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## NCP to get Deputy CM post, Speaker will be from Congress

Ajit Pawar returns after failed revolt; says the Pawar family is united

## ALOK DESHPANDE

Two days after the failed rebellion to join hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a bid to form the government, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar returned, addressing party MLAs at a meeting here on Wednesday.

"I am with Sharad Pawar. I was always with him and the party. I have no complaint against anyone. Neither have I any ill will against anyone. There are no problems within the Pawar family," said Mr. Ajit Pawar.

On Tuesday night, Mr. Ajit Pawar had visited the house of his uncle and NCP president Sharad Pawar where both reportedly decided to



Past is past: NCP leaders Supriya Sule and Ajit Pawar at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai on Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

let bygones be bygones.

Mr. Ajit Pawar's return to the State Cabinet was not confirmed till late in the night after a meeting of top leaders of the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress was held for over four-and-a-half hours. The leaders clarified that the names of the Ministers will be announced only on Thursday morning.

Maharashtra Chief Minister-designate Uddhav Thackeray, the senior and junior Pawars, along with top NCP leaders and senior leaders of the Congress from Delhi and Maharashtra, participated in the meeting to discuss the distribution of portfolios.

NCP leader Praful Patel addressing a press conference after the meeting said one Deputy Chief Minister of the NCP will take oath along with Mr. Thackeray. "The post of Speaker will go to the Congress while the NCP will get the Deputy Speaker's post," he said.

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