

We will win Delhi: Venkaiah

METRO NEWS

HYDERABAD

Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday expressed confidence that his party would win the Delhi Assembly elections comfortably. He alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had been 'discredited' for having joined hands with the Congress.

"The BJP is confident that it will win Delhi state Assembly elections comfortably. The AAP is discredited because it has joined hands with Congress, against its own promise of not to align with Congress. It did not take any action against the Congress government of its scams and scandals, including CWG, because it was depending on their support. At the end of it, they ran away leaving the responsibility and betrayed the people of Delhi. That being the case, I don't think people will give them any chance at all," he said.

Observing that Delhi's growth is 'interlinked' with Centre, he said people of the national capital are 'wise enough to understand' this. Naidu claimed that AAP lost the prestige it once enjoyed due to factors like several leaders including founding members quitting the party, some of its leaders making controversial statements like favouring plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir and its founder (Arvind Kejriwal) himself asking people to take money from other parties but vote for AAP.

"If an eight-month-old party faces so many allegations, it will be disappointment if it is felt that this party would reform the country. Some of us felt, after the party was formed and after listening to him, that the party may try to bring about a change in society, that there would be a healthy competition. But, unfortunately, it was proved in practice that all that would not be possible. Shanti Bhushanji himself said Kiran Bedi is a good candidate. After seeing all this, there is not much of a difference between AAP and Congress because, it joined hands with Congress. It is behaving like Congress. It indulged in vote-bank politics in the issue of Batla encounter. It could not display moral authority," he said.

Speaking about the row over the Preamble in the Constitution, the minister



Venkaiah Naidu and Prattipati Pulla Rao felicitating World Marathon Challenge 2015 winners Krishna Prasad Chigurupati and Uma Chigurupati at Cyber City Convention Center in Madhapur on Sunday. Photo: Vinay Madapu

'Govt has no desire to issue ordinances'

HYDERABAD: Union Minister M Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday said that the Union government had no fancy for issuing ordinances and that the Opposition should allow the Parliament to function properly. "Nobody has got a fancy for issuing ordinances. We don't want to issue ordinances. But a violent minority cannot obstruct a silent majority from taking the country's development forward," the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said.

Noting that it is the right of the opposition parties to oppose the government, he said they can resort to democratic methods, like walkout to register their protest. He alleged that the opposition parties are stalling the Rajya Sabha as they seem to be not in favour of the Modi government earning a good name for its development efforts.

said that there was no need to specially mention that secularism was part of the Constitution. He said that the ongoing debate was 'meaningless' and added that an 'unnecessary controversy was being created.

"The Preamble (of the Constitution) originally did not have the words socialism and secularism. It was framed during Jawaharlal Nehru, Babasaheb Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Gopalaswami Iyengar..., all those stalwarts they debated, discussed and then approved the Preamble. Subsequently, during emergency, Madam Indira Gandhi for her own political vote bank politics, she brought secularism and socialism. Point is, there is

no need to specially mention that secularism is part of our Constitution," he said.

Articles of the Constitution provide for equality and freedom of faith, speech and expression, he said. "As far as government is concerned, there is no proposal to change what has been changed during emergency. But, unnecessary controversy as if we have an agenda," he said.

Asserting that Indian people are secular by nature, he charged that some parties were trying to 'pollute the atmosphere' for vote-bank politics. "There is no vote bank politics now. Appeasement of none and justice for all is our policy," Naidu said.