

BJP forms govt in Arunachal as 33 PPA members join it

People's Party accuses saffron brigade of hijacking its MLAs

ITANAGAR, DEC 31 /-/- In a fast paced development, a BJP government was today installed in Arunachal Pradesh after 33 out of 43 Peoples Party of Arunachal (PPA) MLAs led by chief minister Pema Khandu, joined the saffron brigade in this politically fragile state.

Khandu paraded the MLAs before Assembly Speaker Tenzing Norbu Thongtok who accepted their joining. The high-voltage political drama began since late Thursday night after PPA president Kahfa Bengia temporarily suspended Khandu, his deputy Chovma Mein and five legislators from the primary membership of the party for alleged anti-party activities. The PPA, an alliance partner of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) government in the state, selected Takam Pario as the new chief minister of the state on Friday. However, the political equation changed when majority of the PPA MLAs who initially extended support to Pario, later shifted their allegiance to Khandu. The PPA today also suspended four other party MLAs including Honchun Ngandam, Bamang Felix, Punji Mara and Pani Taram. "Lotus has finally bloomed in Arunachal. The people of the state will see a new dawn of development in the new year under the new government," Khandu told reporters in the Assembly premises. Elaborating on the decision to merge with the BJP, the chief minister said that circumstances compelled the MLAs to take the decision in the interest of the people and the state. "After several years of Congress misrule we observed that there was no visible development in the state. We joined the PPA with the intention to take the state to progress and prosperity, but there too, we find similar condition where the party president treated the MLAs undemocratically. So with focus on development, our



MLAs decided to join the BJP for overall progress of the state," the chief minister said. Terming the decision of the PPA president to suspend the MLAs as "undemocratic," Khandu said that before such a move the party leadership should have issued show cause notice to the MLAs. "There was no significant development in the state since last year due to political turmoil, but now with NDA government at the Centre, the state will witness a sea change in the coming years," Khandu said adding "the decision to join the BJP is a blessing in disguise for the people and the state." "Until and unless there is stability in the government, no development could take place. There will be no more dissident politics and we shall now only focus on development," Khandu asserted.

When asked about the court case filed by Arunachal Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Padi Richo against the joining of Congress MLAs with PPA which is pending with the Gauhati High

court and which would be taken up on January 7 next, Khandu said that the joining was done in accordance to the Constitution. Later today, the BJP today accused the BJP of hijacking its MLAs.

Addressing media persons at Arunachal Press Club (APC) here, the PPA chief Bengia criticised NEDA convener Himanta Biswa Sarma for remaining a silent spectator during the political crisis. "The NEDA convener instead of coming to the state to resolve the ongoing crisis went to Kenya. He should have deputed somebody to sort out the differences between the MLAs of the party," Bengia said.

"The PPA is not comfortable with NEDA in the state and we are going to discuss the issue with other constituent members of the alliance soon," PPA central working committee (CWC) chairman Kamen Ringi said while supporting Bengia.

Hopeful of Nitish coming on board on demonetisation: Khurshid

PATNA, DEC 30 /-/- Senior Congress leader Salman Khurshid today expressed hope that Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar would agree to his party's stance on demonetisation after the latter reviewed his decision on the move.

After reviewing his decision on the completion of 50 days of demonetisation, Nitish Kumar would take a decision after consulting his party keeping in mind the ground realities in Bihar. But we would like Nitish Kumar to be with us in our struggle and movement that we have launched against demonetisation especially

with regard to its poor implementation," Khurshid told newsmen here. Notably, Nitish had supported the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's demonetisation move but his party had later made it clear that it would review its decision (on demonetisation) after completion of 50 days i.e. after December 30.

In reply to a query, the former Union minister said that talks were being held with JD-U on the issue to convince them on demonetisation and its ill-effects. "We are not resorting to any kind of any illegal pressure. We are trying to convince (our



partner in Bihar)," he said when pointed out Congress is putting pressure on JD-U to join it on the issue. While on Lata Prasad, he said: "His party is walking along with us on demonetisation." Cornered by the media repeatedly over Nitish Kumar

having taken different approach than that of Congress on demonetisation, Bihar Congress chief Ashok Choudhary had to intervene into the matter saying that everyone should wait for Kumar's decision.

"This is a grand alliance of three parties which is being run on the basis of common minimum programme. Political parties may have different national views. RJD and Congress have taken a view (on demonetisation). Nitish Kumar has said that his party would review its decision on demonetisation and we should wait for it," Choudhary said.

Nosolution in sight to Manipur blockade as both CM and UNC refuse to budge from their stands

IMPHAL, DEC 31 /-/- A solution to the two-month-old crippling Naga indefinite economic blockade of Manipur is nowhere in sight with Manipur chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh and the United Naga Council (UNC) not budging from their respective stands, officials said.

The UNC had imposed the indefinite blockade on November 1 in protest against the government's plan to create two new districts. According to the UNC, several thousands of Nagas will be uprooted by the new districts. However the government responded by creating seven, and not two, new districts. All sections of peo-

ple welcomed it saying that apart from administrative convenience this has been their long standing demand for speedy development. The chief minister told a news agency that first UNC should call off the blockade and give an assurance that it will not be repeated. Only after that can talks be held and Gaidon Kamei and Stephen Lamkang, two UNC leaders, may be released to create a conducive atmosphere.

State chief secretary Oinam Nabakishore said: "One of the conditions of UNC is that the talks should be held in the district headquarters of Senapati". In response Singh said: "The UNC



is a club of a handful of persons. If the government goes to Senapati district all other organisations may put such conditions in future. At the most we are ready to go to Delhi for the proposed tri-partite talks".

Kiren Rijiju, the Union minister of state for home affairs, recently said that the Manipur government is not serious about ending the blockade.

GOOD LUCK

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ANUS
Ganesha anticipates some exciting smelly joys. You are likely to meet some people who will help you to be successful in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work, and in your thinking. Towards the end, says Ganesha, you will have to remain practical.

TAURUS
You may get away with a precise understanding of the stars today, says Ganesha.

SCORPIO
The stars are aligned in a way that they produce constructively favourable horoscopes for you, says Ganesha. You know the importance of team and treat everyone - seniors & juniors as equals. This will make the work environment harmonious.

SAGITTARIUS
If and your nature is warm the bench, but you will be asked to step back and look back at today, says Ganesha. This may be due to the fatigue of some recent endeavours. For a change, you will try and

CAPRICORN
Plans for expanding business may require you to take risks, leaving you in dilemma in more than one occasion. In such desperate circumstances, following your instincts can lead you to success, advises Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
You are good with words and with the art of

LIBRA
Ganesha says governmental work will be beneficial to you. Those who share offices in the government will be having a positive and good day ahead. Your family members will offer their support to you and it is something that you will need from them. Children will progress in life. This is a good time to take important decisions.

LEO
Today, you will be expected to be a master of your own destiny. You will be able to rise through the help of the people you support and will be

Virgo
You will be able to see to a master of your own destiny. You will be able to rise through the help of the people you support and will be

Cancer
People will surround you. You will entertain them with your family. Social circles will be very active. Students will be concentrated on their work. It will be a good day, says Ganesha.

Try and put on some protective gear today - may be a suit of amour or a shield. In fact, says Ganesha. For you may find some need for it today or in the future. You will be able to do some face to face with the unexpected. Manage through the day somehow, since the day's distress will eventually give way to an evening of ecstasy and a night of pleasant surprises, portends Ganesha.

KIDZ CORNER

PUZZLE SPOT

PUZZLE SPOT
Compiled and illustrated by Al Bengie

GOING IN PUZZLE

Can you make two words about golf from the jumbled letters in this puzzle? One word has five letters, the other word has only three. Each letter is used only once.

R N R P
E A G

LET'S LEARN TO DRAW A TRAIN

Answer to Chess puzzle = Turkey.

- DRAW AN 'S' CURVE.
- SKETCH ENGINE AND CARRIAGES.
- SMOKE
- ADD WINDOWS. DRAW RAILWAY LINE.

JOINT THE DOTS

KidSpot

by Dick Rogers

The gift
Marcus and his younger sister have 24 dollars to buy their mother a birthday present. Marcus has three times as much money as his sister does.
How much money does his sister have?

Minute 8 Maze

5x5

Insert the missing letters to complete ten words - five across the grid and five down.

No.88

S		R	P	
	H		D	
R	N	S		
S	E			
P	E	S		

OUR SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No.87 (Other combinations may occasionally be possible.)

SLOPS
TAROT
ADDLE
SLEEP
HERDS

Reference: C.O.D. 1995