



VOTE VIBE
INSIGHTS FOR SMARTER DECISIONS

Weekly Vibe

CROSSING THE FLOOR: WHAT VOTERS THINK ABOUT ANTI-DEFECTION LAWS AND POLITICAL LOYALTY

Voters draw a hard line on political defections: most consider party-switching unethical, favour mandatory resignation before switching, and believe existing safeguards are too weak to protect democratic mandates.

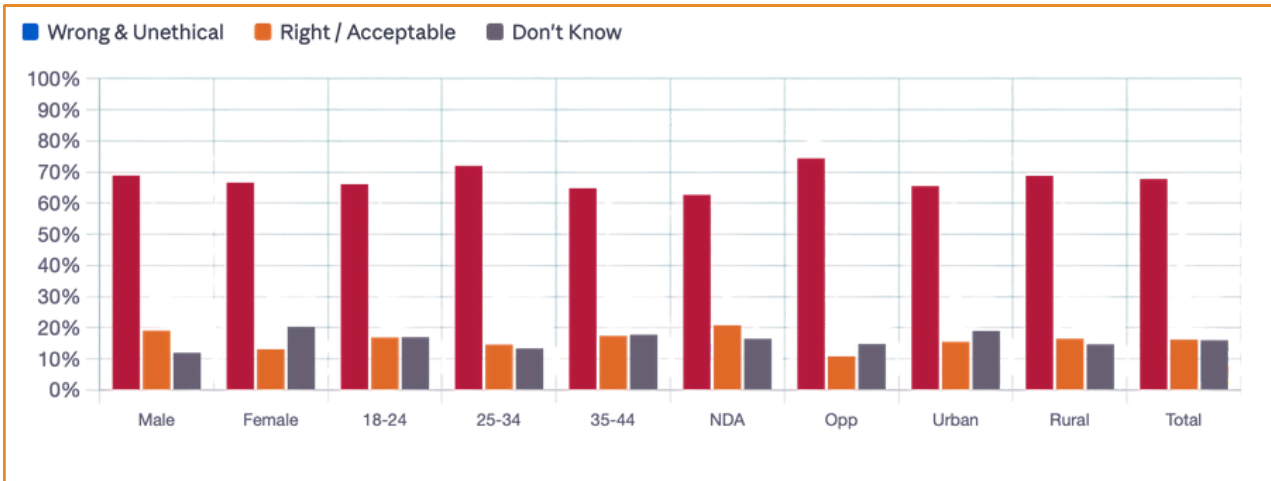
24 June, 2026

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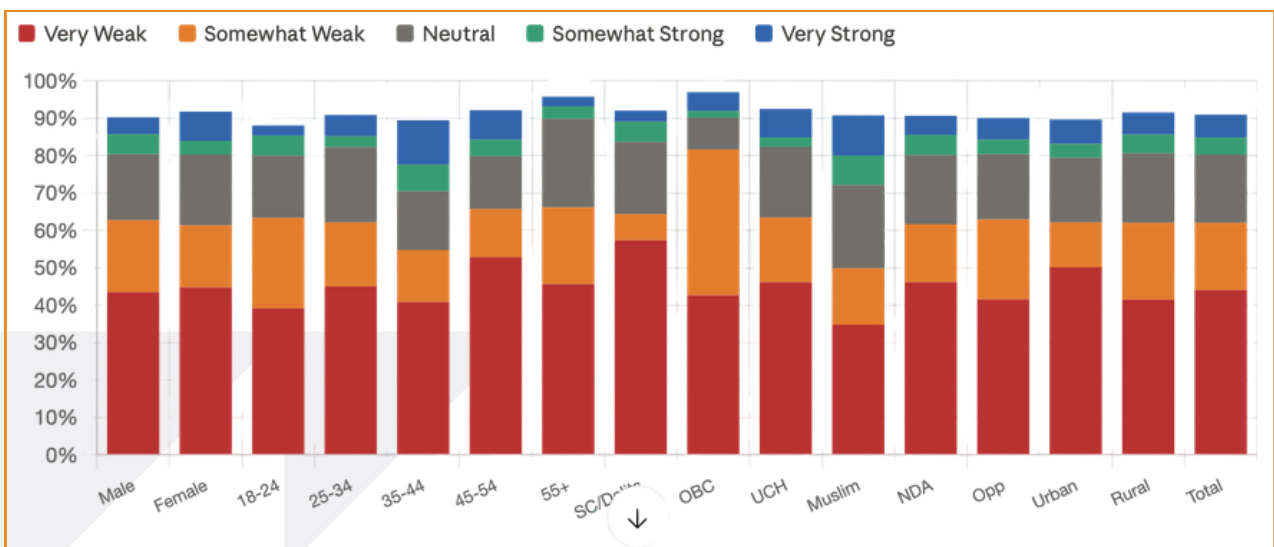
Q1: How do you view politicians changing political parties after being elected?

