

Modi's Cabinet was forced to dissolve Delhi Assembly: Arvind Kejriwal

The AAP leader accused the BJP of orchestrating communal tension for electoral gains in Delhi, which is expected to go to polls in February next year.

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AAP chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at a press conference in New Delhi



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On the day the Union Cabinet recommended the dissolution of Delhi Assembly, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said the Centre was forced to take the decision after the BJP's attempts to "poach" AAP MLAs did not succeed.

The former Delhi Chief Minister accused the BJP of trying to form a government in Delhi by "hook or crook" and congratulated Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) legislators for "foiling" efforts by that party to take the reins through "unfair means".

"The BJP was trying to form government through dishonesty. Four attempts by them to form government had been foiled. Finally, following the court's intervention, they were forced to recommend the dissolution of the Delhi Assembly," Kejriwal told reporters.

The AAP chief also referred to a video released in September by his party in which Delhi BJP vice-president Sher Singh Dagar purportedly offered Rs 4 crore to an AAP MLA. The BJP had later issued a show cause notice to Dagar.

"This is probably for the first time in the history of India that dishonest efforts to influence even a single MLA did not succeed. It proved that everybody is not for sale. There is still honesty," Kejriwal said, adding, "I congratulate all party MLAs for foiling

the BJP's attempt."

Kejriwal also accused the BJP of orchestrating communal tension for electoral gains in Delhi, which is expected to go to polls in February next year. "The BJP is trying to incite communal riots in Delhi to gain in elections," he said at a press conference in New Delhi, adding, "People from all religions should participate in each other's functions."

Kejriwal, who led a 49-day government after the Assembly polls in December last year, said the NDA government has failed to check price rise and that law and order situation in Delhi was deteriorating "fast".

"We are confident of winning in at least 45 seats. We are confident that people of Delhi will bless us," he said. The AAP had won in 28 seats in the last Assembly polls, but drew a blank in Delhi in the Lok Sabha elections.

Asked about the issues the party will focus in the poll campaign, Kejriwal said achievements of the AAP government will be highlighted, besides the party's resolve to provide a corruption-free administration. "We will provide the first corruption-free government in Delhi. We will make Delhi a truly world-class city," he said.

In the outgoing Assembly, BJP and its ally Akali Dal have 29 MLAs in a House of 67. Three seats fell vacant after the incumbents were elected to the Lok Sabha.

The BJP had emerged as the single largest party in the December Assembly polls winning 31 seats but fell four seats short of a simple majority. It had refused to form government then, saying it will not resort to any "unfair means" to take over the reins.

The AAP then formed the government in Delhi with the support of Congress. Kejriwal resigned on February 14 after he failed to get the support of the Congress and the BJP for his pet Jan Lokpal Bill. The President's Rule was imposed on February 17.

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