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SUBJECT: Co-operation

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Balachandra Jarkiholi new KMF chief

besides taking the federation to new heights," he said.

His election also cleared the decks for the entry of elder brother Ramesh Jarkiholi into the Yediyurappa cabinet provided the Supreme Court sets aside his disqualification. BJP leaders reportedly persuaded Balachandra



to stay out of the cabinet as the party is under pressure to reward Ramesh for his role in bringing the party to power. As a compromise formula, Yediyurappa had offered to make Balachandra the KMF chairman.

The development also marked the end of the monopoly of former chief minsiter HD Kumaraswamy's brother H D Revanna. Revanna, who was chairman for two terms in the past, was an aspirant this time too along with Congress' Hagaribommanahalli MLA Bheema Naik. Both withdrew their nominations after realising they stood no chance of winning. Of 16 elected and 2 nominated directors, Jarkiholi had the support of 13. Only Marutirao Kashempur, brother of Bandeppa Kashempur and director of the KMF's Bidar unit, supported Revanna.

The election was earlier scheduled on July 29 and Revanna stood a better chance as he enjoyed the support of eight directors who were shepherd to a hotel in Hyderabad. A day before the election, the state government postponed the election to push Balachandra's candidature.

Speaking to reporters at Hassan, Revanna said: "I lost the opportunity to become the president. I suspect that CM BS Yediyurappa is targeting only former PM Deve Gowda's family," he said.

"Had the elections been held on July 29, I'd have won," he added.