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Drama shifts to SC, hearing at 11.30 am

THE Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena approached the Supreme Court on Saturday following the surprise swearing-in of Devendra Fadnavis as Maharashtra CM on the basis of NCP MLA Ajit Pawar's offer of support by a group of party legislators for the BJPled government in the state.

In their petition, the three parties that had been in talks to form a coalition government in the state challenged the governor's decision to swear in Fadnavis as CM and sought an urgent hearing.

A three-judge bench comprising justices N V Ramana, Ashok Bhushan and Sanjiv Khanna will hear the plea on Sunday at 11:30 am.

The joint petition urged the court to direct a quick floor test for the Fadnavis government, as it had done for governments in Karnataka and Goa earlier, giving the parties just 24-48 hours. They urged the court to order a special session of the Maharashtra assembly so that the MLAs could be administered their oath, to be followed by a floor test.

Alleging Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari acted in a "partisan manner", the petition sought scrutiny of records of the governor's office to know how the Governor determined Fadnavis had the numbers.

Letter of support or attendance sheet?

What was supposed to be a letter of support from the NCP MLAs submitted by Ajit Pawar to the Governor was actually the attendance sheet of the party MLAs, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar alleged. Ajit, by virtue of being the NCP legislature party leader, possessed the list of all the 54 MLAs with their signatures, he alleged