

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು  
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## BJP scouts for candidates for upcoming RS polls Party Considering Their Social Work For Ticket

BV Shivashankar  
& HS Shreyas | TNN

**Bengaluru:** Within 24 hours of the Rajya Sabha election notification being issued, the 'surprise' candidature of Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murty has come to the fore from the BJP side.

The name of late Union minister Ananth Kumar's wife and party state vice-president Tejaswini is also being considered, it is said.

"Nobody from BJP has contacted me so far and I am not aspiring for a political debut either. I will think and take a decision if they approach me with the offer," Sudha Murty told TOI.

### POLITICAL NOTES

Between Sudha Murty and Tejaswini, the latter appears to have the edge on account of cadre "sympathy" due to her losing out on the Bangalore South LS seat in 2019 — held by her husband for six consecutive terms.

But sources said the party high command is mulling over the candidature of Murty considering her social work and respectable image among the people.

Considering its current strength in the state assem-



Sudha Murty and Tejaswini

bly, two BJP candidates can make it through. According to BJP sources, the party is considering having a candidate each from political and 'social work' backgrounds.

### Kore versus Katti

While Belagavi politics is almost certain to weigh in on the candidature for the first seat — between Ramesh Katti and incumbent Prabhakar Kore — the candidatures of Murty and Tejaswini has cropped up for their 'notable' social work over the last two decades, sources said.

They claimed Kore's chances look brighter due to his proximity with party national president JP Nadda. However, the recent hint of rebellion within the party by the Katti brothers has also given them a slight "advantage" through brash tactics.

"There is no secret that we are seeking a ticket for Ramesh Katti. I hope he will get it," said Umesh Katti.

But, due to the lack of RSS

backing for the Katti brothers, their chances appear bleak. The name of P Muralidhar Rao, general secretary, in-charge of Karnataka affairs, is also in contention.

For the record, party state general secretary N Ravi Kumar said BJP is yet to decide on any candidature.

Meanwhile in Congress, the fight appears to be between former Lok Sabha opposition leader M Mallikarjun Kharge and outgoing MP B K Hariprasad. Other seniors, including M Veerappa Moily and KH Muniyappa, are also in the race.

Karnataka assembly will vote to fill four vacancies created by the retirement of Prabhakar Kore (BJP), BK Hariprasad (Congress), Rajev Gowda (Congress) and Kumpendra Reddy (JDS).

With each candidate requiring 45 votes to be elected, considering the present 223-member strength of the house, BJP with 117 members can win at least two seats on its own. The Congress can win one seat but will have 23 surplus votes. JD(S) with 34 MLAs is reportedly planning to seek Congress's support to win the fourth seat, and party supremo and former prime minister HD Deve Gowda could be the candidate.