



ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE
24, AKBAR ROAD, NEW DELHI
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Highlights of CP Speech

April 16, 2019

Congress President Shri Rahul Gandhi addressed public meeting in Kollam, Kerala today.

Shri Rahul Gandhi said - Mukul Wasnik Ji; Mullapalli Ramachandran Ji; Ramesh Chennithalla Ji; KC Venugopal Ji; Bindu Krishna ji, senior leaders on the stage; our candidates K. Suresh Ji; N.K. Premchandran Ji; party workers of the Congress party and all our UDF partners; friends from the media – I would like to welcome everybody here.

I would like to start by wishing you the best for Vishu and Easter. I would like to tell you that I am very-very happy to be here in Kerala speaking to you. I normally fight the election from Amethi in North India but this time I chose to give a message to South India by fighting from Kerala. Because I wanted to give a message that India is not just one perspective. India is not just 'One Idea', India is Millions and Millions of different view points, different perspectives and all of those are important to us because currently our country is under attack by the BJP and RSS. They want to suppress all other voices other than their own. They believe that only one idea should rule India and we believe that the Indian people should rule India. We do not believe that India should be run by one person, one idea. We believe that every single voice, every single person's voice must be heard in this country.

The difference between the BJP, RSS and the Congress, UDF is the following. They say that if you do not agree with us, you do not believe in what we believe; we will crush you and destroy you. As the Prime Minister said 'Congress-Mukt' Bharat meaning we will erase the idea of Congress from India. What the Congress says to Narendra Modi in return is we do not agree with you. We will fight with you to convince you that you are wrong. We will beat you in the election but we will not use violence against you. Even though we do not agree

with you, we respect the idea that you should have a voice and we will use love and non-violence to convince you that you are wrong. No matter how many times you attack us, abuse us, harm us, beat us, you will always get a non-violent loving response from the Congress Party because for us the voice of this country, the intelligence of this country, the beauty of this country is much bigger than any one ideology.

We want every person in this country to feel that their voice matter, their voice counts and we want people to feel comfortable in this country regardless of what religion they are, what community they come from, what language they speak, we want them to feel comfortable. We want them to be relaxed and we want them to do their work, live their life, how they feel. I chose Kerala because you are a very-very good example of this philosophy. Your history of tolerance, your history of understanding different cultures, your history of being connected to the rest of the world not with inferiority but with openness, not with fear but with confidence.

If you listen to the Prime Minister or you listen to the RSS ideologue, they will always talk about the outside world as superior to India. Some days ago, Mr. Amit Shah said that 'only these two countries act in this manner and now India also acts like that'. But when the Kerala looks at the outside world, Kerala says you are not inferior or superior to us, you are different than us, we are different than you, we appreciate you and we would like you to appreciate us. So, Kerala has confidence inside it, and from that confidence comes your success. Best education system, highest level of literacy, that is Kerala and in a way that is a very important lesson for the rest of India. Look at outside with confidence.

Now there is an ideological fight taking place between the BJP on one side and the Congress Party, the UDF on the other side. Over the last five years, you have seen our Prime Minister promising a number of things - two crore jobs every year to youngsters, Rs. 15 lakhs in every bank account, correct prices to farmers. Now let me ask you- What support has the Prime Minister of India given to the cashew growers of the State. Everybody knows that the cashew growers, people who work in the cashew industry are suffering and struggling. Has the Prime Minister tried to have a conversation with them? Has he called them? Has he called them and said come, come, come to New Delhi, come to Race Course

Road, let me talk to you, let me see if the Government of India can help you. I have not seen that happen.

How many people in this crowd have got Rs. 15 lakhs in their bank account? Is there anyone who can raise his hand and say, Yes, Mr. Narendra Modi gave me Rs. 15 lakh? We have the highest unemployment in 45 years. How many people in this crowd can say, Yes, Mr. Narendra Modi has given me a job? So, the promises he made to you, he has not fulfilled but Anil Ambani gets Rs. 30,000 crores contract in the Rafale deal. The Prime Minister speaks of nationalism and then he gives the world's biggest defence contract to a man, who has never made even a car.

Brothers and sisters – Rs. 30,000 Crores is almost equivalent of one year's MGNREGA. Lakhs and lakhs of people get work from MGNREGA. One man gets Rs. 30,000 crore. Nirav Modi -Rs. 35,000 crore; Mehul Chowksi -Rs. 35,000 crore, Vijay Malaya -Rs. 10,000 crore, Lalit Modi – the list is there. Rs. 3,50,000 crore given to 15 of the richest people in this country. What would it take to transform the life of the cashew industry, cashew workers – Rs. 300 crore. So, Mr. Narendra Modi can give Rs. 30,000 crore to Anil Ambani but cannot give Rs. 300 crore to the cashew industry.

