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Times of India

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BJP's K Narayan enters Rajya Sabha unopposed

Bengaluru: K Narayan, a businessman with RSS background, was elected unopposed in the bypoll to the Rajya Sabha seat from Karnataka. The seat fell vacant after the death of the sitting member from BJP, Ashok Gasti, in September.

BYPOLL

Gasti, who was elected to the Rajya Sabha in June, suffered multi-organ failure after contracting Covid-19.

The bypoll was scheduled for December 1. But the nomination of Narayan's only opponent in the contest, an independent, was rejected because of technical issues on



Monday. Narayan was then declared elected unanimously. Narayan is from Mangaluru and belongs

to the Devanga community. He has been running a magazine publication and printing business for the past 25 years. BJP's move to announce his candidacy surprised many.

Gasti, a grassroots BJP worker, was also a little-known name before the party high command picked him and Eranna Kadadi for the Rajya Sabha. After Gasti's demise, many in Karnataka BJP felt that his seat should go to his wife, Suma Gasti, or senior functionary Nirmal Surana.