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# Uddhav set to be CM after Fadnavis' reign ends in 3 days

**Sena president to be sworn in tomorrow, likely to have two Deputy CMs**

MRITYUNJAY BOSE  
MUMBAI, DHNS

Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray will take oath as the chief minister of Maharashtra on Thursday, the Sena-NCP-Cong combine said on Tuesday, after Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar resigned as CM and Deputy CM ahead of the floor test ordered by the Supreme Court.

The swearing-in will be held at Shivaji Park in Mumbai.

After Uddhav was elected the leader of Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi, a delegation from the three parties and allies met Governor Bhagwat Singh Koshiyari and staked claim to form the government.

Uddhav, who would be the first Thackeray to occupy a position of power, said what transpired today is "actual de-

mocracy".

Saying that he had never dreamed of leading the state, Uddhav thanked Pawar and Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

"We will make Maharashtra once again the Maharashtra which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj had dreamed of," Uddhav said.

"What happened today is actual democracy. Lies are not part of Hindutva. I am ready

to answer all questions of Fadnavis. When you need us you hug us. When you don't you leave us," he said.

Uddhav is likely to have two deputy chief ministers, with NCP's Jayant Patil and Congress's Balasaheb Thorat being the front runners.

Earlier, Fadnavis and Pawar resigned just 80 hours after they were sworn in on November 23, in an anti-climax to the month-long political drama in

Maharashtra.

The BJP was outsmarted in the numbers game after Sharad Pawar cornered Ajit. Sensing defeat and isolated, Ajit held a meeting with Fadnavis and tendered his resignation.

"Ajit Pawar met me and said that for some personal reason he cannot stay in the alliance and resigned. Because of his resignation, we do not have the majority," Fadnavis said.

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Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray gestures after he was chosen as the nominee for the chief minister's post by the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress alliance in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI