

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆ ಕಡತಗಳು
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Formalities complete, rebels are now BJP's bypoll candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WITH the Supreme Court clearing the way for the disqualified MLAs to contest the December 5 bypolls, the three major parties lost no time in getting their act together.

The BJP on Thursday announced that 13 of the disqualified MLAs, except for Roshan Baig and R Shankar, will contest as its candidates, after having formally inducted them into the party fold. Raju Kage, who has been sulking over being ignored by the BJP, switched to the Congress camp. He is likely to be the Congress candidate from Kagwad, an announcement is expected on Friday.

The JDS too announced its list of candidates for 10 constituencies, except Hoskote, where it is supporting the BJP rebel. The party will announce its candidates for four other seats on Friday. The Congress, which was first off the block by declaring its can-

didates for eight seats, is yet to finalise candidates for the remaining seats.

Going against expectations in some quarters, Lakshman Savadi, who was made DyCM in the Yediyurappa cabinet despite losing from Athani, is out of the bypoll race as Mahesh Kumatahalli will be contesting from there. Also, R Shankar, who was inducted into BJP on Thursday, was not given a ticket. Senior leader Roshan Baig, who was expelled from the Congress and was hobnobbing with the BJP, was also ignored.

On Thursday morning, 16 of the disqualified MLAs were inducted into BJP at the party state headquarters here and were issued B forms. Of them, 13 even filed their nominations immediately. While the party put up its own (non-rebel) candidate in Shivajinagar, it has not announced a candidate for Ranebennur segment, which was earlier represented by R Shankar.

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REBELS IN A ROW: Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, BJP state President Nalin Kumar Kateel and party National General Secretary Muralidhar Rao with the disqualified MLAs in Bengaluru on Thursday | **SHRIRAM BN**

Their victory is BJP's responsibility, says CM

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WITHIN a few hours of his induction, MTB Nagaraj filed his nomination from Hoskote. Upset over the this, Sharath Bache Gowda, son of Chikkaballapur MP B N Bache Gowda, filed his papers as an independent.

Earlier, a large number of followers of the 16 disqualified MLAs, including BBMP councillors from the Congress and JDS, switched allegiance.

CM B S Yediyurappa exuded confidence that the party's new inductees will win the bypolls. "Their victory is BJP's responsibility. We have 25 MPs, more than 100 MLAs, MLCs and thousands of party workers who will unitedly work for their victory," he said.

The CM told the contestants not to heed to talk which may

create a rift. "We are not going to leave you, we will be with you," he told them. Asserting that the BJP will win all 15 seats, he said the party will organise a big event at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru where they will be felicitated. "Today, they are called "disqualified", but they are future MLAs and ministers," he declared.

State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel took a dig at the Congress saying it does not even have candidates to field in the bypolls. "Congress leaders are not coming forward to take up any responsibility. This is a sign of our victory," he said.

The BJP has formed committees in each constituency with its MPs, Union Ministers, MLAs and other senior leaders being given charge.

Name	Constituency
Mahesh Kumatihatti	Aihani
Shrimant Patil	Kagwad
Ramesh Jarakiholi	Gokak
Shivaram Hebbar	Yellapur
B C Patil	Hirekerur
Anand Singh	Vijayanagar
K Sudhakar	Chikkaballapur
Byrathi Basavaraj	K R Puram
Somashekar	Yeshwanthpur
Gopalalah	Mahalakshmi Layout
Saravana	Shivajinagar
MTB Nagaraj	Hoskote
Narayanagowda	K R Pet
H Vishwanath	Hunsur
Chaitra Gowda	Yellapura
Ujanappa JK	Hirekerur
NM Nabi	Vijayanagar
KP Bacchegowda	Chikkaballapur
C Krishnamurthy	K R Puram
T N Javaregowda	Yeshwanthpur
Tanveer Ahmed	Shivajinagar
BL Devaraju	K R Pet
Somashekar	Hunsur
Mallikarjuna Halageri	Rannebennur