

President's message to strengthen the party machinery from the grass root level

Dear friend,

I am aware that you are a part of the coordinated efforts taken by KPCC to strengthen different layers of the party in the state after I took charge of the KPCC office. To strengthen the party, which was seriously affected with inner party rift and groupism for decades, I request sincere efforts from your side for a coordinated move.

We can only achieve this goal through our hard work, endless cooperation and dedication from the thousands of congress workers and supporters. I would also like to emphasize that congress, as an organization will be strengthened only when the grass root level units like the mandalam and block committees are strengthened. District and Pradesh committees have only the role of coordinating the activities of these grass-root level units.

The ill effects of inner party groupism and division has lingered among us for decades. This has in the past affected the party's prospects to a large extent and has also tarnished its image. All of us have been responsible for the development of these negative impacts but it should not be repeated any more. So it is now our responsibility to learn from the past mistakes and to lead the organization with vigor and enthusiasm towards the golden era of the party.

It has always been a practice within the party that one can acquire positions and benefits in the party based on groupism even if no grass root level work is done but it should be made sure that this is not repeated again. I also remind all of you who are in responsible positions in the party to do justice to your present positions with utmost responsibility and dedication or else it would be better for them to give up their positions and hand it over to those who are doing dedicated work for the party. It is also desirable in this context that those who are in responsible positions within the party should do a self-critical analysis of their own roles, responsibilities and their faithfulness to the responsibilities vested up on them. I request all those who are in responsible positions in the party to be a helping hand for the larger interests of the party in this aspect than just work with narrow personal interest.

I also call up on you to assist the party in bringing back all those who left the party recently out of emotional decisions and misconceptions. They should also be given adequate recognition in different layers of the party based on merit.

The organization is now facing challenges and is in a critical stage but this is negligible when compared to the hard times we have crossed over in the past. If we work together for the good of the party, we can overcome any hurdles. So it is my request to all the office bearers of party units and the leaders of our frontal organizations to have coordinated efforts to strengthen the organization from the grass root level .As mentioned it is not an easy task and I sincerely request all the party men to achieve this goal by ensuring regular

interaction with common people, understanding their needs and planning effective intervention strategies to handle social issues of great concern.

It is also time tested that congress as a party grows as a well-knitted organization only when its frontal organizations like the KSU and the Youth Congress is strengthened. We need to have a different strategy to utilize the potential and vigor of the youth for strengthening the party in all its layers. Moreover other frontal organizations and party cells also have to be rejuvenated in their respective fields.

I am hopeful that the present activities and efforts will help the party to strengthen itself and the organizational failures which have been an obstacle can be rectified with the formation of ward committees and gradual restructuring of party bodies from the grass root level. This will also give a new face to the party.

In order to widen the mass base of the party, each congress worker should give emphasis to the certain areas; your active participation and intervention on social issues should be increased based on people's perspectives. Each congress man should fight against the rights' violations and denial of justice by the ruling class. We need to have disciplined organizational work and also should focus on the cooperation and coordination of co-workers and different committees in each layer of the party and frontal organizations. If needed you can seek the help of your upper level party bodies. Also make sure that difference will be sorted out within the party fora instead of airing through the media. But media should be effectively used for popularizing party's viewpoints and interventions on socio-political contexts to the public and proper strategies should be planned out on media advocacy too.

Party workers should critically monitor the functioning of the panchayati raj institutions to see whether they are functioning upto the expectations of the people irrespective of political affiliations. Each panchayati raj institution should be closely monitored and evaluated by respective mandalam committees and block panchayats. The municipalities should be monitored by block and district committees. Each congress committee should fight against anti-people policies of these institutions irrespective of political considerations. All panchayat raj institutions ruled by the party should follow the instructions of respective party bodies and the peoples' representatives should follow the advice of the party committees.

Discrimination against party workers and supporters in getting benefits from the panchayati raj institutions where our political opponents are ruling should be fought with and violation of rights should not be accepted. Nepotism, corruption, anti-developmental policies and irregularities in project implementation by these institutions should be addressed in an effective manner and well-planned agitations also can be organized against any such trends for the cause of the common people.

Each layer of the party, its frontal organizations and party cells also should focus mainly on issues of different sections of the society such as the youth, students, women, dalits, tribes, Adivasis, farmers, agricultural laborers and other marginalized sections of the society.

Now it has become necessary to strengthen different committees of the party layers and each layer should focus on constructing new party offices for the party in their respective areas in a time bound manner. Contribution and participation of party workers and public can be considered and transparency should be ensured in each process. It is also desirable to collect working funds for the day to day functioning of the party based on utmost transparency and public accountability.

KPCC has understood that there is a gradual decrease of activities and intervention on social issues from the party units especially from the lower strata of the party, except for some programs and campaigns engineered by KPCC or sometimes by respective DCCs. So each party body, especially grass root level bodies, should meet frequently and plan out intervention strategies on their own for the welfare of the people and for strengthening the party, but it should be based on the party's ideology and discipline.

The intervention and involvement of the party workers in social and cultural sectors should be enhanced and active participation of party workers in the functioning and management of public libraries, cultural activities, sportsclubs, gramasabha meeting, Kudumbasree activities, neighborhood activities and civil society groups etc should be strengthened in the state. Party workers should also take necessary steps to discard communalism and fundamentalism from every source, irrespective of religious affiliations based on our party's secular credentials. Party workers should also actively participate in religious festivals of all religions considering them as national festivals and all these celebrations should be considered as an occasion to bring people together and ensure solidarity among different sects of religions in the society.

Our present day politics is quite different from that during the period of independence. We had a role model called Gandhiji then, but nowadays we rarely see such political personalities. I hereby request each of you to become a role model in your respective areas and to continue the same legacy of our great freedom fighters.

Congress is a party primarily supported by supporters and well-wishers than party cadres and hence we should be ready to hear their needs as they are the cream of the society and our strength as well. We have had legends like Gandhiji, Nehruji, Indiraji, and Rajivji who all lived for the poorest of the poor in the country and people trusted them too. Now our Soniaji also follows the same footsteps shown by our forefathers and each congress worker should be aware that they are a part of the same tradition and should be ready to extend our support and a helping hand to the marginalized sections of the society.

I also call upon each congress worker to fight against social evils such as drugs and alcoholism that adversely affect the growth of our youth and society and each party layer has the responsibility to fight against these evils. The local party units should help the helpless in their respective areas and people who are in need. The party workers also have the moral duty of extending their support to the poor people around them and also to extend a helping hand in times of need. Party workers should be conscious of the growing trends of corruption in the society and each party worker should fight against this social evil with the help of people of all walks of life.

Party workers across the strata should inculcate more interest in reading and party committees should discuss current affairs and other changes in the world during party meetings or during any such gatherings. Each worker should learn the history of our great country and the party and should learn from it to work for the welfare of the common people.

I also remind you to increase the subscription of Veekshanam daily and it is the responsibility of each worker to popularize it and increase the subscription for spreading party's ideologies and principles. Each congress man should abide by public conscience and keep in mind that each worker would be evaluated by the public and hence should act accordingly.

Congress is a large family spread across the country and only congress can unite various sections of the society .So its is the responsibility of each congress man to enhance his relations further and act as a bridge between the party and people of the state.

I also request all of you at this juncture to improve trust and respect one another for the good of the party. I was sharing the above said things based on my interaction and information gathered from DCCs, workers and well-wishers from all walks of life. So keeping all these things in mind I ask all of you to dedicate yourselves for strengthening the party with a new perception and outlook.

' Jai Hind'

Regards

Ramesh Chennithala

KPCC President