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MLAs to take
oath in special
session today

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AFTER Devendra Fadnavis resigned as chief minister, the Supreme Court's directive on conducting a floor test to prove his strength on Wednesday became infructuous. By extension, the process of oath taking of MLAs on Wednesday as directed by the Supreme Court, too, was not necessary.

In fact, there is no precedent of all MLAs taking oath of office before the swearing-in of the chief minister if there is no special situation that warrants it. That situation changed after Fadnavis resigned.

Why, then, did Governor B S Koshiyari set the process in motion for oath taking of all 287 MLAs from 8 am on Wednesday? Earlier in the day, he administered the oath to Pro-tem Speaker Kalidas Kolambkar, complying with another Supreme Court order.

Terming the situation as unusual, experts claimed the Governor did it only to be on the right side of the SC. "Let's remember, the Governor called the session when there was a chief minister in the state. The circumstance changed when he resigned before proving his majority on the floor of the House," Constitutional expert P D T Achary pointed out.

Echoing him, senior advocate K T S Tulsi said, "The Governor has decided to call for special Assembly session early in the morning. Keeping in mind the Supreme Court's direction, he has done what is constitutionally right."