

Advani hopeful of BJP majority in Karnataka

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader L.K. Advani is optimistic his party will get a majority mandate in the Karnataka assembly elections.

'This time I am optimistic that it will not only be a mandate but also a mandate with a clear majority to the BJP so that our chief ministerial candidate B.S. Yediyurappa is able to give Karnataka a stable government for five years,' he told a news conference here Saturday.

The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha had a stopover here while travelling to Karnataka for the campaigning for third phase elections next week.

The exit polls of the first two phases have already put the BJP ahead of the Congress and the Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S).

Advani recalled that in the 2004 assembly elections the BJP had emerged as the single largest party in the assembly though it the other two parties joined hands to form a government.

'It was rejection of the Congress and JD-S but the mandate was not with a clear majority,' he said.

Advani was confident that people will give the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a clear mandate in the next general elections after their experience with the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

'In the coming Lok Sabha elections, the contrast between the manner in which (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee's government functioned for six years and the Manmohan Singh government functioned in four years will be a major issue before people,' he said.

He said the UPA government had betrayed the common man by 'failing' to contain the price rise.

'The inflation has reached a four-year high. Officials' statements show helplessness in containing inflation. Ministers are saying they have no magic wand.

'Be it building infrastructure, providing IT connectivity, containing price rise and dealing with terrorists or foreign policy issues relating to Pakistan and Bangladesh, UPA's performance has been dismal. It has been failure on all fronts,' he said.

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