# Polity & Governance · GS - II

**Examine how candidate selection and political defections affect the functioning of political parties and democratic representation in India.**

| EXAM YEAR | PAPER | SUBJECT |
|---|---|---|
| DAILY PRACTICE 02/11/2026 | GS - II | Polity & Governance |

| MARKS | WORD LIMIT |
|---|---|
| 10 | ~150 words |

## Answer Hint

**Internal party democracy; ticket distribution; voter mandate; anti-defection law; political accountability; party organisation; electoral competition**

## Model Answer

### Introduction

Political parties connect citizens with representative institutions. Disputes over candidate selection and the movement of elected representatives between parties can influence party stability and democratic accountability.

### Impact on Political Parties and Representation

**1. Internal Party Democracy:** Opaque ticket distribution can create dissatisfaction among party workers and legislators. Transparent selection criteria and meaningful consultation can improve organisational cohesion.

**2. Voter Mandate:** When elected representatives change political allegiance, voters may question whether their electoral mandate is being respected.

**3. Electoral Competition:** Defections can alter party strength, reshape alliances and affect campaign strategies before elections. However, they do not automatically translate into electoral gains for the receiving party.

**4. Constitutional Safeguards:** The Tenth Schedule seeks to discourage defections that undermine legislative stability. At the same time, its operation raises questions about legislators' independence and the role of the presiding officer in deciding disqualification petitions.

**Way Forward**

Political parties should adopt transparent candidate-selection procedures, strengthen internal consultation and establish effective grievance-redressal mechanisms. Timely and impartial decisions on disqualification petitions are also important.

**Conclusion**

Healthy party competition requires internal democracy, accountability to voters and respect for constitutional procedures. These measures can strengthen public trust in representative institutions.

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