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Ex-BJP MP to be Maha Speaker

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

In a stern message to the BJP, the Maha Vikas Aghadi has nominated senior Congressman Nana Patole for the post of Speaker.

Patole, a former BJP MP from Bhandara-Gondiya, was the first to revolt against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and came out of the saffron party in December 2017, in protest against the way the NDA government was handling the agrarian crisis.

The Speaker's election would be held on Sunday.

The BJP has fielded Kisan Kathore



Congress MLA Nana Patole, PRI

against him. However, going by the result of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's trust vote, Patole's election is a foregone conclusion.

Patole (56) is an MLA from Sakholi

in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. He had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from Nagpur against BJP heavyweight Nitin Gadkari.

'Nanabhau'

He won the Vidhan Sabha polls from Sakoli in Bhandara district.

Popularly known as Nanabhau, the 56-year-old firebrand leader hails from the OBC Kunbi Maratha community. Patole's appointment to the coveted post is an attempt of MVA to maintain balance of power as all top Congress and NCP leaders hail from Western Maharashtra.