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On 28 December we took an oath. Friends, our biggest promise was that we will pass the Jan Lokpal Bill, a strong law against corruption. These Congressis had given in writing that they would support the Jan Lokpal Bill. But today in Vidhan Sabha, when we tried to table the Jan Lokpal Bill in the Assembly, the Congress and the BJP got together.

This has never happened in the history of india. But they got together. Behind our backs, behind the curtains, they are looting the country. In the last two days, their true

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Arvind Kejriwal on his way to the party office. PTI

Friends, three days ago, we filed an FIR against Mukesh Ambani. Mukesh Ambani is the person who runs this country's government. Mukesh Ambani has said the Congress is his shop, that he can purchase what he wants from the Congress. For 10 years, the UPA has been run by Mukesh Ambani. And over the past year, Mukesh Ambani has backed Modiji also.

Where does Modiji get so much money from? He roams around in helicopters, where does the money for those big rallies come from? Mukesh Ambani is behind it.

Friends, as soon as we raised our voice against Mukesh Ambani, the Congress and BJP got together. They didnt let the Jan Lokpal Bill be presented. They felt Kejriwal has only a minor anti-corruption bureau now but has managed to cause such a nuisance. If the Jan Lokpal comes into being, then more than half of these people will go to jail. That is why these two parties caused the bill to collapse.

For now we have exposed Mukesh Ambani and Veerappa Moily. Maybe tomorrow it will be Sharad Pawar's turn. Maybe Kamal Nath's turn will come. So at any cost, they had to do this.

I am a very small person. I have no aukaat. I am one of you. I didnt come here for power or for the chair. And that is why our government hereby resigns.

A hundred chief ministerial chairs can be sacrificed for the Jan Lokpal Bill --we are ready. If we need to lay down our lives for the country, I will consider myself lucky.

We just had a Cabinet meeting and decided that our government will resign today. Here is my resignation. I will go now to the lieutenant governor now. Our cabinet has recommended that the Vidhan Sabha be dissolved and re-election held.

Since we formed the government on December 28, our ministers haven't slept soundly even a single night. They are working day and night. We have left no stone unturned in our efforts. We reduced power and water tariff. We ordered an audit of

power companies. We reduced corruption.

We have worked with complete integrity and the best intentions. Maybe we made mistakes, we are humans, but we tried our best.

They say we cannot govern. But in the past so many years, they couldn't audit the power companies, we did it in five days; in 65 years they couldn't reduce corruption, we did it in 49 days. We filed an FIR against corruption by Sheila, Mukesh Ambani -- they say govern, don't do all this.

Arrey, acting against the corrupt is true governance.

I felt sometimes that if we had taken a few crores and thrown some to the BJP and Congress then they would say this is good work done.

My mind is saddened by what has transpired in Parliament and in Vidhan Sabha, they way they threw pepper spray in Parliament, broke my microphone in Vidhan Sabha, tore my papers, gave bangles to one minister.. what is the meaning of giving bangles? Does the BJP respect women?

They say Parliament is a temple of democracy, that the Vidhan Sabha is a temple, a masjid. I want to ask, do you break idols in a temple? Or tear the Quran in a masjid? Tear the Bible in a church, break the idol of Jesus Christ in a church?

I am ashamed. These people have shamed Vidhan Sabha and and Parliament.

They say what we did is unconstitutional. An FIR is unconstitutional, it's unconstitutional if I say end corruption, it's unconstitutional if I say bring Lokpal. Tabling laws in Vidhan Sabha requires the okay of the Centre, they say. They are lying my friends, I have read the Constitution and nowhere does it say that the Centre's nod is required.

The Centre thinks they are colonial rulers. The L-G of Delhi thinks he is the Viceroy. They think nothing of the Assembly. They believe we haven't got freedom yet form the British. All work will be done after asking them, they imagine.

