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- Orissa
- Infotech
- NRIs
- All Headlines

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- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu

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- Chennai
- Hyderabad
- Kochi

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- Lifestyle & People
- Education
- Your day today
- Health & Science
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- Youth
- Travel
- Flashback
- Weird World

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- Second Editorial
- Main Article
- Second Article
- Time Out
- Columns

ORISSA

Dec 10, 2005

NRIs-F

Sonia must go: Advani Says BJP will intensify heat on Volcker issue

Saturday December 10 2005 11:18 IST

BHUBANESWAR: Bharatiya Janata Party president and leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha L.K. Advani demanded the resignation of Congress president Sonia Gandhi from the post of UPA chairperson.

This is the first time that a senior leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has demanded Sonia's resignation in a public meeting after former external affairs minister Natwar Singh quit in the Iraq's food-for-oil scam.

There should not be two sets of norms for Natwar and Sonia, Advani said adding, Congress is a non-contractual beneficiary of the oil-for-food coupon like Singh. He hinted that the NDA, which has been demanding the resignation of the Congress president will continue the heat.

Claiming that the NDA is playing the role of a responsible opposition, the BJP chief said, "We did not have any intention to stop the proceedings in the Parliament but there was no other option when the Congress failed to act on the Volcker report even after 40 days and more revelation about the scam from within the party including Aniel Mathrani."

Addressing a massive youth rally organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha(BJYM) here on Friday, Advani said the Congress is not ready to accept the NDA demand for setting up a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to go into the details of the Volcker report. "We do not mind even if the UPA has majority

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YOUR VERDICT

Should a joint parliamentary committee be set up to probe the Volcker findings?

- Yes
- No
- Can't Say

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members in the JPC," he said.

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Likening the UPA Government with a vehicle with many drivers, Advani said Sonia Gandhi is behind the wheel while Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is on the accelerator.

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When the Prime Minister is trying to speed up the vehicle, the Left parties are putting the brake. Expressing doubt on the longevity of the Government, Advani said it would not last long.

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The NDA's win with a overwhelming majority in the Bihar election indicates the maturity of democracy in the country. The rejection of Laloo Yadav is because he ridiculed the very concept of democracy. The Bihar result will further strengthen the democracy, he said.

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Continuing the attack on the UPA Government, national BJYM president Dharmendra Pradhan, MP said the rally is organised to wake up the Congress-led UPA Government that the people of Orissa will no more tolerate its apathy.

Non-representation of a single member from the State in the Union Cabinet indicates the Congress attitude to the State, Pradhan said and cautioned the Centre that the State will not tolerate the shifting of National Institute of Science (NISc) to Kolkata.

State BJYM president Bhriku Bakshipatra urged the State Government to enact a youth mission to boost employment. Appreciating the Government initiative for rapid industrialisation, he demanded only local youth should be given priority in employment in the new industries.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh, former Union Minister Shahnawz Hussain, State BJP chief Jual Oram, actor Smriti Irani, Industries Minister B.B. Harichandan and Revenue Minister Manmohan Samal also spoke.



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