Right / Acceptable	Wrong and Unethical	Don't know/Can't Say
16.2%	67.8%	16.0%



Q2: How would you rate the current anti-defection law (law against party switching by elected representatives)?

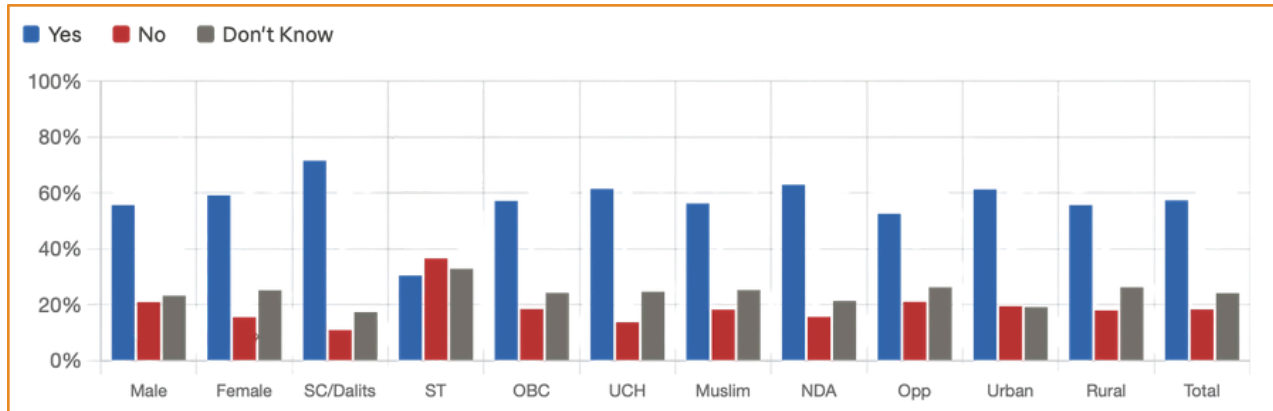
Very weak	Somewhat weak	Neither weak nor strong	Somewhat strong	Very strong	Don't know / Can't say
44.1%	18.0%	18.2%	4.6%	6.1%	9.0%





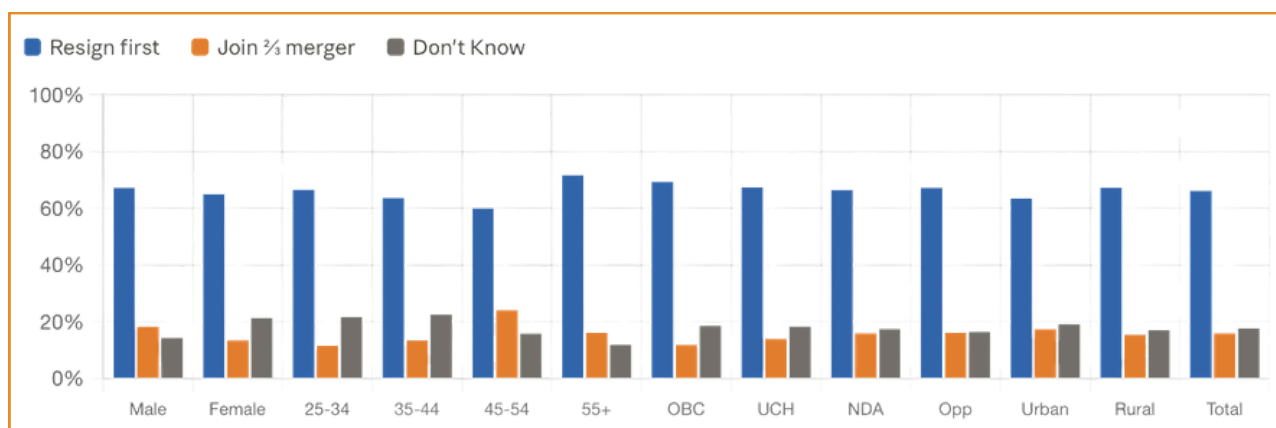
Q3: In Rajya Sabha elections, should MLAs be allowed to vote according to their personal beliefs and conscience instead of following their party's instructions?

