

Huge political changes in Kashmir



In a huge political development, the BJP has withdrawn its alliance with People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu Kashmir, henceforth bringing the government down with no clear majority. Soon after BJP-PDP alliance ended, the Mehbooba Mufti submitted her resignation as Jammu and Kashmir chief minister to state governor N N Vohra today.

Back in 2014 assembly elections, BJP had decided to support Kashmir's People Democratic Party (PDP) and form the government in state through alliance after the election results had left a fractured mandate. BJP had received votes, but the people of Valley had voted for PDP, even if it didn't reach the magic number of 45 to attain clear majority. With 28 seats for PDP and 25 seats for BJP, the alliance formed Jammu Kashmir's government and PDP's Mehbooba Mufti was appointed as the Chief Minister of the state.

However, both ally parties had involved in war of words both publicly and privately, each blaming the other for massive mob violence and the rising militancy in Kashmir. The unnatural alliance between two parties with different ideologies ? that pushed through for three years, was finally ended as the BJP pulled out from the alliance. BJP believes that it had become "untenable for BJP to continue the alliance with PDP", especially after the situation has worsened in the state over time and "terrorism, violence and radicalisation has increased in the Valley". The alliance was strained after both parties had major differences over the Centre's decision to end its Ramadan ceasefire with terrorists.

Soon after BJP's pull-out from the alliance, Mehbooba Mufti had called an emergency meeting of her party ministers and today evening, she submitted her resignation as Jammu and Kashmir chief minister to state governor N N Vohra. The governing power of the state will now be handed over to the governor of Kashmir - N N Vohra - as no single party holds the mandate to govern the state. While the BJP foresees political aspects for 2019 elections, the breakdown of government might cause instability in the region and the state might require by-election or appointment of interim minister.