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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Times of India ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 15/6/2020

MLC elections: Cong fields Hariprasad, Naseer Ahmed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The Congress will field sitting Rajya Sabha member BK Hariprasad and outgoing MLC Naseer Ahmed for the June 29 Karnataka legislative council polls.

Hariprasad's tenure in RS is ending on June 25. The Congress' decision to field the Billava leader has raised many eyebrows since his name was not even in the reckoning. KPCC chief DK Shivakumar had shortlisted seven names and sent them to the high command.

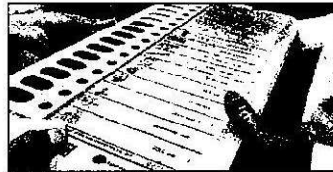
Hariprasad, 65, a commerce graduate from MES College in Bengaluru, has for long stayed away from Karnataka politics, involving himself more with All-India Congress Committee (AICC) activities. He was also general secretary of the party. Given Hariprasad's long-standing desire to return to state politics, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi is said to have preferred him. He has been a confidant of the Gandhi family for a long time.

Hariprasad had twice unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls from Bengaluru South constituency — once in 1999 against late HN Ananthkumar and in 2019 against Tejaswi Surya.

Muniyappa unhappy

The decision to field Naseer Ahmed is also expected to cause resentment in the party. Former Union minister KH Muniyappa has been

JD(S) may choose Vokkaliga agriculturist



The JD(S) on Wednesday evening shortlisted a party worker from Kolar. Govindraj is a 55-year-old

agriculturist belonging to the Vokkaliga community. State president HK Kumaraswamy said they are looking to strengthen their base in Kolar with the nomination of Govindraj who has been a loyal worker. JD(S) is yet to give the B form — official nomination paper from the party — to the candidate and is likely to wait till Thursday morning for a final decision.

openly threatening to quit the party if the incumbent MLC is considered as the candidate. Muniyappa is upset as Naseer Ahmed, who is retiring as MLC on June 30, had reportedly worked against him in last year's Lok Sabha polls.

Polling on June 29

The MLC election is necessitated as the term of seven MLCs including Naseer Ahmed, Jayamma, MC Venugopal, NS Bose Raju, HM Revanna (all Congress), TA Sharavana (JDS) and independent DU Mallikarjuna, will end on June 30. Polling will be held on June 29 to fill seven MLC berths. Thursday is the last date for filing nominations.

While the BJP is in a position to bag four out of seven seats, Congress can win two and JD(S) one. Twenty-eight valid votes from MLAs are required for each candidate.

SEC asked to review postponing GP polls

Bengaluru: The high court on Wednesday directed the state election commission to reconsider by July 1 its decision to postpone elections to over 6,000 gram panchayats.

A division bench gave this direction after hearing a PIL filed by Congress MLC KC Kondaiah and others. The bench noted that under Article 243K of the Constitution and section 308 of Karnataka Grama Swaraj Act, SEC is obliged to hold elections to panchayats before expiry of their term, and that it cannot postpone the exercise.

The petitioners had challenged SEC's May 28 notification seeking to postpone GP elections owing to the lockdown and other unavoidable circumstances. TNN