

Topic: Uttarakhand Crisis

Brazen horse-trading in the political system is a blot on our democracy. One would have thought that the BJP would be different **but as Arunachal Pradesh, and now Uttarakhand**, shows nothing has changed. It is surprising that **even the former Chief Minister Vijay Bahuguna** has joined the dissident camp. It is the turn of Uttarakhand now to face the devious game being played by the Centre to dethrone a democratically elected government. In this the BJP is proving itself to be a party with “no difference” when it comes to the question of dealing with non-BJP governments. Such ugly political games bring disrepute to the system of democracy.

The political crisis in Uttarakhand continued over the weekend, as Governor K.K. Paul gave **Chief Minister Harish Rawat** of the Congress a **deadline of March 28** to prove his majority in Assembly. Congress government in Uttarakhand led by Harish Rawat plunged into a crisis with nine party MLAs turning rebels and opposition BJP approaching the Governor staking claim to form the government.

The Governor's directive to Rawat came even as BJP, claiming majority with support of nine rebel Congress MLAs in the 70-member Assembly, stepped up efforts to form its government, contending that the Rawat ministry has been reduced to a minority.

**According to Assembly Speaker Govind Singh Kunjwal** the anti-defection law is in place and whoever is found guilty of violating it will have to be acted against.

President Pranab Mukherjee's intervention was formally sought on 21<sup>st</sup> march in the political crisis in Uttarakhand, with leaders of the Congress government and the opposition BJP separately pitching to run the hill state.

**Here are the top 10 developments in this big story:**

1. Nearly all of the BJP's **28 state legislators met the President** after a dramatic march in the heart of the capital.
2. However, the rebel Congress law-makers whose support is crucial to the BJP's plans to **replace the government of Chief Minister Harish Rawat** were not part of the meeting.
3. The Uttarakhand legislature has **70 members**. To remain in power, the Congress needs at least **36 members** to support it in a trust vote. Without its **nine rebels, it slides into a minority**.
4. A delegation led by **Kailash Vijayvargiya**, a prominent BJP leader in the State, requested the President to advance the floor test from **March 28 to March 22** and said this would determine whether the government of **Chief Minister Harish Rawat** had a majority or not.
5. The Congress has today expelled **Saket Bahugana**, the son of **former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Vijay Bahugana**. It accuses him of "masterminding" the rebellion by **nine party lawmakers, who include his father**.

6. Just after the BJP's conference with the President was the turn of senior Congress leaders like Kapil Sibal and AK Antony to make their case - they accuse the BJP of trying to destabilize governments in all states it does not govern.
7. Mr. Rawat has accused the BJP of "**using money power to overthrow Chief Ministers**, dispensing them like dirty handkerchiefs."
8. The BJP says the Congress is responsible for the crisis it finds itself in.
9. The Congress says the **nine rebels must be disqualified** from the Assembly under anti-defection laws. At least two-thirds of a party - in this case, 24 Congress MLAs - must split for them to be recognised as a separate group.
10. Uttarakhand is **one of just eight states now** governed by **the Congress**.

**Read further:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/uttarakhand-crisis-congress-leaders-quitting-sinking-ship-bjp-shrikant-sharma/>

[http://www.firstpost.com/politics/uttarakhand-speaker-issues-show-cause-notices-to-nine-rebel-congress-mla-2686302.html?utm\\_source=fp\\_top\\_internal](http://www.firstpost.com/politics/uttarakhand-speaker-issues-show-cause-notices-to-nine-rebel-congress-mla-2686302.html?utm_source=fp_top_internal)

[http://www.firstpost.com/politics/uttarakhand-crisis-congress-expels-saket-bahuguna-for-six-years-for-anti-party-activities-2688000.html?utm\\_source=FP\\_CAT\\_LATEST\\_NEWS](http://www.firstpost.com/politics/uttarakhand-crisis-congress-expels-saket-bahuguna-for-six-years-for-anti-party-activities-2688000.html?utm_source=FP_CAT_LATEST_NEWS)