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## Sawant govt. to face floor test today

2 Deputy CMs in 11-member Cabinet

PRAKASH KAMAT  
PANAJI

Goa Governor Mridula Sinha has convened a special session of the Assembly on Wednesday for a floor test of the BJP-led coalition government of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who took charge in the early hours of Tuesday.

Mr. Sawant was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister at the Raj Bhavan around 2 a.m. The 11-member Cabinet, which was also administered the oath of office, included two Deputy Chief Ministers – Sudin Dhavlikar of the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) and Vijai Sardesai of the Goa Forward Party. The Cabinet included all Ministers under Manohar Parrikar, who died on Sunday.

### Portfolio allocation

Mr. Sawant said the portfolios would be allocated in the next few days. With Mr. Sawant resigning as the Speaker, BJP MLA and Deputy Speaker Michael Lobo



Pramod Sawant in his office on Tuesday after taking charge as Goa CM. • PTI

will be in the Speaker's chair to conduct the floor test.

The BJP-led coalition has a majority of 21 in the truncated House of 36 MLAs – 12 BJP members, three each of the MGP and the Goa Forward Party and three Independents.

On the Opposition benches, the Congress has 14 MLAs and the Nationalist Congress Party has one MLA.

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GOAN ROULETTE ► EDITORIAL

## Pramod Sawant govt. to face floor test today

7.17.2019

A key bone of contention in Monday's negotiations, steered by Union Minister Nitin Gandkari, was Mr. Dhavlikar's younger brother and MGP president Dipak Dhavlikar's determination to contest the Shiroda Assembly bypolls. The seat was vacated by Congress MLA Subhash Shirodkar, who joined the BJP.

While BJP insiders claimed on late Monday that Mr. Gadkari succeeded in convincing Mr. Dhavlikar to persuade his brother to withdraw from the Shiroda by-election in exchange for the deputy chief minister's post he got along Mr. Dipak Dhavlikar on Tuesday ruled

out his withdrawal, claiming the MGP got only two Cabinet berths as against the promised three.

Given the BJP's lower numbers compared to the Congress, the three Assembly by-elections assume significance for the stability of the coalition government.

Before reaching office, Mr. Sawant called on the family of his mentor and predecessor, Mr. Manohar Parrikar, and met his family. "Mr. Parrikar has been my political idol, guru and father figure... I am in politics, became a MLA, Speaker and now Chief Minister, all because of him," Mr. Sawant told reporters.