

DEPT / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT, SUBJECT: Rajya Sabha Elections

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# 19 RS seats up for grabs; three states in focus

Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan set to be close contest between BJP & Congress

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LEGISLATORS across eight states will vote for 19 Rajya Sabha seats on Friday with the contest in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan promising to be a close affair between the BJP and the Congress.

Originally, the poll was to take place on March 26 for 55 Upper House seats, but 37 candidates have already been elected without a contest. The EC had deferred the March 26 Rajya Sabha elections citing the threat of the novel coronavirus. The Election Commission had later announced polls for four seats in Karnataka and one seat each in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

In Karnataka, where elec-

tions were to be held for four seats, all the candidates — former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, veteran Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge, BJP candidates Irranna Kadadi and Ashok Gasti — have been declared elected unopposed. BJP nominee Nabam Rebia was also elected unopposed to the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Arunachal Pradesh. The counting of votes for all the 19 seats will be held on the evening of June 19 itself, the EC said.

With many MLAs switching sides, the past few months have seen parties indulging in 'resort politics' to keep their flock together. Several MLAs have been lodged in resorts to stop them from "poaching" by rival factions.

## RS poll in Gujarat to take place as per schedule

The Supreme Court refused to stay Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat while turning down a plea by Congress leader Paresh Dhanani. The leader of opposition in Gujarat Assembly had challenged voting in the election through postal ballot. Denying a stay on the June 19 election, the court fixed the matter for after four weeks.

### PROMINENT NAMES IN THE FRAY



GUJARAT	MADHYA PRADESH	RAJASTHAN	MANIPUR
Both BJP and Congress have five candidates for four seats. BJP has fielded Abhay Bharadwaj, Ramilaben Bara and Narhari Amin while Shaktisinh Gohil and Bharatsinh Solanki are Cong nominees. Winning two RS seats for Congress is difficult.	Both BJP and Congress have two candidates for three seats. BJP is likely to win two seats and Congress will have to settle with one. While Jyotiraditya Scindia of BJP and Digvijaya Singh of Congress are expected to comfortably win, BJP's Sumer Singh Solanki and Congress' Phool Singh Baraiya will fight it out for the third seat in the fray.	Both Congress and BJP have fielded two candidates each for three Rajya Sabha berths. The Congress has nominated KC Venugopal and Neeraj Dangl. The opposition BJP has named Rajendra Gehlot and Omkar Singh Lakhawat.	BJP appears on sticky wicket as 9 MLAs have withdrawn their support. The 60-member Manipur Assem currently has 59 MLAs. The opposition ranks have 28 MLAs. BJP has fielded titular king Leisemba Sanajaoba and the Congress has nominated Mangi Babu.