

## ***Statement issued by Shri L.K. Advani at a press conference in Bhubaneswar***

**UPA has disintegrated. Third Front is a farce. For a strong, stable and honest government at the Centre, I appeal to the people of Orissa to solidly support the BJP**

With the first phase of Elections to the 15th Lok Sabha is exactly 16 days away, the electorate can clearly see the contrast between the BJP and the Congress, as also between the NDA and the UPA. Firstly, the UPA has disintegrated to a point where it has ceased to exist as a pre-poll alliance. TRS in Andhra Pradesh, PMK and MDMK in Tamil Nadu, RJD and Lok Janashakti Party in Bihar, and SP in UP have severed ties with the Congress. In contrast, the BJP has gained three new allies in the past three months — AGP in Assam, Rashtriya Lok Dal in UP, and Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana. NDA has entered the fray as a pre-poll alliance.

Almost all the parties that have left the Congress have done so because they felt that the Congress was not sincere in its alliance with them. **The Congress does not trust its allies.** Some of its allies have indeed accused it of making use of them when needed and ditching them later. The BJP has never ditched an ally in any state. **For the Congress party, alliance politics is not a matter of principle and conviction, it is only a matter of expediency and compulsion. In contrast, the BJP trusts its allies because we believe in, and sincerely adhere to, the canons of COALITION DHARMA.**

The decade-long alliance between the BJP and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Orissa was the most stable anti-Congress alliance in the history of the state. It helped in liberating the state from the corrupt and anti-people rule of the Congress. I was deeply disappointed when the BJD left the NDA last month. We did not want to break the alliance. Indeed, we showed utmost flexibility to keep it intact, in order to keep the Congress at bay. **Sadly, the BJD betrayed us by taking a hasty and unilateral decision. Its miscalculation and misadventure, arising out of an exaggerated sense of its strength, will surely cost the BJD dearly.**

**The BJD has betrayed not only the BJP, but also the people of Orissa.** I say so because the people of Orissa do not want the Congress misrule to return. After all, the BJP-BJD alliance had brought two major non-Congress forces together and created confidence amongst the people of this state that the misrule of the Congress could be ended only by supporting our alliance.

Orissa will have simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the state Vidhan Sabha. **In the new situation that has arisen in the state, I appeal to the voters to cast their vote in such a way that they can both show their disapproval for the BJD's betrayal and also shatter the Congress party's dreams in the state and at the Centre.**

The BJD's decision to join hands with some constituents of the so-called Third Front serves the interests of neither the state nor the nation. India needs a strong, stable and honest government at the Centre at a time when India is facing daunting challenges at home (economic crisis, price rise, job losses, plight of farmers, and terrorism) and when it is surrounded by a neighbourhood in turmoil (Monday's terror attack

near Lahore has shown that the Taliban is only 12 kilometers away from the Indian border). **An unstable and internally squabbling Third Front government will have disastrous consequences for the country, and so will another Congress-led government.** Hence, the people of Orissa have both a responsibility and an opportunity to make the right choice both in the twin elections. **Right choice means: significant increase in the tally of the BJP both in the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha.**

## **PM's stand on "joint Indo-Pak fight against terror" is shocking**

I am shocked by the statement by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh reiterating his earlier stand that India and Pakistan should jointly fight the menace of terrorism. Speaking yesterday in response to the terror attack on a Pakistani police academy near Lahore, Dr. Singh said, "I have always said that India and Pakistan have to face jointly the scourge of terrorism."

This statement echoes Dr. Singh's stand, adopted after his meeting with the former Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf in Havana in September 2006, that India and Pakistan should establish a "Joint Anti-Terror Mechanism".

**The BJP had criticized the UPA Government for agreeing to establish an Indo-Pak Joint Mechanism to fight terrorism. I had personally questioned the rationale of India joining hands with a country, whose government had refused to fulfill its 2004 commitment to dismantle the anti-India terror infrastructure on its territory. Indeed, subsequent terror attacks in India, including the latest one on Mumbai on 26 November, clearly bore the signature of Pak-based terrorist groups enjoying both overt and covert patronage of Pakistan's government agencies.**

It is obvious from the Prime Minister's statement that the UPA Government's policy of fighting terrorism has been deeply flawed. **The fact that Pakistan itself has been the victim of homegrown terrorist incidents cannot be an argument in favour of an Indo-Pak Joint Mechanism to fight terrorism. Rather, it shows that Pakistan has created a Frankenstein, which the rulers in Islamabad are unwilling to vanquish because they know that it can be used in their proxy war against India.**

Another proof of the Congress-led UPA Government's flawed policy towards Pakistan was the Prime Minister's shocking statement in October 2008 that he wanted to see the border between India and Pakistan "become irrelevant". **Our country has paid a heavy price because of the UPA Government's wrong neighbourhood policy, made worse by the Congress party's politics of minorityism at home.**

**A Government that has made India insecure deserves to be taught a lesson in the coming Lok Sabha elections.**

## **Greetings on Orissa Day**

Today is Orissa Day. On this joyous occasion, I send my heartiest greetings to the people of this beautiful, highly cultured and multifariously rich state. I first of all bow to and seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath, around whom the cultural and spiritual life of Orissa revolves. Shankaracharya, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Guru Nanak, Swami Vivekananda and many other great souls received inspiration from the Lord of Puri.

On this occasion, I pay homage to all the great sons and daughters of Orissa — Veer Surendra Sai, Dalabehera of Tapang, Laxman Mallick, Chakara Bisoi, Birsa Munda, Netaji Subhash Bose (who was born in Cuttack), Fakir Mohan Senapati, Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Nilakantha Das, Biswanath Das, Gajapati Maharaja Krushna Chandra Dev, Katakabi Lakshmikanta Mohapatra, Harekrishna Mehtab, Biju Patnaik and many others.

Orissa is one of the most richly endowed states in India in terms of mineral and natural resources. The fact that a large section of its population is among the poorest in the country is entirely due to the misrule of the Congress party, which governed the state for 45 years.

The people of Orissa have seen that, whereas the BJP-led NDA Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee helped Orissa in every possible way, the Congress-led UPA Government showed step-motherly treatment towards the state. I assure them that a future NDA Government, if elected to office, will fully assist Orissa in overcoming the legacy of poverty and backwardness.