

## SC to review Speaker's approval of MPs' merger

The Supreme Court agreed to hear a plea challenging the Lok Sabha Speaker's approval of Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs' merger with a rival faction.

The anti-defection law, under the 10th Schedule, prevents legislators from changing parties, with exceptions like mergers, to ensure political stability.

### KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** on **July 21, 2026**, agreed to urgently hear a plea by the **Shiv Sena (UBT)** party.
- The plea challenges **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's** approval for **six** of its **nine MPs** to unilaterally merge with a rival Shiv Sena faction.
- The lawyer argued that the 'merger' provision, intended to safeguard legislators' rights from the **anti-defection law**, has become a cover for **horsetrading**.

### STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Anti-defection Law** was added to the **Indian Constitution** by the **52nd Amendment Act** in **1985**.

This law is enshrined in the **Tenth Schedule** of the **Constitution**.

The **Lok Sabha Speaker** or the **Rajya Sabha Chairman** is the final authority on disqualification petitions under the **Anti-defection Law**.

The law provides an exception for a 'merger' if **two-thirds** of the members of a political party agree to merge with another party.

In the **Kihoto Hollohan vs. Zachillhu** case (**1992**), the **Supreme Court** ruled that the Speaker's decision under the Tenth Schedule is subject to **judicial review**.

The primary objective of the **Anti-defection Law** is to prevent political defections and ensure stability in the **parliamentary system**.

#### REVISION FLASHCARD

*Supreme Court to review Lok Sabha Speaker's decision on anti-defection law concerning Shiv Sena MPs.*

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