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Never said voter turnout variance helped NDA: ADR

NEW DELHI: The Association for Democratic Reforms said its recent report on alleged discrepancy in voter data of the recently held Lok Sabha elections is different from the one issued by another peoples' platform Vote For Democracy.

The ADR said nowhere in its report it has been suggested that the discrepancies between initial voter turnout and final turnout have helped the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

It said certain media reports on the subject have misquoted its findings and possibly mistakenly attributed the findings of the report by VFD to ADR. Sources suggested that by holding a press conference late last month after the VFD had come out with its report, the ADR helped ongoing false narratives to gain circulation. The ADR had been flagging concerns over the use of EVMs and turnout data.

Amid LS polls, the SC had rejected a plea seeking return to the ballot system, saying it will derail the electoral process that is underway by creating doubts in the minds of the electorate.

EC to discuss Assembly polls with parties in JK tomorrow

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India will meet political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday to get feedback on conducting Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

The office of the chief electoral officer, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday issued letters to various political parties, inviting them for a meeting with the Election Commission (EC). The political parties have been given time slots for the meeting with the EC.

The Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar is scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir from August 8-10 to review preparedness for Assembly polls, weeks before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for holding elections in the Union Territory. Kumar will be accompanied by Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu.

Besides meeting the political parties, the commission will also review the situation with the chief electoral officer and the central forces coordinator.

The commission will also review the preparations with election officers and police superintendents of all districts, as well as the chief secretary and the director general of police. On August 10, it will visit Jammu for a review meeting with enforcement agencies. It will also hold a press conference in Jammu to brief the media on the review process.