I will follow the Constitution. I will sacrifice my life for the Constitution. And the Jan Lokpal Bill is fully constitutional. They are lying, because they want to keep up their corrupt practices.

Friends, they tear papers in Parliament, they thief, all this is Constitutional they think. And we are fighting for the country and that is unconstitutional?

The people of this country will teach you a lesson. The people of the country will not stay quiet.

I will go straight to the L-G now. I pray to God that we are small people, please be kind to us, give us good sense. Give us the ability to sacrifice our lives for this country.

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Long accused of lacking a broader narrative on the issues he speaks on, Rahul Gandhi on Friday provided an adequate glimpse of the policy roadmap of the Congress under him.

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Speaking at a media event in New Delhi, the Congress president articulated a clear position on several matters, including the party's stand on the industry sector and the approach to the Opposition's grand alliance.

While expressing his readiness for the post of prime minister, the Congress president made it clear that his party is not anti-industry and open to discussions on country's development.

Earlier, Gandhi, in his public addresses and election rallies, wasn't clear about his narrative and lacked coherence in the charges he had leveled against the Narendra Modi-led government.



The striking feature of Gandhi's address and interaction on Friday was his candid acceptance of agreeing to become prime minister, if his alliance partners want him to be and how it might happen.

"If they want me, sure," said Gandhi with confidence, when asked if he

would take the top job next year if his party comes to power.

While responding to a volley of questions in an interaction session at the *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit, he said, "There're two stages to it. First, we've to defeat BJP. And the second stage is that if we win and they (allies) want me to be the PM, sure."

He also made clear what his party's policy would be towards farmers, small and medium enterprises, industry, employment generation and development in social sector.

Till now, he had been accused of only attacking Prime Minister Modi and his policies, which people viewed as random criticism without any specific policy or plan.

Rahul Gandhi's policy roadmap

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Gandhi outlined his party's policy roadmap, giving a hint that if it comes to power, it would focus on strengthening small and medium enterprises (SMEs), redressing farmers' issues and supporting low cost-high quality healthcare and education system in the country.

"There are two central problems. One central problem is that India isn't creating jobs. Open up small, medium businesses...I'll strengthen the small and medium enterprises. I will make farmers feel they are important. I'll build low cost-high quality medical and education infrastructure," he emphasised.

He told the audience that due to lack of conversation between the Modi government and the larger parts of India, anger has brewed up among people.

Gandhi said that while listening to people is very important, his strategy would be to have conversations with different small groups, get ideas from them and carry them forward.

"Agriculture needs to be linked to industry for economic growth and farmers are not opposed to industry. But you'll have to start the conversation. You'll have to diffuse the anger that's taking place. Even though farmers and industry have to work together, that conversation is not happening today," he pointed out.

Strongly criticising the government over demonetisation, GST, farmer suicide, falling price of rupee, unemployment, rising bank non-performing assets (NPAs), petrol price reaching an all-time high, etc, he said, "Today in India, fear is palpable and aspiration is turning into anger."

Gandhi also gave an indication that if Congress comes to power, it would focus on social sector programmes like MNREGA.

Responding to a question on India's Human Development Index ranking, he said, "UPA has a phenomenal record of pulling people out of poverty through its strategic programmes like MNREGA."

On grand alliance

Congress' plan to strike an alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party in poll-bound states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh failed. The BSP supremo Mayawati openly criticised the Congress and its senior leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh, saying that alliance with Congress was not possible in states due to its arrogance.

Despite Mayawati's remark, Gandhi sounded optimistic and confident about a possible alliance ahead of 2019 election.

"Alliances in states are different from a national alliance. Mayawati*ji* indicated that. I don't see an alliance happening in MP, but in national election, we'll come together. We're confident of winning in MP, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana," he asserted.

A cautionary note

While the Congress president exuded confidence in his speech and in communicating party's ideas on governance, bringing in economic growth and striking an alliance for a *mahagathbandhan* (grand alliance), political pundits are wary about the implementation part.

