

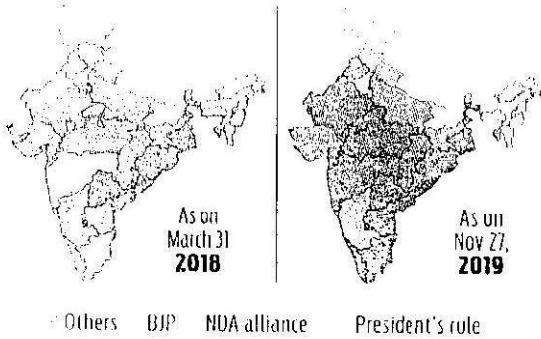
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 ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ, ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೇವೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂವಿಧಾನ ವಿಷಯ

SENA DISHONoured MANDATE: AMIT SHAH

Having lost Maharashtra to the three-party Aghadi, BJP chief Amit Shah on Wednesday lashed out at the Shiv Sena, saying it dishonoured the popular mandate, as all Sena MLAs had sought votes in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also rapped NCP and Congress for not respecting the mandate

THE CHANGING POLITICAL MAP

Till the third-quarter of 2018, the NDA looked invincible. It held power across India in over 20 states. Then it lost Rajasthan, MP and Chhattisgarh. Maharashtra has just joined the list. The Oppn is now back in the game



AADITYA CALLS ON SONIA. INVITES HER FOR CEREMONY

Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray on Wednesday night called on Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi and invited her to his dad Uddhav Thackeray's swearing-in ceremony. Aaditya had a brief meeting with her at her 10, Janpath residence. The Congress tweeted a photo of them from its official Twitter handle. The Sena is also understood to have invited former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for the grand event at central Mumbai's iconic Shivaji Park. Her scheduled to begin at 6.40 pm on Thursday

NCP gets lone deputy CM post, Cong Speaker

Uddhav to take oath today; Jayant Patil, Ajit Pawar front-runners for Dy CM; Prithviraj Chavan tipped to be Speaker

ABHIJIT MULYE @Mumbai

THE contours of government formation in Maharashtra became clearer by late Wednesday night although leaders of the Shiv Sena, NCP and the Congress remained tight-lipped about exact allocation of ministerial berths.

Senior NCP leader and former Union minister Praful Patel said there will be only one deputy chief minister who will be from the Sharad Pawar-led party. The Congress will get the Speaker's post, he added.

"At least one or two leaders from all the three parties will take oath as minister along with Uddhav Thackeray tomorrow (Thursday)," Patel told reporters as he emerged from a four-hour-long meeting of Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi leaders at the YB Chavan centre in South Mumbai late on Wednesday night.

While Patel said the deputy CM's name was yet to be decided, sources told *TNIE* Jayant



CM-designate Uddhav Thackeray and his wife Rashmi meet Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the Raj Bhavan; (Right) NCP leaders Supriya Sule with Ajit Pawar during a special session of Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday | *TNIE*



Patil and Ajit Pawar are the top two contenders for the post.

Congress leader Prithviraj Chauhan is tipped to be the Speaker, according to sources.

Apart from Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, Congress leaders Ahmed Patel, KC Venugopal and Mallikarjun Kharge took part in the deliberations for power sharing.

According to sources, multiple claims for the Speaker's

post dragged the talks. Pressure from NCP workers to make Ajit Pawar deputy Chief Minister also stalled discussions, they added.

"December 3 is the deadline for trust vote. Before that, all talks regarding power sharing will be concluded," Patel said, declining to confirm the number of portfolios each alliance partner will get.

Sources told *TNIE* that Sena

is likely to get 16 ministers including the CM, while the NCP will have 14 ministers including deputy CM. The Congress will have 13 ministerial berths along with the Speaker's post, sources privy to the discussions told this paper.

Patel said the media will be informed about the exact details of who will take oath on Thursday morning.

Given the strength of Maha-

rashtra Assembly, the number of ministers cannot exceed 44. There is, however, no set formula for the number of senior and junior ministers.

State Congress chief Balasaheb Thorat had earlier said everything would be finalised in a couple of days.

"The ratio of portfolio-sharing will be finalised in the next two days. The number of Cabinet and Minister of State (AoS) posts to be given to each party will also be finalised in next two days," he said after taking oath as M.L.A. According to him, the allocation of portfolios could take time.

The protracted discussions for government formation followed Pawar's hectic parleys with Patel, Venugopal and others at the former's residence here earlier in the day.

The Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress had on Tuesday named Uddhav Thackeray as the CM nominee of their newly formed three-party front Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi.