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JD(U)'s Harivansh files papers for RS deputy chairman post

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New Delhi: Even as opposition parties are contemplating to field a joint candidate for the post of Rajya Sabha deputy chairman's post, Janata Dal (United)'s Harivansh, who filed his nomination papers as NDA candidate on Wednesday, is poised to retain the chair for the second consecutive time with ruling party members confident of adequate numbers in case of a voting.

Harivansh's first set of nomination papers were proposed by BJP president J P Nadda and seconded by leader of Rajya Sabha Thawarchand Gehlot, while the second set of nomination papers were filed by Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan and seconded by alliance

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parter SAD's Naresh Gujral.

While Harivansh filed the nomination papers, BJP issued a three-line whip, asking its Rajya Sabha members to be present in the House on September 14, the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament, when the election is slated to be held, if necessary.

The last date for filing nominations is September 11. The election will take place after oath-taking of the newly elected members.

Although Congress and some other opposition parties are learnt to have decided to field DMK leader Tiruchi Siva as their candidate, NDA sources said efforts are on to convince all parties for unanimous election of Harivansh to the post.

"Even Congress and its allies know that we have the numbers," a senior BJP member said. The party finalised its strategy at a meeting held by home minister Amit Shah with Gehlot and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday night.