



PROGRESS  
WITH  
CONGRESS

# MANIFESTO

Presidential Election 2022

## INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS



**VOTE FOR**

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR**

# Tharoor's Ten Tenets:

## Revitalizing the Congress



The party Presidential exercise, but it also opportunity to ignite interest in the Congress workers. Now that the Congress Working Committee

free and fair election, the prospect

visions for the party and the nation, and submitting themselves to a democratic vote, is stimulating. It also points to the fact that no other Indian political party has a comparable process to determine its future leadership, and by adhering to its Constitution, the Congress can set a standard that will establish a compelling narrative to Indians that Congress is the best vehicle for the future of a democratic India.

The key challenge remains that whoever is elected, the Congress will have to find a way to appeal beyond the 19% of the electorate that voted for the party in both 2014 and 2019 and may be considered the hard-core “true believers” in the party. The party has to find a way to appeal to those who did not vote for it in those two elections and drifted away to the BJP, most of whom did so for reasons other than Hindutva. This would require a leader who looks beyond history to speak to the aspirations of young India and address the anxieties of everyone else – one who firmly believes the party can set the country on the route to a better society, one that is ready to take on the opportunities offered by the world of the 21st century.

If the new president is purely an organisational person, while he or she may be able to lead the workers and strengthen the foundations of the party, they may be unable to galvanise wider interest and bring in the support of more voters to the party. If the president is a charismatic figure but has poor organisational skills, while he or she may be personally appealing to the national electorate, they are unlikely to find a fully supportive party machinery to help translate their charisma and natural appeal into electoral results. The challenge for the Congress is both to articulate a positive and aspirational vision for the nation and to fix the organizational and structural deficiencies that have impeded its recent efforts.

The answer lies in a combination of effective leadership and organizational reform.

As an outspoken reformist for many years, Shashi Tharoor has often highlighted a broad series of reforms that he believes will allow our Party to rise above our current set of challenges.



#ThinkTomorrowThinkTharoor

# Embrace a process of REJUVENATION



The Congress must rejuvenate itself, particularly by bringing in fresh faces and young blood into its leadership at all levels — village, block, district and state as well as national. A revived Congress is key to once again convincing young Indians that we understand their aspirations and can be trusted to promote them in government. At the same time, respect the efforts and sacrifices of long-time party workers by rewarding them suitably with appointments and authority.



# Decentralize the Organization



Source : Loksabha of India website.  
 Link : [https://loksabha.nic.in/images/map\\_org.jpg](https://loksabha.nic.in/images/map_org.jpg)

Every party needs leadership, but at all levels and not just at the top. The Congress must empower the party in the states by giving real authority to the PCC Presidents, decentralize authority and truly empower the grassroots office-bearers of the party. We must provide a credible alternative to the BJP's centralization of authority in its party affairs and in the affairs of governance. Re-imagining the organization, delegating powers to state, district and block leaders and empowering grassroots workers will not only free the new leader from the onerous burdens of over-administration, but help create the strong state leadership that in past eras strengthened the Congress' national appeal.



## Reimagine the role of AICC Headquarters

Congress must have a full-time President who is accessible to all and holds regular interactions for karyakartas twice a week where any party worker can be heard. The President should also hold quarterly meetings with AICC departments and frontals.: Support the President with five Vice-Presidents from, and broadly responsible for, five regions of the country. Appoint General Secretaries with thematic responsibilities who will curate and develop the party's vision and policies for the major challenges facing India and the world. Reduce the number of state-level office-bearers who require ratification from Headquarters. The Working Committee should meet monthly and plenary AICC sessions be held every five years. The Party President and other office-bearers should be limited to two five-year terms.



# Reiterate the core convictions of the party



The Indian National Congress stands for “Inclusive India”, a land that lives up to the Constitution's promise of liberty, fraternity and justice for all, irrespective of religion, region, language or gender. While honouring India's rich cultural and spiritual traditions going back millennia, we will constantly affirm the principles of secularism and respect for India's diversity and pluralism. We will support civil liberties, including freedom of expression and the press, and support to citizen's right to privacy, keeping the government out of the kitchen and the bedroom. As Mahatma Gandhi taught us, we will offer a haven for the poor, the marginalised and the disenfranchised, and fight for social justice, with special attention to the problems of women, SC/ST communities, and minorities. We will support economic growth, a robust national security posture, and an energetic and confident foreign policy, in keeping with the rich legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru.



# Broaden participation in the party



We must revive and strengthen consultative mechanisms within the Congress through a democratic and collective decision-making process at the national level (which would involve reviving the Parliamentary Board provided for in the party Constitution as well as elections to 12 seats in a 23-member Congress Working Committee). End the perception that decision-making has been concentrated in the hands of a select few, which has limited the ability of many able colleagues to access and communicate with the top leadership. Institute a “shadow Cabinet” to challenge the government daily. Hold regular policy discussions to constantly update the party's positions and stands on urgent issues. Encourage democratic decision-making at all levels. Pledge to implement the Udaipur Declaration of 2022, including the “one person one post” rule, term limits for party positions (normally two terms in any party post) to permit renewal of energies, 50% tickets for those under 50, and increased representation for women, youth, SC/ST/OBCs and minorities in party positions.



## Reinvigorate Election Management:



Introduce professional techniques including candidate selection meetings. Nominate candidates at least three months before elections are due to give them time to introduce themselves to the electorate. Candidates who lose two elections in a row will not be repeated for the same seat. Term limits will not apply to consistently successful elected incumbents. Use technology and data management techniques to improve our election management.



