

# TELANGANA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE Minorities Department

Gandhi Bhavan, Nampally, 500001, T.S Ph.: 040-24602484, 24603718 Fax: 040-24602383

### SHAIK ABDULLAH SOHAIL

Chairman

To

28th October, 2023

Shri. Mallikarjun Kharge Ji, Hon'ble President, All India Congress Committee, New Delhi.

Subject: A painful goodbye: My resignation from Congress after 34 years

### Dear Kharge Ji,

As I sit to write this letter, my heart is heavy with a blend of sorrow, pain, and a deep sense of loss. For the past 34 years, the Congress Party wasn't just an affiliation for me; it was my life, my family, and my purpose. I joined the party as a zealous young man, drawn by its secular ideals and commitment to serving the people. Today, as I write to you, that young man seems like a distant memory, lost in the tangles of disillusionment and betrayal.

The Congress Party and I grew together; it was where I transformed from an eager youth to a man in the twilight of his middle age. It's a party I breathed and lived for, sometimes even at the cost of my own family time. The party's ups and downs were mine. We enjoyed power for 15 years but languished in opposition for the other 19. My loyalty never wavered; it was the service to the people and the nation that mattered, not power or position.

I strongly believed that only the Congress party had a real secular character and ideals. I joined the party as a worker and rose to the position of TPCC Minorities Dept Chairman. I had the privilege to work with legendary leaders like Shri. V. Vengal Rao Ji, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy Ji, Dr. K. Rosaiah Ji, Shri Kiran Kumar Reddy, Shri Ponnala Laxmaiah, and Shri. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy Ji. I was also unfortunate to work under the leadership of present TPCC President and formerly Sangh Parivar activist A Revanth



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Reddy for the last two-and-a-half years. Out of 34 years in politics, the last two-and-a-half years were extremely painful as I witnessed the Congress party comprising its ideals just to come to power.

Starting with Booth Committee president, I became Basti President, Division President, Block General Secretary and also served as Vice-President of the Hyderabad City Congress. I was also assigned important positions in the State Youth Congress and I was elevated to the Chairman of GHCC (Minorities Dept). In October 2018, I was made the State Chairman of Minorities Dept. During this journey of 34 years, I faced several challenges, participated in many agitations, and was arrested by the police on several occasions and jailed. In the agitation under TDP rule, I was brutally tortured by the police. Those internal injuries were so severe and irreparable that even today I feel their pain in my neck and back. I never complained or boasted of those things as I was proud that I faced torture for the sake of common people and my party.

When the party was in power for 15 years, I did not ask for any official position and remained focused on party activities and strengthening the organisation. I did not even aspire for a party ticket to contest any election.

However, the entry of Revanth Reddy as the TPCC President in June 2021 completely changed everything. He turned the Congress party into a grocery shop where people with heavy wallets could walk in and purchase any post. Today, a majority of people who are holding top positions in the party, never worked on the ground. They never participated in any agitation, and never faced arrest. They entered the Gandhi Bhavan in their Mercedez, received a red carpet welcome, paid a certain amount and purchased a top position.

Unfortunately, the Congress High Command, which boasts of a huge organisational network and an active vigilance mechanism, did not realize that the party headquarters Gandhi Bhavan has been turned into a shopping mall.



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When Revanth Reddy was appointed as TPCC President, none other than Bhongir MP Mr Komatireddy Venkatreddy alleged that the then AICC Inchare Manickam Tagore sold the post by taking Rs 50 crore bribe. Initially, we did not believe those allegations. But soon we all learned that Revanth Reddy invested Rs 50 crore to get the top post and recovered it with huge profits by selling the party posts and now the Assembly tickets. We always believed that the Congress High Command, especially Smt Sonia Gandhi Ji and Shri Rahul Gandhi Ji had their eyes and ears on everyone, and soon they would stop such activities. Unfortunately, they decided to remain ignorant and allow an RSS agent to sabotage the entire party in two years.

Although I was not a ticket aspirant, the distribution of tickets has caused me immense pain. Party leaders who have been working hard for decades in their constituency were thrown in dustbins, and those who paratrooped with heavy bags of cash were handed over the tickets. There are several instances to prove my allegation. The hard work and dedication of genuine party workers were completely neglected.

