

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
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BJP picks names for RS polls; ball in high command's court

Prabhakar Kore, Ramesh Katti, Prakash Shetty In Final List

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Bengaluru: Karnataka BJP's core committee on Saturday shortlisted names of a few potential candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in the state and sent it to the party's central leaders for approval.

Prabhakar Kore, sitting Rajya Sabha member and chairman of Karnataka Lingayat Education (KLE) Society, former MP Ramesh Katti (ex-minister and BJP MLA Umesh Katti's brother) and hotelier

POLITICAL NOTES

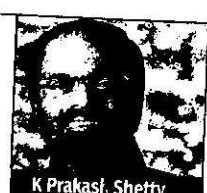
and senior functionary K Prakash Shetty have made it to the final list. Kore and Ramesh Katti are from Belagavi.

Though sources said former MP and media and transport baron Vijay Sankeshwar and BJP state vice-president and ex-MLA Nirmal Kumar Surana were included in the list after removing Kore's name at the last minute, there was no confirmation on it.

"We are only recommending the names and our party's central election committee, which may meet on Sunday or Monday, will take a final call." The possibility of



Ramesh Katti



K Prakash Shetty



Prabhakar Kore

NUMBER GAME

BJP with 117 members in the 222-seat assembly has chances of winning just two of the four seats from Karnataka, to which the polls will be held on June 19. Each member should get 45 votes to win. June 9 is the last date for filing nominations.

The Congress with 68 members will ensure the victory of Mallikarjun Kharge, who will enter Rajya Sabha for the first time in his more than four decade-long political career.

The JD(S) with 34 members cannot win a seat on its own but it's relying on the surplus votes of Congress and BJP. The JD(S) has unanimously decided to field Deve Gowda, but the party veteran is yet to accede.

retaining one name from our list and selecting someone of their choice also cannot be ruled out," a minister said after the meeting.

Top BJP sources, however, said the saffron party has decided to field a third candidate only if former PM and JD(S)

SUSPENSE CONTINUES

PCC president DK Shivakumar on Saturday kept the suspense going by reiterating that the party has fielded one candidate and the high command will decide on what to do with the surplus votes.

Speculation is rife that it has already planned to transfer votes to the former PM and in return may seek favour during legislative council polls. The Congress' fear is that the BJP may thwart its plans by fielding a third candidate. It is hence holding its cards close to its chest and not officially declaring its support to Gowda.

supremo HD Deve Gowda pulls out of the race.

Nine names, including eminent banker KV Kamath and Infosys foundation chairperson Sudha Murty, BJP national general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Muralidhar Rao and former IAS offi-

Govt to penalise traders misusing e-way billing

Bengaluru: Traders misusing the electronic way (e-way) billing system to evade tax payment may now have a reason to worry.

Chief minister BS Yediyurappa on Saturday asked officials to initiate strict action against transport companies involved in misuse of e-way bills and other illegal activities, by imposing fines after inspection.

Yediyurappa, who chaired a meeting to review the status of tax collection in the state, also directed officials to hold a survey of dealers doing transactions worth more than Rs 40 lakh and of commercial complexes in big cities which collect monthly rent of more than Rs 20 lakh. TNN

cer Madan Gopal, were discussed at the committee meeting before finalising the candidates. Held at the party's state headquarters here, the meeting was attended by chief minister BS Yediyurappa and state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel, among others.