Yes	No	Don't know / Can't say
57.4%	18.4%	24.2%



Q4: If an MP/MLA wants to leave the party on whose ticket he/she was elected, what should he/she do?

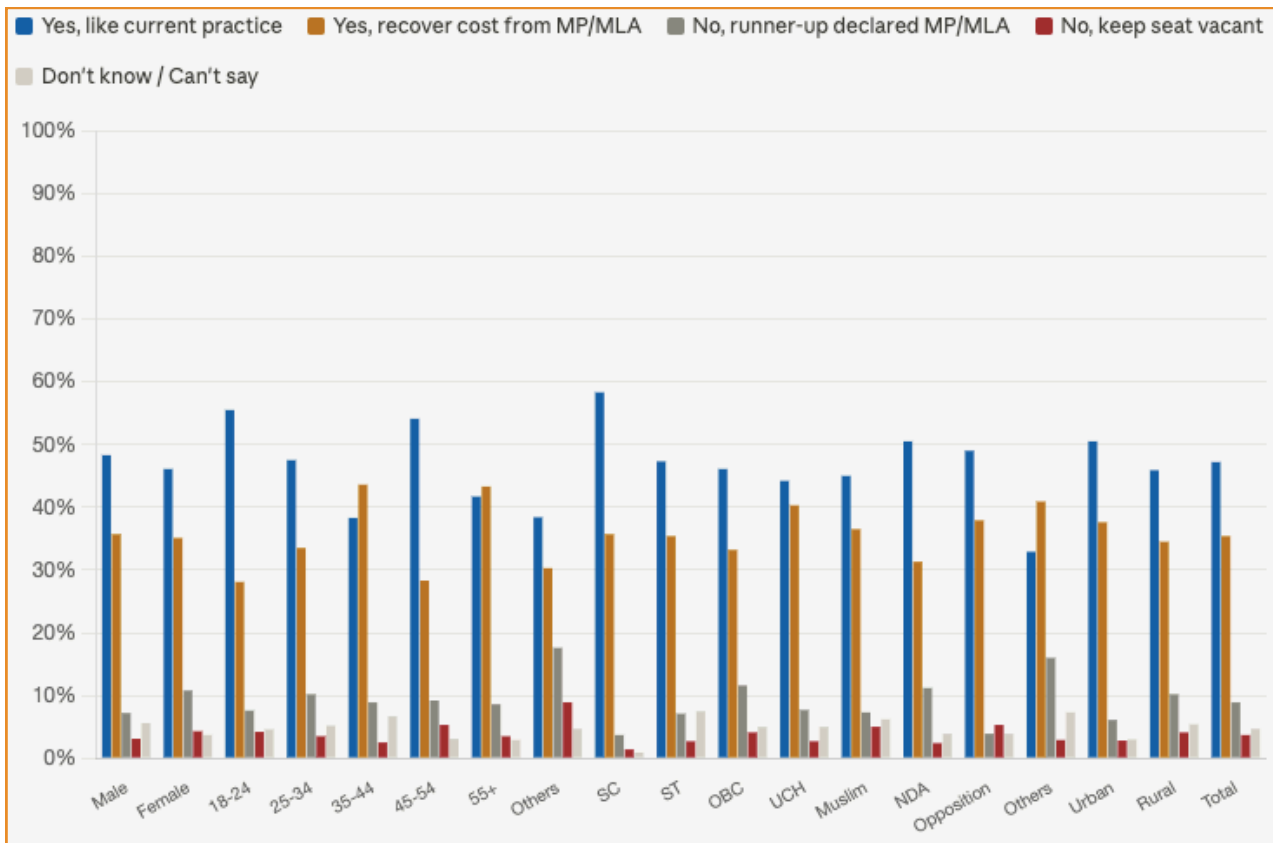
Resign from the seat first and then join another party	Join 2/3 group and merge with party of choice	Don't know / Can't say
66.2%	16.0%	17.8%





