

Vertical split in Assam BJP over president



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Simmering difference seems to have crippled Assam BJP unit hardly six months before the assembly polls. The party in rank and file are heading for a verticle split [over](#) the new president [as](#) Siddharth Bhattacharya's tenure ends. Bhattacharya and his loyalists want extenion till the assembly polls while many others are dead opposed to it. But who will be the new president to [lead](#) the party in the assembly polls early next year?

Bhattacharya is believed to have sought the extension in view of the assembly polls. Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma who is also learnt to have urged the central leadership to retain Bhattacharya [as](#) the [state](#) unit president triggering stiff resistance from many senior [leaders](#) including a few sitting [MPs](#) and MLAs.

A circle of senior [leaders](#) and [MPs](#) has already apprised the central leadership of the possible adverse impact in the polls if Bhattacharya is allowed to continue the post. They have told the leadership that the party would have to pay the heavy [price](#) under Bhattacharya's leadership. The Central leadership want Sarbananda Sonowal to replace Bhattacharya. But a senior party [leader](#) who refused to be named told Assam Times that the Union minister is not at all interested to accept the offer.

"He is not happy with the [state](#) of affairs in the [state](#) unit. That's why, he is least interested to take the rein. Then he will have to quit [as](#) Union minister," said the senior BJP [leader](#). "Definitely, if BJP president asks him to go and take [over as state](#) unit president Sonowal has no option but to do so. But he is not interested," he said.

Rajen Gohain, Ram Prasad Sarma, Ramen Deka, Rameswar Teli and Bijaya Chakrabarty [don't](#) want Bhattacharya [as](#) president while Kamakhya Prasad Tasa is ready to follow what Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma wants. Notably, the central leadership has yet to allow 9 sitting [Congress](#) MLAs promising poll tickets only acting on the protest from the [state](#) leadership.

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