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45 newly elected
Rajya Sabha MPs take oath

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Forty-five of the 61 newly-elected Rajya Sabha MPs, including Sharad Pawar, Mallikarjun Kharge and Jyotiraditya Scindia, took oath on Wednesday as Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu urged them to uphold rules and procedures while discharging their duties as a lawmaker and not fall prey to disruptions.

Among the 16 MPs who did not make it to the oath-taking ceremony included former Prime Minister Deve Gowda, DMK's Tiruchi Siva, TRS' Dr K Keshava Rao and four Trinamool Congress MPs among others. Those members who skipped the ceremony will take the oath during the Monsoon Session.

Outgoing Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, former Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M Thambi Durai, senior Congress leaders Digvijay Singh, K C Venugopal and Shaktisinh Gohil, BJP's Bhubaneswar Kalita, RJD's Prem Chand Gupta, Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi and CPI(M)'s Vikas Ranjan Bhat-

tacharya were among the new MPs who took oath in the ceremony held in Rajya Sabha Chamber.

Except for Gowda, all the three MPs from Karnataka – Kharge (Congress), Ashok Gasti and Iranna Kadadi (both BJP) – took the oath. All three, who took oath in Kannada, are first-timers in Rajya Sabha though Kharge had been a member of Lok Sabha several times.

Of the 45 MPs who took the oath, 36 are first-timers in Rajya Sabha. All the three women who took oath are women. The members took oath in ten languages – Kannada, Telugu, Bodo, Manipuri, Marathi, Oriya, Tamil, Bengali, Hindi and English.

Scindia, who left Congress to join the BJP along with his supporters in Madhya Pradesh leading to the fall of Congress government there, greeted his former leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kharge and Digvijay Singh before his oath-taking. Scindia and Singh were at loggerheads in Madhya Pradesh.