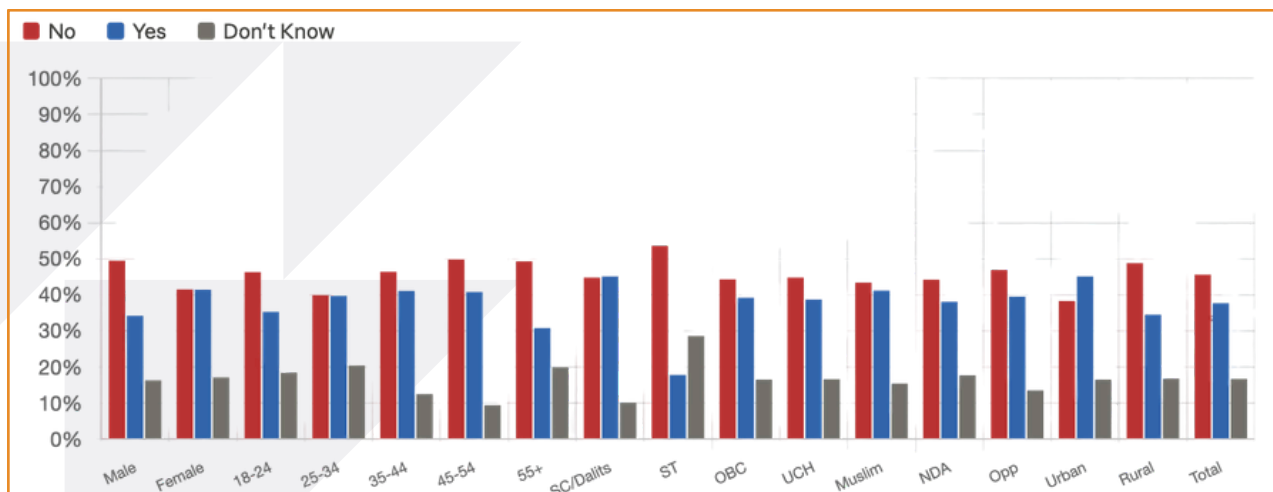
Q5: If an MP/MLA resigns from his/her seat, should a by-poll be held?

Yes, like is current practice	Yes, but recover cost of by-poll from MP/MLA	No, runner-up should be declared as new MP/MLA	No, keep seat vacant	Don't know / Can't say
47.2%	35.4%	8.9%	3.7%	4.7%



Q6: If an MP/MLA resigns from his/her seat, should he/she be allowed to contest the by-election?