For instance, Nuthi Srikanth Goud, present OBC Dept Chairman, has spent huge money and time to nurture the Amberpet constituency. When the Congress party launched the Shakti programme in 2017-18, he was the best performer in the entire country. He was even felicitated by Shri Rahul Gandhi himself in Delhi. But when it came to ticket allocations, he was neglected and the Amberpet seat was left for an ally in 2018. Despite being disheartened, he continued with the party and again invested all his resources to ensure the success of party programmes in the last five years especially in programmes like Bharat Jodo Yatra. But this time too, he was dumped.

There are several seats where tickets were sold to the highest bidder. For instance, the Malakpet ticket was allotted to one Shaikh Akbar, a realtor. We heard about his name only after reading in the Congress list. He is not even a member of the Congress party leaving aside his contribution to the party in the last so many years. He has openly told several people that he purchased the ticket by spending Rs. 10 crore. On doing a background check, we learned that he was allegedly involved in a real-estate-



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related fraud worth several crores and just needed political identity for protection from authorities.

In the name of political strategist Sunil Konugula, a big scam was made in the name of conducting surveys. We came across several aspirants who've paid crores of rupees to some close associates of Revanth Reddy on the promise that their names will be included in the "surveys" of Sunil Konugulu. This entire scam was weaved right under the shed of AICC Headquarters.

The ticket was denied to former MLA P. Vishnuvardhan Reddy from the Jubilee Hills seat on the pretext that his sister P. Vijaya Reddy was being given a ticket from the Khairtabad constituency. the logic was not more than one ticket would be given in a family. In that case, why tickets were given to Mynampalli Hanumanth Rao and his son Rohit Rao? This father-son duo joined the Congress from the BRS party only this month. Why the one-ticket-per-family logic was not applied here? Is it because they offerred a big land deal to Revanth Reddy and his men and Vishnuvardhan Reddy, as a true Congress worker, does not indulge in such dirty things?

The tickets announced so far are the clear violation of Udaipur declaration. More than 25 leaders who paratropped form BRS and BJP have been allotted tickets while neglecting the genuine Congress leader who are serving the party since decade. The only difference between paratroopers and true Congress leaders was their bank balance.

The claim of social justice was openly ridiculed in ticket allocations. The party, which used to proudly claim that it belongs to all communities, has now reduced to be a party of just one dominant upper caste.

Please mark my words. All the candidates who enjoyed the backing of Revanth Reddy, if elected, will join the BJP under the leadership of Revanth Reddy after December 3.



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But the most unfortunate part is the commnualisation of the Congress party. Having his roots in the RSS, Revanth Reddy targeted the Muslim leadership in the Congress party. He first made all the Muslim leaders fight each other and then ensured that all of them lost their relevance and grip. He discouraged minority-related programmes. Except for some symbolic Iftar parties, he did not attend a minority-specif programme ever since he joined the Congress party.

With a population of nearly 14.5% Muslims are the single largest community in Telangana. However, the community was completely neglected in the TPCC. Out of 33 districts, there are only three Muslim DCCs which include Hyderabad (where Muslims are over 70%). Their presence is almost nil in all decision-making bodies like the PAC, Strategy Committee, Publicity Committee, etc., By doing so, Revanth Reddy crushed the Muslim leaders within the Congress party.

Revanth Reddy's main target was former minister Shabbir Ali. He forced Shabbir Ali to remain confined to the Kamareddy constituency and ignore State politics. After Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao announced that he would also contest from the Kamareddy constituency besides Gajwel, Revanth Reddy threw out Shabbir Ali from his home constituency from where he has been a lone undisputed candidate since 1989. Today, Shabbir Ali is being asked to contest from Nizamabad Urban where Muslims are over 40%.