They strongly feel that the Congress president has to come out of the past UPA shadow to succeed.

"If Rahul Gandhi wants his new ideas to get successfully implemented, he has to liberate himself from old leaders of Sonia Gandhi's UPA regime. He has to promote new people, new talents. At present, it's Sonia's Congress, with Rahul as its new president; rest no change," MD Nalapat, political analyst and director, geopolitics at Manipal University, told *Firstpost*.

"PM Modi uses bureaucrats who were prominent during the UPA tenure and politicians of Atal Bihari Vajpayee regime, and it led to disappointing results. Indira Gandhi refreshed the Congress party in 1969 and 1978 by getting new faces and succeeded. Rahul should take a lesson out of it to succeed," added Nalapat.

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Rahul Gandhi accuses BJP of using public funds to run RSS schools; pramukhs, swayamsevaks rebut Congress chief's charge

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On Friday, Congress president Rahul Gandhi gave the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) a backhanded compliment. The Congress chief, speaking at the *Hindustan Times* Leadership Summit said the RSS was running 1,30,000 schools across the nation. "These numbers are so big," Rahul said at the summit in Delhi. Twice.

Now, any organisation would be pleased to take this statement—having built such a vast network of its educational institutes—as a compliment. More so coming from a known adversary. However, the Congress chief was not offering a compliment, nor did the RSS take it as a pat on the back. Through his statement, Rahul was asking: Who funds these institutions?



Rahul Gandhi addresses public at a rally in Wardha. (https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Rahul-gandhi-wardha-rally-380.jpg)

After speaking to RSS leaders and taking a look at the website of 'Vidya Bharati Akhil Bhartiya Siksha Sansthan', *Firstpost* ascertained that Rahul was bit off the mark: Vidhya Bharati ran 23,320 schools and number of Ekal (single teacher) Vidhyalaya was 76,611. So that's around one lakh schools (including primary, secondary, intermediate and teachers' training

schools).

Returning to Rahul's original charge: What is the source of funding? His argument was the BJP-ruled states were diverting funds meant for the public to RSS run schools. He also said that BJP MPs and MLAs were contributing money out of their MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Fund Scheme).

Rahul said this while responding to a query on “subversion of institutions” by the government. He gave the impression that growth of Saraswati Vidyalayas and Ekal Vidyalayas run by RSS affiliates were a phenomenon associated with government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP governments in various states. The schools, associated with “one particular ideology”, were growing in number due to the patronage of BJP governments and diversion of resources which should otherwise have gone to government schools, Rahul alleged.

Atul Kotari of Bharatiya Siksha Utthan Nyas said these institutions don't seek funds from the government. "We seek donations a large number of people. Influential persons from society donate for the cause. Ekal or one teacher schools, are run in forest, tribal and hilly areas including in Kashmir and North East 'in areas out of reach of government schools'" Kotari said.

RSS Alkil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh Arun Kumar said it should be clear that the RSS does not run schools. "Mohan Bhagwat recently made clear that the only work the Sangh does is “vyakti nirman” (building an individual) and it is incumbent on these individuals to pursue work which they deem fit," Kumar said. "It's true that Vidya Bharati and Ekal Sanstha are run by individuals built by the Sangh. They work with the support of the people and work under the established legal order. All donations are collected in a transparent manner through banks and many known personalities are associated with this mission."

Yet another RSS leader, speaking to *Firstpost* on the condition of anonymity, denied Rahul's allegations. He argued that today, the BJP and its associates rule 20 states and things would have been different if it were suggested that the educational work at these institutions be done under official patronage. “We have developed a unique model, where each school is run by a committee which includes one swayamsevak and some prominent persons of that area. Since teachers in these schools work with a nation building mission, they work at a far lower salary than those in government and private schools. We build a 'guru-shishya' tradition in these schools," he said.