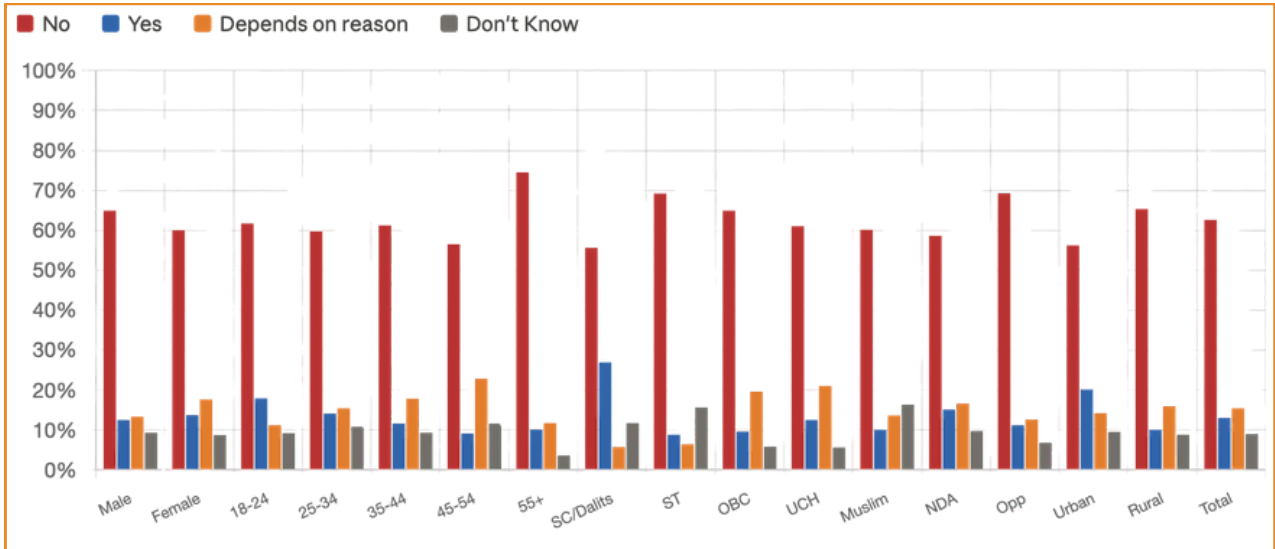
Yes	No	Don't know / Can't say
37.7%	45.6%	16.7%





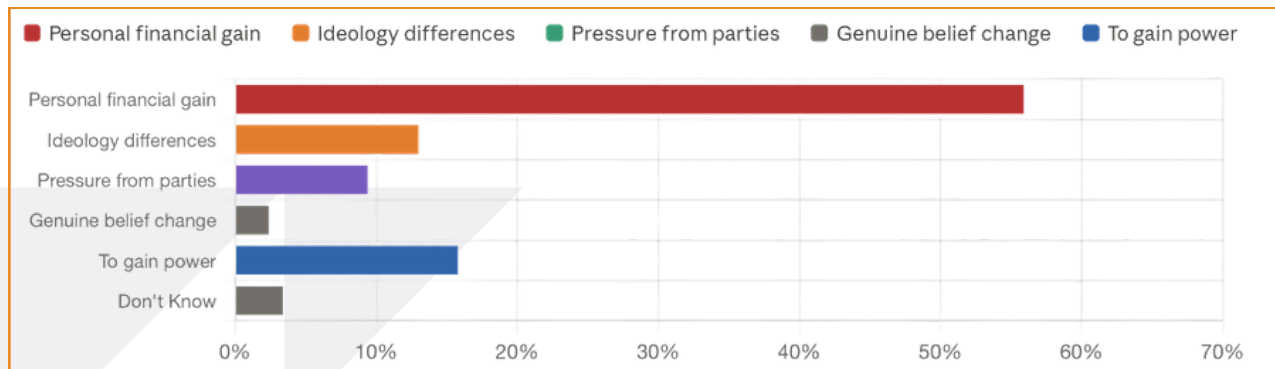
Q7: If a politician changes parties after being elected, should voters support him/her in future elections?

Yes	No	Depends on the reason for changing parties	Don't know / Can't say
13.0%	62.6%	15.4%	9.0%



Q8: In your opinion, what is the main reason politicians change parties?

