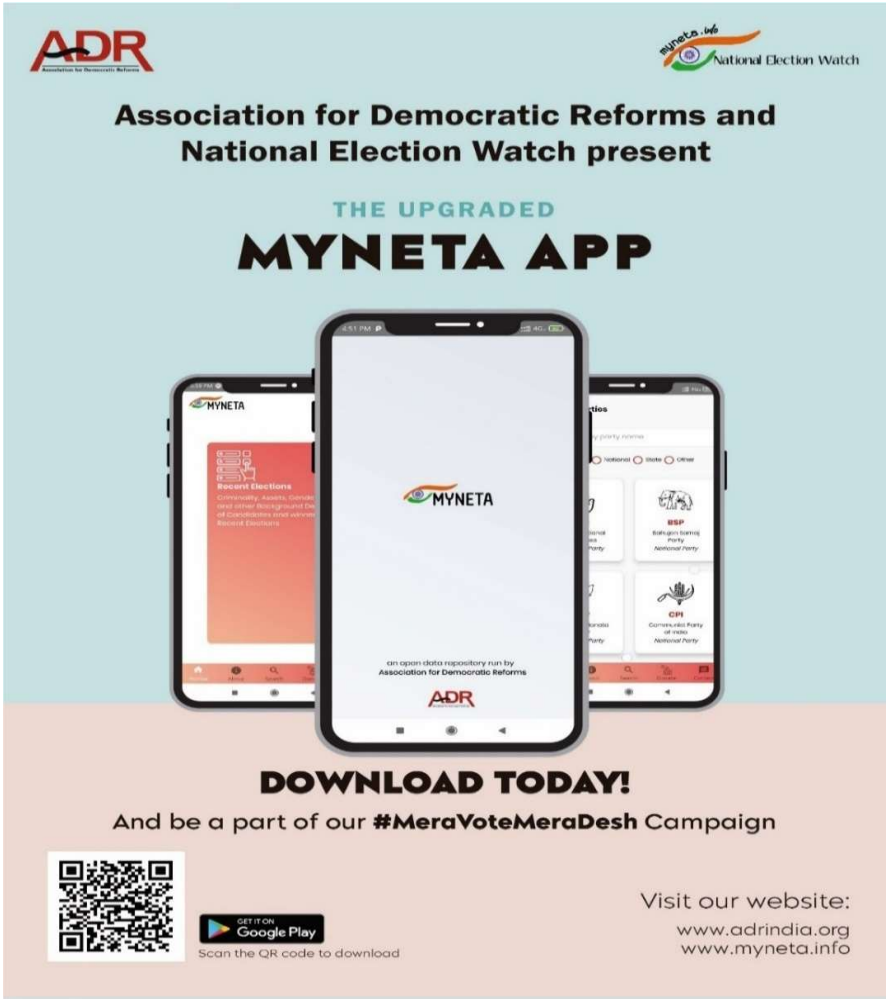
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