

Senior BJP MLA pulls out of crucial panel



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DIBRUGARH: The much awaited Assam cabinet expansion has given birth to simmering discontent within BJP where a senior [leader](#) has pulled out of a crucial party panel set up to boost the morale of the panchayat polls.

He is none other than Prasanta Phukan, who was not considered this time. Hours after the swearing in ceremony, the Dibrugarh MLA has put in his papers as the chairman of the [state](#) unit's steering committee.

He was holding three other posts which he left in a letter sent to the [state](#) president Ranjit [Das](#).

Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal expanded his two year old council inducting four cabinet and three [state ministers](#) on Thursday. [Governor](#) Dr Jagdish Mukhi administered these seven inductees oath of office and secrecy at a function in the Raj Bhawan in the morning attended by the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues.

Siddharth Bhattacharya and Bhabesh Kalita from BJP took oath as cabinet [ministers](#) while Chandan Brahma from BPF and Phani Bhusan Chaudhury from AGP also were administered oath in the same rank. All four [ministers](#) of [state](#) in independent charge are from BJP who took oath in the same function. They are Piyush [Hazarika](#), Tapan Kumar Gogoi and Sumu Ronghang.

For the first time the year old Sonowal team expanded his cabinet giving raw [deal](#) to three strong contenders who include Prasanta Phukan, Padma [Hazarika](#) and Atul Bora

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Assam Times Staff. editor@assamtimes.org

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