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ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT: Election

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: Deccan Herald ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE 28-10-20

BJP aims for single largest party tag in Council

Polling in four MLC constituencies today

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 2.34 lakh voters are eligible exercise their franchise in four Legislative Council constituencies bound for polls on Wednesday.

The ruling BJP will have to win at least two of the four constituencies to be the single largest party at the Council, as Congress has one MLC more than BJP currently.

Biennial elections are being held for two teachers' constituencies - Bangalore Teachers' and North-East Teachers', and two graduates' constituencies - West and South-East - in which 40 candidates are in fray.

BJP candidate from Bangalore Teachers' constituency Puttanna is seeking re-election for the fourth time, having represented the constituency thrice previously as JD(S) candidate since 2002. He joined BJP in March this year, after

JD(S) expelled him for "anti-party activities" in November 2019. He will be up against Congress' Praveen Peter and JD(S)' A P Ranganath, who are among the nine candidates contesting the polls.

Rebel trouble

The ruling party, which is striving to strengthen its numbers in the Legislative Council, faces a setback in South-East Graduates' constituency, as it had to expel two BJP members from the party contesting as rebels. D T Srinivas, husband of Hiriyyur BJP MLA K Pournima and Halanur Lepakshi were expelled from the party days ahead of the polls by the state unit.

The constituency is currently represented by JD(S) MLAR Chowda Reddy Thoopalli. BJP has fielded Chidanand M Gowda for the MLC constituency, while Congress candidate is former MLC Ramesh Babu. He had switched camps from

South-East Graduates' constituency

- Chidanand M
- Ramesh Babu
- R Chowda Reddy
- Total voters: 1,09,127

West Graduates' constituency

- S V Sankanur
- Dr R M Kuberappa
- Basavaraj Gurikar
- Total voters: 74,268

Bangalore Teachers' constituency

- Puttanna
- Praveen Kumar R
- AP Ranganath
- Total voters: 22,089

North-East Teachers' constituency

- Shashil Namoshi
- Sharanappa Mattur
- Timmayya Purle
- Total voters: 29,234



■ Congress ■ BJP ■ JD(S)
■ Ind ■ Vacant *plus chairman



Officials deputed for Council poll duty prepare themselves for the voting scheduled for Wednesday, at a school in Hubballi on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

JD(S) to Congress in September this year, upset with the party for "depriving him of opportunities" to enter the Legislative Council.

ates constituency has 11 candidates in fray, where sitting MLC from BJP Sankanur S V is contesting against R M Kuberappa from Congress. Kannada activist Vatal Nagaraj is a candidate from Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha from North-East Teacher's Constituency, which was represented by Congress' Sharanappa Mattur in the previous term. BJP has fielded Shashil G Namoshi and JD(S), Timmayya Purle.

Opposition Congress is the single largest party in the Legislative Council currently with 28 MLCs (plus chairman), followed by BJP which has 27. There are 14 JD(S) MLCs and one Independent.