Five months ago, I called the Economists of the Congress Party. I said that I want to give a message to the people of India. No confusion, clear message and the message is that if Narendra Modi can give lakhs of crores of Rupees to 15 of the richest people of India, the Congress Party can do the same to the poor people of India. So, I asked the think-tank very simple question - I said Mr. Narendra Modi promised in number – Rs. 15 lakhs in every bank account. It was a lie. It is impossible to give Rs. 15 lakhs to every Indian person. He knows it, I know it and the rest of the country knows it. Because if we give Rs. 15 lakh to every body, the Indian economy will be destroyed. So, I told them, I want you to give me a number. It does not matter how big it is, or small it is, I want a number, I don't want a theory, I don't want a book, I want a number. They asked me what is the number you want. I said the number I want is- if we were to decide that the Government of India would give the 20% poorest people of this country money every month, how much money can we give without destroying the economy. I want to carry out a surgical strike on poverty. What is the number? How much

money can we put into 5 crore bank accounts? I told them that the money I want to put into women's bank account. I know the men will not like it but women are better at managing money. They have a longer term; they think in longer term than men. The Economists went back. Some days ago, they came back with a number - Rs. 72,000 a year. Frankly when I saw this number, I was shocked because it is a very big number. Rs. 72,000 a year - Rs. 3,60,000 in five years - to 20% of Indian families - every month money going directly to the bank account bypassing all the corruption, bypassing all the Government system straight into your bank account. Then I asked what will happen if we give 20% of India Rs. 3,60,000 in five years. Will we damage the economy and the answer was even more shocking. The answer was the following- Mr. Narendra Modi demonetised the economy. He did Gabbar Singh Tax which damaged the economy and he took huge amount of money from our people and removed it. Fuel was removed from the engine of the Indian economy, the engine stopped. The surprising thing is that best Economists of the world told us that if you actually inject this money into the poorest people, you will start the Indian economy. Poor people will get money; they will start buying things, when they start buying things, the factories will start making things, the people will get employment in the factories. So, we have taken a historic decision that after 2019 elections, 20% of India's poor people, 5 crore families - 25 crore people - will be given Rs. 72,000 a year straight in their bank account.

Brothers and sisters - you have to realize and you have to understand that there is no shortage of money in this country. Mr. Narendra Modi says, where will the money come from? He says the money will have to come from middle class. **I want to make it crystal clear from this stage that not a single Rupee will come from the middle class. Income tax will not be raised.** The money will come from people like Mr. Anil Ambani - not legitimate businessmen, not law abiding businessmen but from the large number of crony capitalists who are given thousands and thousands of crores of Rupees just because they happened to be the friends of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Narendra Modi has handed the keys of the banking system to these people. We will take the keys of the banking system out of Mr. Anil Ambani's hands and

give it to the entrepreneurs. **The NYAY Yojana is going to kick start, jump start the economy.**

But we want to enable the youngsters of Kerala to help with employment in this country. So, we asked many-many youngsters what we could do for them. We went to people who want to open small businesses. We went to entrepreneurs and said what can we do? We want you to help us to create jobs, what we have to do for you and they said something very simple. They said whenever we go to open a business, regardless of what business it is, we have to take permissions from 10 or 15 Government departments. Every department asks us for money. By the time we have done 'chakkar' of all the departments, we were left with no money to start the business. So, we said- OK we will solve the problem. And we put a little line in our manifesto that says **no youngster in Kerala or any other State who wants to open a business will not have to take permission from any Government Department.** You first start the business, you give some people employment, once your business is stable, come to the Government department for permission.

We did the same with the farmers of the country - what do you want - how can we help you in your work and they told us two things - both of which we agreed to. The first was - every year a budget is proposed. This year Mr. Piyush Goel read out the budget. The farmers of the country said - please do us a favour, we want to understand what is going to happen in the coming year. Please give us a dedicated budget only for farmers. So I am happy to say that in 2019 the farmers of this country will have their own budget. We will make it very clear and this will include cashew farmers. We will make it very clear what is going to be done for you in the next year. How much the MSP is going to be raised? Whether your loans are to be forgiven? What compensation you will get? We will lay out everything for you right in the beginning of the year.

For the cashew farmers, I want to make something very clear. I understand that the Government in Kerala had made some commitments. I would recommend to them to fulfill those commitments. But on behalf of Congress Party, I also want to make a commitment and the commitment to cashew farmer is that if we come to power in 2019 in Delhi, we will start a conversation with you. We will listen to you in detail and we will do whatever we can do to help the cashew farmers and

the Government of Kerala - make cashew growing a viable alternative. We will systematically meet cashew workers, understand exactly what it is they need and try to be of help at the national level.

My main message to you today is that we are interested in your voice. We are interested in removing the fear from your heart and we are open to conversation to try and understand how that can be done. We are not here to force an ideology on you. You are our ideology. Your voice is our ideology because we understand that without your voice, this country is meaningless and that is why we are fighting for fairness that is why we are fighting for NYAY.

I am fighting an election from Kerala and I want to tell you, it is an honour for me to be fighting to represent the people of this State and with humility, because of how intelligent, how profound your voice is and I want to thank every single Keralaite regardless of whether he is in the Congress, CPM or any other party - I want to thank every single Keralaite for giving me the honour, allowing me the honour to represent your voice.

Thank You - Jai Hind

**Sd/-
(Vineet Punia)
Secretary
Communication Deptt.
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