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CHH

# By choosing 2 grassroots workers, BJP signals against dynasty politics

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**Bengaluru:** By announcing two grassroots-level workers – Eranna Kadadi and Ashok Gasti – as candidates for the June 19 Rajya Sabha polls, the BJP national leadership has recognised loyalty, giving a thumbs down to dynasty politics. The decision has shattered hopes of many politicians' relatives aspiring for positions in the party and the government.

What appeared to be a sure-shot ticket for incumbent Prabhakar Kore and former MP Ramesh Katti, the two powerful Lingayat leaders from Belagavi, has been turned on its head with the leadership choosing the new faces. It's now being deliberated why the BJP decided to overlook Kore and Katti against two low-profile district-level leaders. While Ramesh is the younger brother of Umesh V Katti, a senior BJP MLA representing Hukkeri in Belagavi, Kore heads the Karnataka Lingayat Education Society.

Sources said BL Santosh, the party's national secretary (organisation), had impressed upon the leadership in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls to choose Yuva Morcha leader Tejasvi Surya, 28, to contest from Bengaluru South, by denying a ticket to Tejaswini, wife of late Union minister Ananth Kumar. Similarly, Santosh has now ensured tickets to loyal footsoldiers, who are staunch supporters of deputy chief minister Laxman Savadi, indicating his clout in the party.

A senior leader said Kore and Katti were dropped to

## LOYALTY PLACED ON A PREMIUM

Since 2014, the BJP always sprung a surprise when making choices ... chief ministers, President of India, cabinet ministers and their portfolios, LS and RS nominees and of course, Padma nominees. While BJP is keen on sending a 'no-dynasty' message, is it a mask that allows a quiet assertion by the party of making choices based on ideological commitment and loyalty? Party loyalty and grassroots leaders are placed on a premium

Sandeep Shastri | POLITICAL ANALYST

During their campaign in 2018 assembly and 2019 LS polls in Karnataka, PM Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah mocked the Congress and JD(S) for dynasty politics. They had asked the party cadre to work towards nation building and not serve the interests of any political family, an oblique dig at the Nehru-Gandhi family. It seems to be an attempt to strengthen the party without leadership-centric dependency and make BJP an inevitable party choice of the people

Harish Ramaswamy | POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

## All 4 RS candidates set to be elected unopposed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** With nomination papers of four candidates, including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and veteran Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, declared valid, the Rajya Sabha election in Karnataka is set to be a unanimous affair.

Meanwhile, papers of independent candidate Sangamesh Chikkanaragunda were rejected during scrutiny of nominations.

### POLITICAL NOTES

Returning officer MK Vishalakshi said Chikkanaragunda's papers were rejected on grounds that there were no proposers for his candidature and his declaration of assets and liabilities was not in the valid format.

"With only four candidates, the election is all set to be unopposed and unanimous," official sources said.

June 12 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

**Sangamesh Chikkanaragunda's papers were rejected due to lack of proposers for his candidature. His declaration of assets and liabilities was not in the valid format**

### Congress wants probe

KPCC president DK Shivakumar on Wednesday tweeted urging the state government to set up a special investigation team to nab the culprits who allegedly threatened veteran Congress leader and Rajya Sabha candidate M Mallikarjun Kharge and his son and Chittapur MLA Priyank Kharge over phone.

"The threat to senior and junior Kharge is a serious security matter and should not be taken lightly by the government. I urge CM & home minister to set up a special investigation team immediately to catch the culprits," he tweeted.