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1 Anti-Defection Law (Source: The Hindu)

- **Introduced in India in 1985 under the 52nd Amendment to the Constitution of India**
 - **Mentioned in the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution**
- **What is it?:** It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection.
- **Aim:** The main aim of this schedule was to prevent political defections and to strengthen democracy by bringing stability in politics and making members of parliament more responsible and loyal to their parties.
- **Deciding Authority:** Presiding officer of the house.
- **Grounds of Disqualification**
 - He voluntarily gives up his membership in a political party.
 - He disobeys the directions of his political party or votes or does not vote in the legislature contrary to the directions of his political party
 - After the election, he joined another political party.
 - If a nominated member joins any political party within 6 months from the day he becomes a member of the legislature.
- **Exemption**
 - Disqualification of a member is not applied in case of a merger, provided that this merger with or into another party shall be done with the consent of at least two-thirds of its legislators.
 - It exempts the Speaker, Chairman, and Deputy Chairman of various legislative houses from disqualification on the grounds of defection.

2 Uses of AI in Disaster Management (Source: The Indian Express)





3 Oil Spills (Source: The Hindu)

An oil spill is the accidental or deliberate release of petroleum products, such as crude oil, diesel or fuel oil, into oceans, seas, rivers or coastal environments, resulting in water pollution and ecological damage.

Cause

- Accidents involving oil tankers and cargo ships.
- Leakage from offshore oil drilling platforms.
- Damage to underwater oil pipelines.
- Illegal discharge of oily waste from ships.
- Natural disasters affecting oil storage and transportation facilities.

Ecological Impact of Oil Spill

- **Marine Biodiversity:** Toxic hydrocarbons can kill fish, plankton, shellfish and other marine organisms.
- **Birds and Mammals:** Oil coats feathers and fur, reducing insulation and buoyancy, potentially causing hypothermia and death.
- **Coral Reefs:** Toxic substances damage coral tissues, affecting growth and reproduction.
- **Mangroves:** Oil blocks root structures and interferes with gas exchange, leading to mangrove degradation.
- **Food Chain:** Toxic hydrocarbons can enter marine food webs and accumulate in organisms.
- **Photosynthesis:** Surface oil slicks reduce light penetration, affecting phytoplankton and aquatic plants.
- **Reproduction:** Oil exposure can impair the growth, reproduction and survival of marine species.
- **Long-term Impact:** Persistent oil residues contaminate coastal sediments, beaches and sensitive habitats.

Who Looks After Oil Spill Control in India?

- The Indian Coast Guard, under the Ministry of Defence, is the Central Coordinating Authority for oil spill response in India's maritime zones. It was assigned this responsibility in 1986.