おびればり独 **从日平日**RENOE ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖನಾ ಶಾಖೆ ASSEMBLY RESEARCH ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭೆ. LEGISLATIVE KARNATAKA

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oppn parades its strength on reality TV Sharad Pawar assures NCP lawmakers not to be worried about a whip by rebel Ajit

STRENGTH ABHIJIT MULYE @ Mumbai

HOUSE -

288

Samajwadi Party | 2

NCP (Includes

Shiv Sena

Congress

Party

Aiit Pawar group)

Prahar Janshakti

Swabhimani

Independents

Rashtriya Samaj

Peasants And

Workers Party

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Independents

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Maharashtra

Navnirman Sena

CPM

Aaghadi

CONFIDENT of its comfortable majority in the 288-member Assembly, the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance on Monday created a TV spectacle by parading its lawmakers at a five-star hotel here and administered them an oath to adhere by the Constitution of India and not succumb to the BJP's allurements.

While the Shiv Sena claimed it shall parade 162 MLAs, NCP lawmaker Jitendra Awhad admitted the headcount was a tad less as "at least 3-4 MLAs were not present" at the event.

NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar sought to assure party legislators that they will not be disqualified if they flout a whip issued by his nephew and defector Ajit Pawar, who is now Maharashtra deputy CM. "I assure you that you will not be disqualified and I take personal responsibility for it. Ajit Pawar has acted against the party," said Pawar.

This newspaper had reported on Monday that though the NCP sacked Ajit Pawar as its legislature party leader after his revolt, in the eye of the law his status could be unchanged. He is banking on it to issue a whip asking party MLAs to vote for the BJP during the floor test, introducing the fear of disqualification. It was this concern Sharad Pawar was trying to allay while addressing his party MLAs.

Shiv Sena chief and chief ministerial candidate of the three-party alliance Uddhav Thackeray dared the BJP to try and create more hurdles in the formation of their coalition government in the state. "In the last 30 years, you have seen our friendship. If you create more problems, we will show our might," he warned.



Opposition MLAs take a pledge at a Mumbai event on Monday, as NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray look on 1 pm

SC ruling today on coup, floor test

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will rule on Tuesday whether or not Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's decision to swear in Devendra Fadnavis as Maharashtra CM was appropriate. The court will also decide on the question ordering a floor test in the state Assembly. Acting on a plea filed by Sena-NCP-Congress alliance, a threejudge bench headed by Justice NV Ramanna had reserved its verdict tili 10:30 am. Meanwhile, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the governor's office, produced the letter by Deputy CM Ajit Pawar stating that 54 MLAs of the NCP had elected him as the leader of the legislative party.

Poof! 9 irrigation scam cases gone

Mumbai: Two days after a BJP-led government was sworn in, it dangled a large

carrot before NCP lawmakers, some of whom are facing corruption charges, as the Maharashtra Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday closed its probe into nine cases in a multi-crore Vidarbha irrigation scam. Deputy Chief Minister Aiit Pawar is also an accused in the scam, but ACB director general Parambeer Singh was at pains to clarify that the nixed cases had nothing to do with Pawar. Yet. the timing of the announcement was curious, since Ajit Pawar went against the NCP line and helped the BJP stage a midnight coup to capture power.

has bolted (2019 horse-trading, entire stable There is no

Fadnavis's letter also mentions the letter by Pawar, stating that the NCP was extending the support of its 54 MLAs to the BJP. "This could be a case where the entire stable has been stolen," Mehta told the bench. Questioning Mehta, senfor advocate A M Singhyi said, "What they have shown here to the bench is the signatures of all 54 NCP MLAs electing Ajit Pawar as legislative party leader. They did not sign their support for all stive party leader. They did not sign their support for all stive party leader. They did not sign their support for all joing with the BJP to form government. Is there a single covering letter saying this? This is a fraud on democracy. I have original affidavits which state they don't support Pawar."

But the affidavits were not taken on record by the SC. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi submitted that the Governor's office acted reasonably based on the material placed before him. "One Pawar vith them. Nobody says the letter of support is fabricated," he said.