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Dissolve Assembly, face polls: Siddaramaiah dares BJP

Refutes BSY's claims on gram panchayat poll results

BENGALURU, DHNS
Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Siddaramaiah on Thursday dared the BJP to dissolve the Assembly and face elections. Speaking to reporters, Siddaramaiah claimed that the Congress would win a majority and return to power "if elections are held tomorrow" while dismissing Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's belief that the people of Karnataka

were with the BJP. He was reacting to Yediyurappa's claiming that BJP-backed candidates had emerged victorious by winning a majority of the seats in the gram panchayat elections. "The BJP doesn't have the people's support. All that they have is money that they've looted," Siddaramaiah said. "Let the BJP dissolve the Assembly and face elections. If there's an election tomorrow, the Congress will win a major-



ity and come back to power," he said. Yediyurappa, at a news conference, said BJP-backed candidates had won in 3,800 gram panchayats out of the 5,728 that went to polls. "Yediyurappa is daydreaming," Siddaramaiah said, on the BJP's claim that the gram panchayat results were a pre-

Panchayat polls: 'Over 90k candidates elected'

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Thursday declared more than 90,000 candidates are elected as members of gram panchayats across the state. There were 91,339 seats up for grabs

in the polls that were held in two phases on December 22 and 27. According to the SEC, 82,576 candidates were elected in the polls and 8,153 were elected unopposed. Another 610 seats are vacant.

cursor to the next Assembly elections. "In many places, the BJP didn't even have candidates for the gram panchayat polls. They took our candidates," he said. Although gram panchayat polls are fought without any party symbols, most candi-

dates are affiliated to either one of the three major parties. JD(S) Legislature Party Leader H D Kumaraswamy said his party had achieved "notable" success in the gram panchayat polls despite the "money and power" of the national parties.