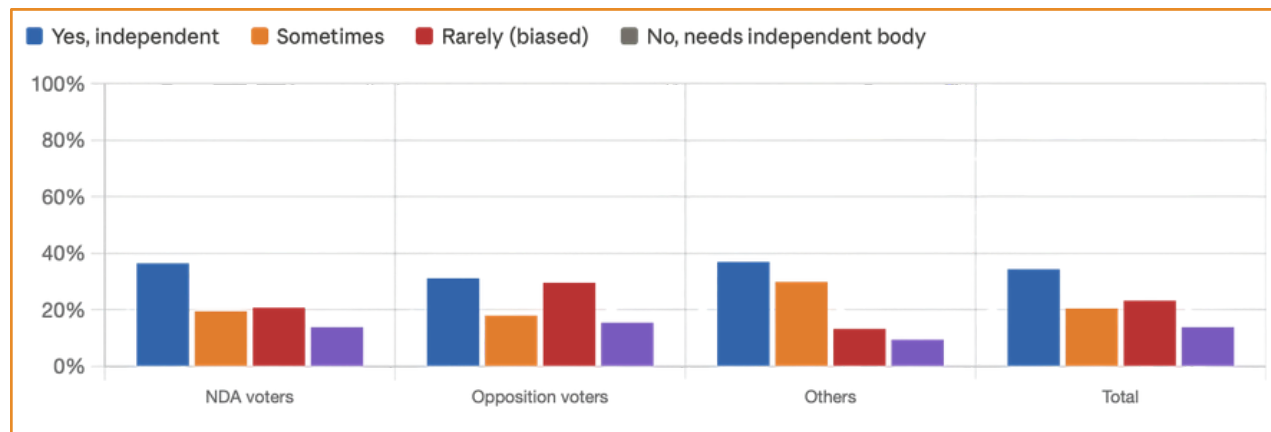
Personal financial gain or inducements	Differences with party leadership or ideology	Pressure from other political parties	Genuine change in political beliefs	To gain power or join the government	Don't know / Can't say
55.9%	13.0%	9.4%	2.4%	15.8%	3.4%





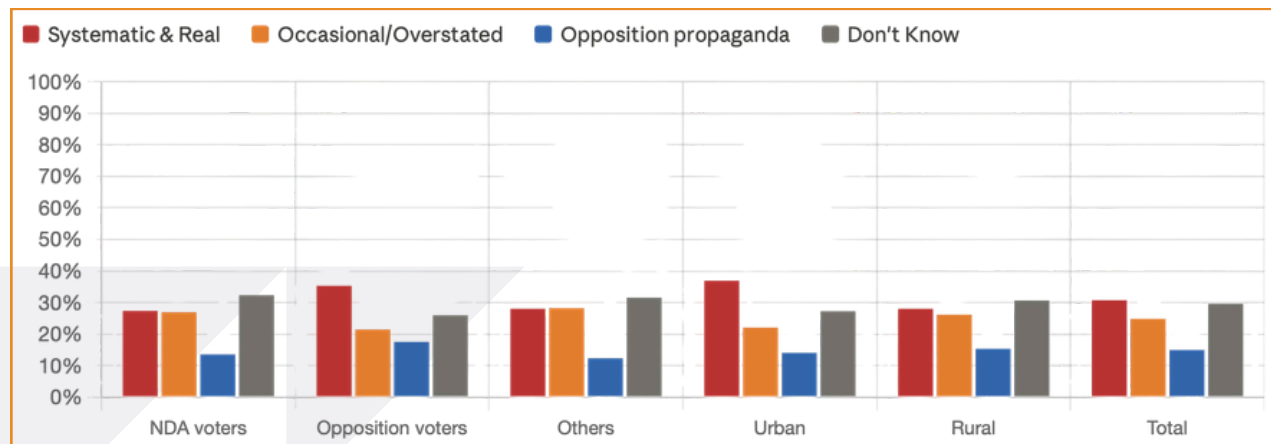
Q9: Do you think the Speaker of a legislative house can decide party-switching cases fairly and impartially?

Yes – Speakers generally act independently	Sometimes – depends on the individual	Rarely – Speakers tend to favour the ruling party	No – the role should be given to an independent body	Don't Know/Can't Say
34.4%	20.5%	23.3%	13.9%	8.0%



Q10: What is your view on allegations of organised defection-engineering by ruling parties?

