

No problem with EVMs; poor show of Congress is due to Rahul, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday said there was no problem with electronic voting machines (EVMs), and the flaw was in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi whose "bad management" was the reason for his party's poor performance in the elections.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra targeted Congress president Mallikarjun

Kharge over his remarks criticising EVMs on the occasion of Constitution Day.

"He said EVMs should be kept aside and ballot papers should be brought back. Mr. Kharge, you may keep EVMs aside or not, but the people have already sidelined the Congress party. In every State today, the Congress has been sidelined. Even in Jharkhand, it is behind the BJP and in Maharashtra, it has been wiped out, securing only 16 seats, whereas the

Mahayuti achieved a massive victory," Mr. Patra said.

He asked if by making allegations against EVMs, the Congress meant to say that its ally Jharkhand Mukti Morcha won by some malpractice. The BJP leader said the Congress leaders, including Mr. Gandhi, did not even want "the judiciary, the Election Commission, the Enforcement Directorate, or the Central Bureau of Investigation".

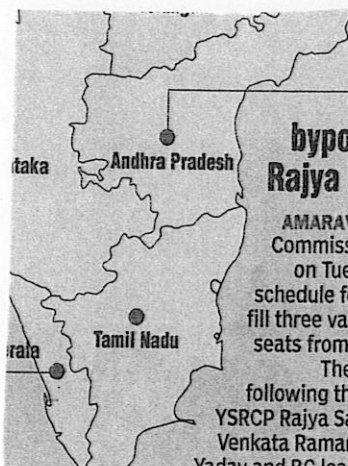
Expressing surprise over

Mr. Kharge's purported comment that the votes of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and poor people were being "spoiled because of EVMs", Mr. Patra accused him of insulting those communities.

He asked the Congress why it did not send a representative to a hackathon organised by the Election Commission in 2017 for political parties to show how EVMs could be hacked.

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EC notifies bypolls for three Rajya Sabha seats

AMARAVATI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday notified the schedule for by-elections to fill three vacant Rajya Sabha seats from Andhra Pradesh.

The vacancies arose following the resignations of YSRCP Rajya Sabha members M Venkata Ramana, B Mastan Rao Yadav and BC leader R Krishnaiah. Yadav, dealing a major blow to the YSRCP, which lost three members in quick succession from the Council of States. Currently, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led party has only eight Rajya Sabha members. The TDP-led NDA alliance is poised to capture three Rajya Sabha seats in the ensuing bye-elections scheduled on December 20.