

Security will be NDA's priority, says Advani

BJP leader L K Advani on Sunday promised to combine good governance and development with social justice. Taking a clean break from the India

Shining campaign, which led to the BJP's defeat in 2004, Advani said, "We believe in the collective labour of every Indian. They collectively contribute to the nation's growth. We don't think that some 20 Indian billionaires figuring in the Fortune list indicate India's economic progress. This is not acceptable."

Advani was addressing a Shiv Sena-BJP poll rally at Shivaji Park. He demanded a judicial inquiry into the 26/11 terror attack on Mumbai and underscored the need to fix responsibility for it. "If the NDA is elected to office, we will appoint a high-level judicial committee to inquire into the intelligence failure," he said.

Advani said the NDA would accord top priority to national security and every citizen would be given an ID card. He came down heavily on the Congress government for its failure to curb the illegal migration of Bangladeshis into the country.

Exuding confidence about an NDA poll victory, the BJP veteran said, "Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh and also some states from the South will spring a happy surprise in the elections. Our opponents are lagging behind and poll results will be very good for the NDA."

Shiv Sena executive president Uddhav Thackeray said that the UPA Government.

was a classic case of incompetence as it had failed to send Afzal Guru to the gallows. Referring to the Sena's opposition to Ajmal Kasab being given a lawyer, Uddhav said, "Afzal Guru too was given a lawyer and the Supreme Court has given him capital punishment. Yet, the UPA government has not carried out the apex court's order. So, where is the need to give Kasab a lawyer?"

Stating that the country needed a strong and stable government, Uddhav said the NDA alone has the courage and conviction to fight terror. The 26/11 terror attack was the central theme of the Sena-BJP meeting and speakers unspooled memories of Hemant Karkare, Vijay Salaskar, Tukaram Omble and others killed in the attacks.