

FADNAVIS RESIGNS AS CM AFTER SC ORDERS FLOOR TEST

After dark night, Constitution Day

Ajit Pawar left citing personal reasons, we don't have majority, says Fadnavis

VISHWAS WAGHMODE, SANDEEP ASHER, ZEESHAN SHAIKH & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

HOURS AFTER the Supreme Court asked the Maharashtra Governor to ensure a floor test in the state Assembly Wednesday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis resigned from the post Tuesday, drawing the curtain on his three-day-old government and clearing the decks for a Shiv Sena-led government with NCP and Congress as partners.

Running out of options and facing defeat in the trust vote after NCP leader Ajit Pawar resigned as Deputy Chief Minister following the Supreme Court order, Fadnavis too threw in the towel, saying he no longer had majority — the shortest tenure of a government in Maharashtra.

Before heading to Raj Bhavan to hand his resignation to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Fadnavis told a press conference at the Sahyadri Guest House: "Ajit Pawar held discussions with us and decided to extend support to form a government which is the reason why we formed the government. After the Supreme Court order calling for a trust motion tomorrow, Pawar met me and said he cannot continue due to some reasons. He cited personal reasons for resigning. Since he has resigned, we don't have majority. Since the beginning, we have said we will not indulge in horse trading. I will go and tender my resignation to the Governor."

Late at night, Ajit Pawar reached the Silver Oaks residence of his uncle and NCP chief Sharad Pawar. Earlier in the day, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Fadnavis hands his resignation to Governor Koshyari, in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Uddhav Thackeray to become CM, swearing-in at Shivaji Park tomorrow



Uddhav pays tribute to father Balasaheb Thackeray. PTI

VISHWAS WAGHMODE, SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & ZEESHAN SHAIKH
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

SHIV SENA chief Uddhav Thackeray will be the new Chief Minister of Maharashtra, heading a party-led government that will include allies NCP and Congress.

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari Tuesday night invited Uddhav Thackeray to take the oath of office and secrecy at 6.40 pm on Thursday at the Shivaji Park in Dadar after he received a letter from the Maha Vikas Aghadi which stated it had the support of 166 MLAs.

"You may send me the list **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

A SAVING GRACE

Hopefully, SC on law and a united Opposition in politics have taught BJP a lesson or two in hubris

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Amitabh Bachchan at the fourth edition of *The Indian Express 26/11 Stories of Strength*, at the Gateway of India in Mumbai on Tuesday. Nirmal Harindran



India no more a soft target, FATF listing will be final nail in coffin for Pak: Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

WITH ITS current maritime and coastal security structure, "India is no more a soft target" for terror attacks, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, adding that Pakistan-based terrorists will have to think "100 times" before making such a move.

Singh was the chief guest at the fourth edition of the 26/11 Stories of Strength event, hosted by *The Indian Express* at the Gateway of India on Tuesday to mark the 11th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks.

"We have dismantled terror infrastructure and are now trying to target its financial network. If Pakistan does not stop sponsoring terrorism, it will be



Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari at the event. Amit Chakravarty

blacklisted. In the face of recession, blacklisting of Pakistan by **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

At the Gateway of India, a tribute to bravery — with message of tolerance, love

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

ON THE evening of November 26, 2008, Devika Rotawan was at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, when she was shot in the leg by Ajmal Kasab; the barely 10-year-old girl became the youngest and one of the first witnesses to testify against the Pakistani terrorist. On Tuesday, Rotawan took the stage at the fourth edition of the 26/11 Stories of Strength event, hosted by *The Indian Express* to mark the

11th anniversary of the Mumbai terror attacks.

"Eleven years have passed, but I can never forget that terrible night," she said, before observing a minute's silence for the victims of the attacks. The audience rose to their feet, many bowing their heads in remembrance.

Earlier, playback singer Divya Kumar joined the Indian Navy Band for a performance of A R Rahman's "Bharat humko jaan se pyaara hai" from *Raja*; they paused for a dazzling two-helicopter flypast by the Navy. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

From a Pawargrab to Pawar pushback: How BJP lost vote of over-confidence

LIZ MATHEW & SHUBHANGI KHAPRE
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

WHEN DEVENDRA Fadnavis, deserted by Ajit Pawar and outplayed by Sharad Pawar, declared Tuesday that he would hand his resignation letter to the Governor, the BJP brass in Delhi was watching it live on television. A few hours earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP working president J P Nadda had held a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Parliament House.

Sources said the "situation was such" that the leaders, who met after the Supreme Court direction for a floor test, had to



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with BJP working president JP Nadda in Parliament on Tuesday. PTI

take a decision asking Fadnavis to resign. Senior BJP leaders admitted they were not expecting this, but "anything is possible".

For the top brass, it is not just the loss of power in a big state and the country's financial **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED

Why this hurts the BJP more

FOR THE BJP, the loss of Maharashtra is its second misadventure in 18 months. But this will hurt the party brass more than the fall of the earlier Karnataka government because this time the offices of the President and PM were dragged in to impose President's Rule and to revoke it later.

EXPLAINED



SIMPLY PUT MAHARASHTRA'S IRRIGATION SCAM

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GOVT & POLITICS

PARTY WANTS AJIT PAWAR BACK IN FOLD, REHABILITATION MAY NOT BE EASY

OPPOSITION SLAMS BJP, QUESTIONS ROLE OF GOVERNOR
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WORLD

PAK SC SUSPENDS IMRAN MOVE TO EXTEND ARMY CHIEF'S TENURE

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From rally in rain to Grand Hyatt lobby, Sharad Pawar fought his way back

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MANOJ CG & SANDEEP ASHAR
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 26

SHIV SENA chief Uddhav Thackeray may become the next Chief Minister, but it is NCP leader Sharad Pawar, the grand old man of Maharashtra politics, who has emerged as the undisputed anchor and face of the three-party alliance. Less than three months ago,



Sharad Pawar addressing a rally amid heavy rain in Satara became the defining image of the Assembly polls. File

Pawar — and his NCP — was staring at an uncertain political future. The perception was that

the BJP-Sena would return to power in Maharashtra. But Pawar led from the front, waging a spir-

ited campaign even as ally Congress seemed to give up before the poll battle began.

A photograph of the 79-year-old addressing a rally amid a heavy downpour in Satara became the defining image of the Assembly elections. The NCP finished third, but improved its tally from 41 seats in 2014 to 54 this time. Many Maharashtra Congress leaders accept, rather grudgingly, that Pawar's enthusiastic campaign helped them in many seats.

But the real test for Pawar came after the results were declared. As the BJP and Sena fell **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**