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Kejriwal says BJP deleting voters' names before polls

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NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

In the run-up to the Delhi Assembly elections, the ruling AAP on Friday accused the BJP of orchestrating large-scale deletions of voters' names from the electoral rolls.

AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal claimed that BJP leaders had submitted applications to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to remove thousands of voter names from constituencies like Shahdara, Janakpuri, and Laxmi Nagar.

Hitting back at AAP's allegations, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said Mr Kejriwal is scared because fake votes by Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are being exposed.

"These voter bases are funded by foreign donations, such as from the Ford Foundation, and are bought by AAP. As now their fraud has been uncovered, they fear losing in the upcoming elections," he said.

Citing the example of Shahdara, meanwhile, Mr Kejriwal alleged that the BJP had applied to delete 11,018 voter names from the constituency.

"When we randomly checked 500 of these names, we found that 75 per cent of the people are still residing at the listed addresses. This is nothing but an attempt to manipulate the electoral process," he said.

The AAP leader connected

the alleged deletions to the saffron party's narrow victory in Shahdara during the 2020 Assembly elections, where AAP won by a margin of just 5,294 votes.

The former chief minister argued that removing 11,000 voters — about 6 per cent of the total electorate in the constituency — could significantly affect the outcome.

Meanwhile, the district magistrate of Shahdara refuted Mr Kejriwal's claims in a post on X, stating, "Only 494 Form 7 (deletion application) requests have been received in the Shahdara constituency since October 29, 2024. The claim of 11,018 deletion requests is factually incorrect."

To support his allegations, Mr Kejriwal presented several individuals at the press conference, whose names he claimed were targeted for deletion.

"These voters are alive and continue to live at the same addresses listed on the voter rolls. For instance, Upendra Kumar resides at A-334, Uma Devi at B-8 Ambedkar Nagar, and Sunil Kumar at B-326," he said.

Dismissing the allegations as "baseless," Mr Sachdeva accused AAP of shielding fraudulent voters.

"Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are being caught, and Kejriwal is panicking because this vote bank, funded by money he allegedly receives from foreign sources, is being exposed," he said.

Constitutional mandate to hold timely elections: SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the genuineness of the reasons cited by states to explain their failure to discharge the constitutional mandate to hold elections to panchayats and municipalities on time, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

Appearing for PIL petitioner NGO 'ISHAD', which cited that elections to local bodies have been delayed in different states for periods ranging from nine months to five years, senior advocate Arvind Datar told the court that responses from 17 state election commissions, which are tasked with conducting elections to panchayats and municipalities, revealed that elections to as many as 85,392 local bodies, which is 54% of the third tier under their charge, were not held on time.

Appearing before a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan, Datar said in all 32 states and UTs, there are 2.68 lakh local bodies. The bench said all states cannot be clubbed together for examining this issue as the reasons for delay in holding local body elections in Manipur would be quite different from that in Maharashtra. Justice Kant suggested to Datar to categorise the states as per the reasons given for delay in holding elections.

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DMK using calamities for photo ops, slams Vijay

CHENNAI: From caste and social justice issues like Vengaiyaval incident to alleged example of poor governance in handling the aftermath of Cyclone Fengal, actor-politician Vijay picked up from where he left off at his party TVK's maiden State conference in unleashing a scathing attack on the ruling DMK.

In many ways, Vijay's address at the event where the book, 'Ellarukkumana Thalaivar Ambedkar (Ambedkar: Leader for All)', was launched on Friday was a sequel to the State conference in Vikravandi more than a month ago.

Using the stage to criticise the ruling party, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president said that the people of Tamil Nadu would reject the alliance and its "boastful claims"



of winning 200 seats in the 2026 Assembly elections.

"This is my warning to the rulers who disregard people's feelings, who fail to ensure social justice and security, and who rely on alliances and boastful claims: the people of Tamil Nadu will nix your selfish calculations in 2026," Vijay said.

Criticising the DMK government's handling of issues concerning social justice, security, and governance, he condemned its response to

the Vengaiyaval incident, where human faeces were mixed in a water tank used by the Dalit community. "What action did the State government take? They didn't even scratch the surface. Ambedkar would have hanged his head in shame," Vijay said.

He also found fault with the government's response to natural calamities, flaying it for allegedly using them only as photo opportunities. "I don't agree with taking photos and making statements. We must connect with people sensitively," he said.

The actor-politician emphasised the need for a people-centric government to address atrocities against women and children. "A government that truly loves its people will solve their daily problems," Vijay said.

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Vijay attacks BJP, seeks fair elections

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Vijay also touched up on the absence of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) president Thol Thirumavalavan, who skipped the event after his participation and sharing stage with Vijay had caused considerable consternation within the DMK. Vijay alleged that Thirumavalavan's alliance partners put him under pressure him to stay away from the launch of the book on BR Ambedkar, but the VCK leader was mentally present at the event.

Turning his attention to the Centre-ruling BJP, he slammed the Narendra Modi-led NDA government for its 'silence' over the Manipur issue. He also stressed the importance of free and fair elections, demanding consensus-based appointment of Election Commissioners. "Every Indian should have hope in fair elections," he said, and urged the Union government to declare April 14 as Indian Democratic Rights Day.