

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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Parrikar dies, plunging Goa into uncertainty

CM succumbs to cancer; BJP loses its crisis man

NEW DELHI/PANAJI: Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar, 63, passed away at his private residence in Panaji after battling pancreatic cancer for over a year.

His death is likely to put the BJP government in Goa in trouble. Parrikar's presence was what helped the party form the government after losing majority in the last Assembly polls and sustain despite efforts to topple it.

The former defence minister, the BJP's go-to man in Goa, breathed his last around 6.45 pm on Sunday, after his condition deteriorated two days ago. He is survived by two sons.

Parrikar, who was diagnosed with the ailment in February last year, was on life support system since Saturday night. While there was speculation about his condition during the day, it was President Ram Nath Kovind who announced his death through a tweet.

Parrikar's last rites will be



Manohar Parrikar
(1955-2019)

performed at Miramar in Goa on Monday evening.

Parrikar was the BJP face in Goa and his acceptability across the spectrum forced the BJP to make him work till his last day, for the survival of the government. Congress president Rahul Gandhi described Parrikar as "one of Goa's favourite sons".

The latest development could lead to political upheaval

A common man's minister

Manohar Parrikar will always be remembered for his spartan lifestyle and common man approach as he ruled a state known as a glitzy tourist destination.

There was a time when the 63-year-old was talked about as a successor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Even when he headed the secretive defence ministry, Parrikar was a common man's minister, meeting people of all hues and all denominations. Whether in his home state Goa or in Parliament, Parrikar was spotted in his trademark half-sleeve shirt hanging loose and carrying thriller novels along. Parrikar was born on December 13, 1955, in the market town of Mapusa in the then Portuguese Goa. He completed his school education in Marathi and went on to graduate in metallurgical engineering from IIT Mumbai. **Obit, Page 13**

in the state where the BJP is in minority and is ruling the state after entering into post-poll understandings. In a House of 40, there are four vacancies, including Parrikar's. The BJP has 12 MLAs and allies MGP and GFP three each. Three independents support the BJP.

Cong stakes claim

The Congress had on Saturday staked claim to form the

government, saying the BJP government lost majority with the death of MLA Francisco D'Souza. Soon after Parrikar's death, the Congress again staked claim, saying parties got together with the BJP on the condition that Parrikar should lead if the BJP wanted to form the government. Meanwhile, the BJP-led coalition in Goa began talks to find a new leader.

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"This unfortunate development (Parrikar's death) calls for immediate action on your part for smooth transition and transfer of power," it said.

In a letter to the Governor, Goa Congress chief Girish Chodankar said the coalition partners of the Parrikar government had said they allied with the BJP government on the condition that it will be headed by Parrikar.

Earlier in the day, there was tension in the Congress amid reports that its leader and former chief minister Digambar Kamat flew down to Delhi to negotiate with the BJP. Kamat, however, dismissed the reports as rumours and said he would attend the Congress Legislature Party meeting on Monday.

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