On the other side, the Congress party gave tickets to non-Muslim candidates from Bahadurpura, Chandrayangutta and Yakutpura where Muslim voters are over 70%. Revanth Reddy contends that Muslims should not remain confined to Muslim-concentrated seats and Hindus should also contest from those seats. In such a scenario, why Mohammed Azharuddin has been fielded as a candidate from Jubilee Hills, just because Muslim voters are nearly 40% there? If this logic is valid then there should've been Muslim candidates from Bahadurpura, Chandrayangutta and Yakutpura seats. If Revanth Reddy's love for Shabbir Ali is so vast that he could not watch him get defeated



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at the hands of KCR, then instead of shifting him to Nizamabad Urban, let him shift to Kodangal by swapping the Kamareddy seat with him. He will never do that.

Mark my words, Revanth Reddy will not allow a single Muslim candidate to win the elections.

Another example is Adilablad from where DCC President Sajid Khan has applied for a ticket. The constituency has a significant Muslim population. But only to deny Sajid Khan a ticket, Revanth Reddy imported a leader Srinivas Reddy from the BJP. Srinivas Reddy was notorious in the district for his hate speeches and anti-Muslim statements. Without consulting anyone, Revanth Reddy promised to sell the ticket to Srinivas Reddy so that he could stop Sajid Khan from becoming a MLC.

This is quite clear that there is no logic, but Revanth Reddy is implementing his RSS agenda of crushing the Muslim leadership within the Congress party.

One day or the other, the Congress party will realise that it has committed a big mistake by making an RSS pracharak the head of Telangana Congress. But that will be too late. Shri Rahul Gandhi always says that Congress is fighting an ideological battle. But strangely, Rahul Gandhi appears to have mortgaged all his ideologies in Telangana. He appears to be engulfed in the greed for power. For the same reason, he not only handed over the command of the Congress party in Telangana to an RSS man but also gave tickets to his chosen men. Further, instead of looking at the background, their services for the party and to the people, candidates have been picked based on the weight of their suitcases carrying cash.

It has been proved in Telangana that the Congress party's claims on secularism are fake. Now it has become as deadly and venomous as the BJP for the Muslims.

Our predecessors have committed the mistake of supporting a leader with an RSS background. He not only became the Chief Minister but later became Prime Minister.



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Under his regime (Congress rule), Babri Masjid was demolished and this RSS man in Congress mask facilitated its demolition. We don't want to create another Narasimha Rao by supporting the RSS-minded PCC President.

Revanth Reddy's communal approach could be gauged from the fact that he delayed the Minorities Declaration. I was part of a 10-12 member committee that "drafted" the resolution. The entire exercise was a sham and confined to three closeddoor meetings and just one meeting with Muslim organisations. Their suggestions were taken casually and nothing would get incorporated in the real manifesto. Similar treatment was given to the Backward Classes and no effort was made to involve all BC leaders or approach their associations to learn about their needs.

Earlier, the opinions of Congress leaders used to be taken into consideration as they interacted with the local people daily. But now focus is more on marketing than politics. Under Revanth Reddy's leadership, the entire Congress party in Telangana has been converted into a product which he is trying to sell using attractive marketing

Overall, Revanth Reddy has finished the real Congress party in Telangana and it is bound to be rejected by the people.

Given the above, I can say that this is not the Congress party which I joined and served for almost 34 years. It has been hijacked and transformed into another wing of Sangh Parivar. My conscience does not allow me to work behind an RSS-affiliated leader anymore. Therefore, I'm submitting my resignation from my post and also the primary membership of the Congress party.

It pains me immensely to state that our party, under its current leadership, is no longer the Congress I joined. It's not just the leadership's actions but also the silence and inaction of the High Command that has forced my hand. The ideologies I believed



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in, the values I stood for, and the vision I shared with the party seem to have been forgotten.

This letter is not just a resignation from my post and the primary membership of the Congress Party. It is a mourning of ideals that once were, a lament for the party that stood as a beacon of hope and unity. I am thankful to all who supported me, who believed in me, and who stood by me through these years. But I cannot, in good conscience, continue to be part of a leadership and system that betrays its own people and principles.

I leave with a heavy heart, grieving for what the party has become, yet holding onto the hope that one day it will find its way back to the values and ideals that once defined it. Until then, my journey must take a different path.

I'm thankful to everyone who supported me in the last so many years.

(Shaik Abdullah Sohail)