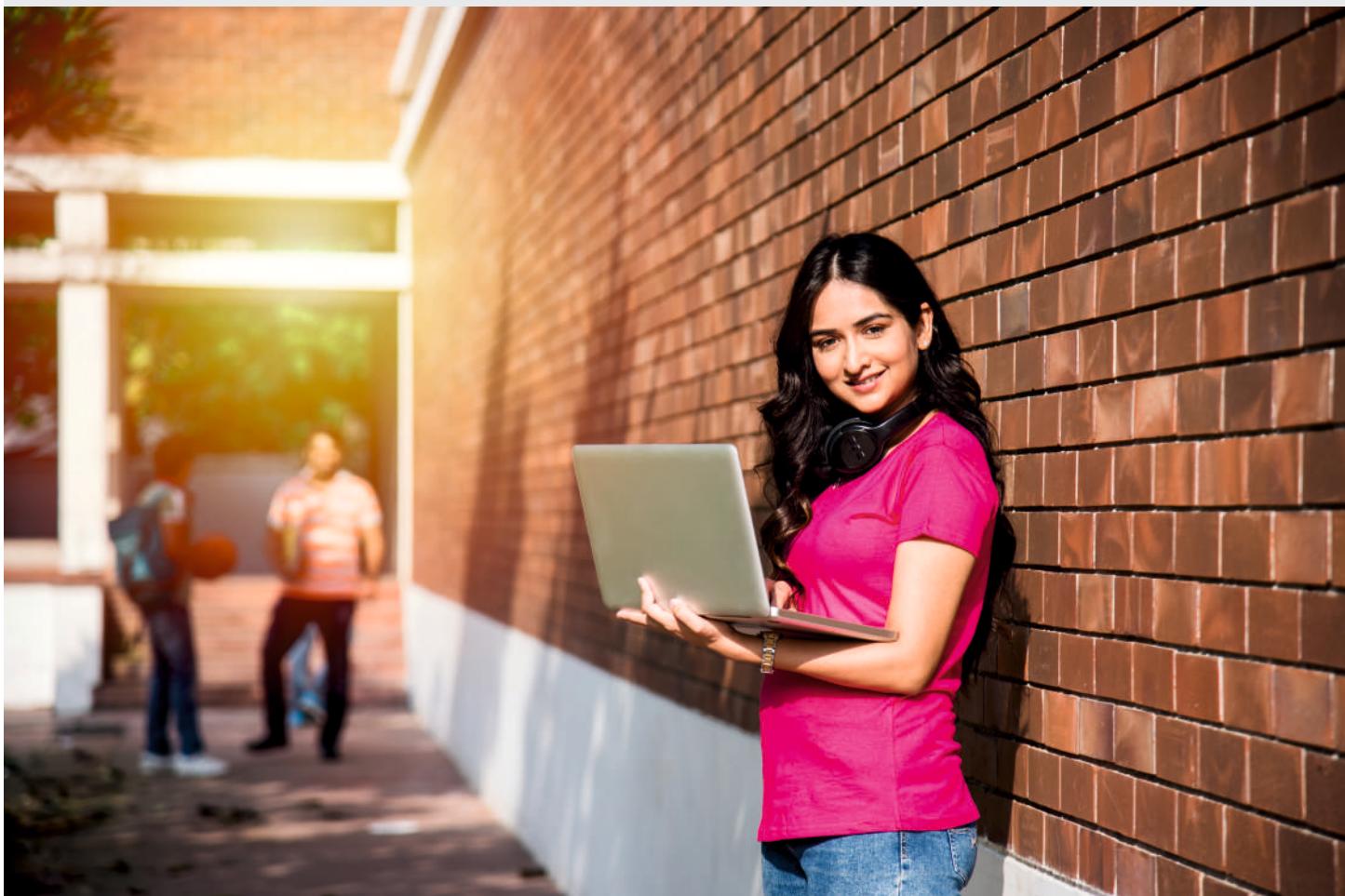
## Increased Focus on Youth



For the Congress to start winning again, it should appeal to the large untapped political potential of unemployed youth, youth-heavy workplaces (notably the IT sector) and migrant hotspots. To take back the technocratic leadership of the nation, Congress has a large role to play via job fairs, skilling expos, and developing industry collaborations. NSUI and IYC have a critical role to play beyond the good work being done by these frontals in organising large nationwide movements and mass protests. To strengthen their capacity, we need to embark on a meaningful revamp to make these and other Congress frontal organisations like Seva Dal our focus of attention for youth issues. Young Indians must believe we understand their aspirations and can be trusted to promote them in government.



## Bigger Role for Women



The Congress will support leadership by women, for women, in keeping with the “Ladki hoon, lad sakti hoon” principle. Women will be encouraged to take up issues that actually matter to women in our society. More positions for women should be reserved in PCCs and in the electoral fray. The party will work to pass the Women's Reservation Bill. In these efforts, the role and capacity of All India Mahila Congress will be strengthened.



# Outreach to Industry and Professionals



Bring clarity to the Congress' party's ownership of the liberalization agenda and our support for business and industry. Embrace wealth creation and employment-generation in the private sector while insisting on distributing the revenues thus created to the poor and marginal sections of society. Reaffirm the Congress' history as the party of professionals by strengthening outreach to professional bodies and involving professionals systematically in all activities of the party, including manifesto preparation. Make a sustained effort to revive the MSME sector and provide it sustained assistance to become productive and integrated in domestic and global supply chains. India's jobs problem cannot be addressed without a robust MSME sector.



# Return to the Ethos of Politics as Social Work



The Congress party should not merely be seen as an instrument for fighting elections every few years. There is a great deal that it can and must do between elections, helping citizens in their interactions with the government, the police, and the unfeeling petty bureaucracy they have to confront daily. The mission of the Indian National Congress is to return to the ethos of politics as social work for those who cannot help themselves.





#ThinkTomorrowThinkTharoor



@ShashiTharoor



PROGRESS  
WITH  
CONGRESS