It is a systematic and real phenomenon	It happens occasionally but is overstated	It is mostly opposition propaganda	Don't know / Can't say
30.7%	24.8%	14.9%	29.6%





Snap Poll - Politicians Crossing Floor

Key Findings (Summary)

Q1: Party-switching viewed as wrong by a landslide

- 67.8% overall call it wrong and unethical; only 16.2% find it acceptable.
- The condemnation is consistent across all groups — no segment dips below 56% calling it wrong.
- SC/Dalits show the highest tolerance (26% find it acceptable), while the "Others" caste group has the lowest tolerance (79.2% say it's wrong).
- Opposition voters (74.4%) are more disapproving than NDA voters (62.7%).

Q2: Anti-defection law seen as weak

- A striking 62.1% combined view the law as "very weak" or "somewhat weak."
- Only 10.7% see it as strong in any degree.
- SC/Dalits (57.4% say "very weak") and the 45–54 age group (52.9%) are the most critical.
- Urban respondents are more likely to call it "very weak" (50.2%) than rural (41.5%).

Q3: MLAs voting by conscience in Rajya Sabha: majority in favour

- 57.4% say yes: MLAs should be free to vote according to their personal conscience - a view that cuts across party lines.
- SC/Dalits are notably the most supportive (71.6% yes), while Scheduled Tribes are the most opposed (36.6% no - the only group where No nearly ties Yes at 30.5%).
- NDA voters (63%) are more enthusiastic than Opposition voters (52.6%).

Q4: Strong mandate to resign before switching

- 66.2% say an MP/MLA should resign their seat first before joining another party.
- Only 16% support the "two-thirds merger" route.
- 55+ age group is the strongest advocate for resignation (71.7%).

Q5 & Q6: By-elections: nuanced but leaning toward accountability

- 47.2% support by-elections as current practice; another 35.4% want them but with the cost recovered from the resigning MP/MLA - together 82.6% support holding a by-election.
- Yet on Q6, 45.6% say the resigning MP/MLA should NOT be allowed to contest the very by-election they triggered. Only 37.7% say they should be allowed back.

Q7: Voters unwilling to forgive party-switchers

- 62.6% say no, they would not support a party-switcher in future elections.
- Only 13% would support them. 15.4% say it "depends on the reason" - showing some nuance.
- 55+ voters (74.5% say no) are the most unforgiving demographic.



Snap Poll - Politicians Crossing Floor

Key Findings (Summary)

Q8: Personal financial gain seen as the dominant motive

- A dominant 55.9% cite personal financial gain/inducements as the main reason politicians switch parties.
- "To gain power or join government" comes second at 15.8%.
- Genuine ideological differences are believed by only 13%, and a genuine change in beliefs by just 2.4%.

Q9: Speaker's impartiality questioned

- 34.4% believe Speakers act independently. A combined 37.1% say Speakers either "rarely" act impartially or that the role should go to an independent body.
- Muslim respondents are the most sceptical (only 25.2% trust Speakers; 36.2% say they rarely act fairly).
- NDA voters (36.5%) are somewhat more trusting of Speakers than Opposition voters (31.2%).

Q10: Organised / defection-engineering: divided but sceptical

- The largest group (30.7%) calls it a systematic and real phenomenon, but there is substantial uncertainty; 29.6% don't know.
- Only 14.9% dismiss it as opposition propaganda.
- Opposition voters (35.3%) are more likely to call it systematic vs NDA voters (27.3%).
- Urban respondents (36.9% call it real) are more aware/alarmed than rural (28%).

Key takeaways:

- *There is near-universal moral disapproval of party-switching, cutting across caste, region, and party lines.*
- *The anti-defection law is widely seen as ineffective in the current context; public demand for reform is clear.*
- *The public strongly favours the "resign first" norm and wants to exclude defectors from facing the by-election.*
- *Cynicism about motives (money, power) is overwhelming; fewer than 3% believe in genuine ideological reasons.*
- *The Speaker's role is contested, with plurality support for an independent adjudicator.*



THANK YOU

Prepared by: AT VoteVibe LLP

Methodology Details:

Sample size: 1000+ All India

Method: CATI

Male: Female - 60:40

Rural: Urban - 60:40

Results have been weighted to reflect the actual population.