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THIS / FROM : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Other state matter

Region State : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India DATE: 09/11/2017

Fadnavis resigns as Maha CM; no compromise, says Uddhav

BJP: Our Doors Always Open, No Horse-Trade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The 'Mahayuti' of Maharashtra lay in tatters on Friday with BJP and Shiv Sena lashing out at each other immediately after Devendra Fadnavis tendered his resignation as chief minister to governor B S Koshiyari and was asked to continue as caretaker until alternative arrangements were in place. While Fadnavis said his party had never agreed to share the CM's post with the

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native arrangements were in place. While Fadnavis said his party had never agreed to share the CM's post with the

“There was no agreement on sharing the CM's post in my presence. I checked with our party chief Amit Shah and he too said Sena had sent a proposal to that effect but nothing had been decided

I will be acting CM until the governor makes alternative arrangements. A re-election isn't desirable. I am sure the next govt will be led by BJP



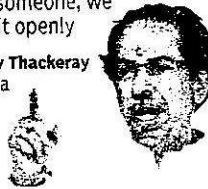
- Devendra Fadnavis
Caretaker CM

Sena and would not tolerate the kind of criticism the Sena had heaped upon PM Modi, Uddhav accused the BJP

“Amit Shah promised us the CM's post will be shared for 2.5 years each. The CM (Fadnavis) knows this... For the first time, Shiv Sena and the Thackerays have been accused of lying. But it is Amit Shah & co that are lying

BJP should form the govt at the earliest... If we want to talk to someone, we will do it openly

- Uddhav Thackeray
Shiv Sena chief



of "lying" and regretted that he had allied "with the wrong people."

Despite the apparent bre-

akdown, however, both leaders refrained from announcing the end of the saffron alliance, fuelling speculation on whether they didn't want to take the blame for snapping ties or simply to keep the door open for renegotiation once tempers have calmed a bit.

With the term of the previous assembly ending on Saturday, the governor, constitutional experts said, is expected to speed up the process of government formation by calling the largest party, followed by the second largest party and so on until he is satisfied a government could be in place. If he isn't, the state may be in for a spell of President's rule, the experts said.

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Prove horse-trading or apologise, says Fadnavis

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Fadnavis said at a presser held immediately after the election that he was confident the next government would be led by BJP.

Dismissing allegations made by some Congress leaders that BJP was indulging in "horse-trading", Fadnavis said they should prove it or apologise. "BJP, while forming government, will not do any horse-trading," he stressed.

Fadnavis reiterated that BJP had not, in his presence, agreed to equal sharing of all posts, including the CMship, with the Sena. He said he had later checked with BJP chief Amit Shah, who too said no such promise had been made. He said he had called Uddhav several times but he hadn't taken the calls and instead stopped all talks. Fadnavis emphasised that the Sena's vitriolic attacks on PM Modi were unacceptable to BJP and even Congress and other opposition parties had not used such language for

Mandate is for saffron: Pawar

BJP president N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Friday that it was for the BJP-Sena alliance to form the government since the saffron combine had a clear mandate. Speaking after a meeting with social justice minister Ramdas Athavale, leader of the Dalit party RPI(A), Pawar said the BJP had emerged as the single-largest party and convention dictated that the governor should invite the BJP legislature party leader for the formation of the government. Athavale met Pawar at his residence and asked him to intervene and end the deadlock. TNN

the prime minister.

The Sena president, who held his own presser soon after that of Fadnavis, said he could not break bread with "liars" and more than once referred to "Shah and company," who he said had not kept their word. However, Thackeray said he had high regard for RSS and

Cong members shifted to Jaipur

Congress winners of the Maharashtra assembly election were shifted to Jaipur on Friday over fears of poaching by the BJP, which is short of numbers since its pre-poll ally Shiv Sena refuses to support it over a chief ministership tussle. Maharashtra Congress politician Vijay Wadettiwar said some MLA-elects were moved to Jaipur after specific information that a few of them had been offered large amounts to support the BJP. "We have told our legislators to record the phone conversation," Wadettiwar said. TNN

asked whether such "lying" on the BJP's part was in tune with the idea of Hindutva.

On forming the next government, Thackeray said, "Let the BJP stake claim. Then we will think of forming the new government (if BJP fails to pass the majority test)."