

Press Statement issued by BJP President Shri Rajnath Singh at Bangalore

The tenure of the UPA Government at the Centre has almost come to an end leaving behind a series of failures on virtually all the fronts. During these five years the country had been witness to several unprecedented crisis. In the absence of a strong willed government and determined leadership at the Centre the situation has aggravated even further.

Strengthening NDA vs. Sinking UPA

The UPA came into existence in 2004 out of a political compulsion to keep the BJP out of power at any cost. No coalition can survive for long if it is based on gross opportunism and unfair compromises. Certain UPA constituents recently parted ways with the Congress looking for greener pastures.

It clearly demonstrates the Congress' inherent inability in managing a coalition. Another reason for this sudden rush to exit the Congress led coalition is the poor track-record of the UPA Government which has forced its partners to distance themselves from its incompetence and non performance. No wonder the UPA has become a sinking ship where the allies are jumping from the deck to save themselves.

On the contrary the BJP led NDA has perfected the art of managing coalition partners under the astute leadership Shri Atalji and now Shri Advaniji practicing this art with great panache. **The NDA is in a much better position today than it was on the eve of 2004 Lok sabha polls as the BJP has successfully managed to retain most of its core partners. All NDA constituents the Akali Dal, Shiv Sena, JD(U), AGP, RLD and INLD have pledged their unconditional support to the BJP and its Prime Ministerial candidate Shri L K Advani.**

We also have many other friends outside the NDA who will join us once the election results are announced. The NDA has become a formidable force in Indian politics with its remarkable show of unity, consistency and strength in testing times.

The only surprise has been the BJD's act of betrayal in Orissa. I am confident that taking a cue from the people of Karnataka voters in Orissa will also teach the BJD a lesson by decisively rejecting the politics of betrayal and opportunism.

Common Man worst victim of UPA policies

During the UPA regime the common man has been hit the hardest by the UPA policies.

The Indian economy today is reeling under recessionary pressures. The exports have plunged to a multi year low. Millions of employees have lost their jobs due to retrenchment. The Industrial Output in the country continues to record negative growth.

Although the Government is taking pride in bringing the inflation rate close to zero but it is hiding the fact that the prices of essential commodities are still elevated. The Consumer Price Index data clearly suggests that the real inflation continues to hover around 10 percent.

After coming to power the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Advaniji will work vigorously on an integrated and rapid action plan to bring the prices in control and spur growth in the country.

Congress resorting to barb and slander

The Congress led UPA is running a slanderous campaign to divert the public attention away from the real issues by leveling baseless charges against the BJP and its leadership.

The BJP wants a serious debate on contemporary issues like terrorism, price rise, recession, security and development but the Congress is shying away from any such debate as it has nothing to flaunt on these fronts.

The Congress party is more interested in the issues of the past. Day before yesterday the Prime Minister raised the issue of Kandhar and made an attempt to level baseless charges against the BJP.

It is a well known fact that the Congress was the main culprit in creating panic during the Kandhar crisis. It supported agitations against the NDA government demanding the immediate release of all passengers of the hijacked aircraft.

When the NDA Government convened the all party meet to resolve the crisis the Congress party was also present but it did not utter even a word of protest against the consensus to ensure safe release of all passengers.

On the one hand the Congress has gone ballistic on Kandhar issue where the Congress itself was a party in the decision taken but on the other hand it has completely forgotten its own misdeeds in Charar-e-Sharif where the then Congress Government ensured safe passage to five dreaded terrorists that too in a situation where there were no hostages.

Those who negotiated with the terrorists at Charar-e-Sharif are today blaming us for a decision which was taken in a crisis situation. The Congress party needs to keep in mind the age-old adage that people living in glass houses should not throw stones.

The Congress party's poll agenda is based on issues from the past whereas the BJP's agenda is more contemporary and progressive as its poll plank is based on issues like good governance, development and security.

In a healthy democracy launching personal attacks on Opposition leaders can never be appreciated. It is the moral obligation of the opposition parties to exercise their right to constructive criticism of the incumbent government. If the opposition parties criticize the

Prime Minister for his actions then instead of the Prime Minister defending himself, his own party should come forward to defend him.

The Prime Minister should never get personally involved in any kind of smear campaign. I hope that the Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh himself would take an initiative to bring an end to this ongoing mud slinging in the name of election campaigning.