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RS polls: BJP keeps party aspirants, Gowda guessing

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JD(S) decides to wait and watch

Bengaluru: Even as senior Congress leader M Mallikarjun Kharge is set to file his papers on Monday morning for the ensuing Rajya Sabha elections, the BJP has kept its aspirants guessing.

Sources said they were expecting a formal announcement before noon on Monday as the last day of filing nominations is Tuesday.

While the state core committee has sent three names — Prabhakar Kore and Ramesh Katti (brother of former minister Umesh Katti) for the central leadership's consideration, a third name and dark horse in the race, K Prakash Shetty, has created a buzz in political circles. "While I am thankful to the state leaders for considering me, we'll abide by the high command's decision. If given nod, I may file nomination on Monday," Shetty told TOI.

Shetty was a contender for Udupi-Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha seat in last year's elections, but obliged to step aside owing to Yediyurappa's diktat as Shobha Karandlaje had sought re-election and also in 2014, when Kore was propelled to the RS.

The committee has also sent the names of M Nagaraj and Nirmalkumar Surana as probable candidates for a third seat, apart from Tejaswini Ananth Kumar and P Muralidhar Rao being in the reckoning, in case polling is inevitable.

Full report: toi.in

All eyes are on the BJP central leadership and the Congress legislature party (CLP) meeting, as both the parties are keeping JD (S) on tenterhooks over getting **HD Deve**



Gowda into the Rajya Sabha. While BJP leaders claim the party will not field a third candidate if Gowda is willing,

the Congress is yet to decide on transferring its surplus votes to the JD(S). "We don't want to take a chance by declaring our nominee hurriedly. Let us wait and watch," said JD(S) president HK Kumaraswamy. If everything goes as planned, he'll file papers on Tuesday, sources said.