Their argument is that these schools pre-date the emergence of BJP and are spread in areas where BJP does not have any substantive presence: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Odisha, and Jammu and Kashmir. West Bengal, for instance, has 290

Vidya Bharati schools and Odisha has 1,000 schools. The first RSS-affiliate school was opened in 1946 in Kurushetra. The second in Gorakhpur in 1952. Then they began expanding to various parts of the country. Different committees were formed in different states and Vidya Bharati was established in 1977 for the purposes of better coordination and structured exchange of ideas.

Fifty lakh students are enrolled in these schools. Naturally, that figure should be of concern for the Congress president. And his charge that the resources for these schools came from BJP MPs and MLAs through their MPLADS? RSS Delhi wing prachar pramukh Rajeev Tuli said he had no idea about this. However, considering some contributions from an MPs fund was made to a school building, these must have been done through established legal processes because of existing guidelines for spending under these schemes, he added.

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TRS leader KT Rama Rao says party won't ally with BJP in 2019 as it doesn't believe in 'polarising' people

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Oct 05, 2018 22:33:36 IST

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Hyderabad: The Telangana Rashtra Samithi would not ally with the BJP or support it in the next Lok Sabha election as the regional party was secular and the two parties had "very strong differences of opinion", TRS leader and IT Minister KT Rama Rao said.

Rao, son of caretaker chief minister and TRS supremo K Chandrashekar Rao, also dubbed as "*maha ghatia bandhan*" (weak combine) the proposed grand alliance of Congress, TDP and some other parties for the coming Assembly election in the state.

He made the comments during an interaction on Twitter on Thursday.

"We are an extremely secular party which carries people of all hues and shades and all sections of society. We don't believe in polarising based on community and based on any other criteria that divides us. So, the question of joining (hands with) BJP or aligning with them does not arise," Rama Rao said.

He was replying to a question if the TRS would support BJP in next year's Lok Sabha elections.



(<https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/K-T-Rama-Rao-411-380.jpg>) File image of TRS leader KT Rama Rao. PTI

"We don't see eye-to-eye on a number of counts. In fact, we have very strong differences of opinion," he added.

He charged the Congress and the TDP with "doing a great deal of injustice" to the people of the state, especially for those who championed the cause of statehood for Telangana.

According to him, the Congress and the TDP have given a "golden" opportunity to the people of Telangana to shoot two birds with one stone — hit the two parties with one vote.

"My request is to vote them out of Telangana and ensure that TRS is elected again," he said.

He expressed hope that the TRS would win the coming elections, necessitated by the premature dissolution of the Assembly by the government led by the party.

Rama Rao said he was focused on ensuring the return of party chief Rao as the chief minister.

He said the TRS was considering including an "unemployment allowance" in its election manifesto.

He also claimed that no government had done as much as theirs for the youth, especially for the unemployed.

"We have already issued notifications for 90,000 (government) jobs to be filled in the last four years and recruitment of nearly 40,000 persons has been done," he said.

As for criticism of the government by some Opposition parties, Rama Rao said political parties in a democracy have every right to criticise.

"...but unfortunately the main opposition (Congress), the principal opposition party in Telangana, has been stooping to new lows and body shaming my children...that is a new low in politics," he added.

Updated Date: Oct 05, 2018 22:33 PM

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KCR calls Chandrababu Naidu 'thief' and 'traitor' to Telangana; slams 'cheap' Congress for being TDP's ally
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Congress president Rahul Gandhi to tour Morena, Jabalpur today in day-long visit to Madhya Pradesh

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Morena/Jabalpur: Congress president Rahul Gandhi will be on a day-long tour of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, during which he will attend an event organised by a tribal organisation and also address a public meeting.

Rahul will tour Morena and Jabalpur in what will be his third visit to the poll-bound state in less than 20 days.

He will arrive at Gwalior in the morning by a special plane and later, leave for Morena in a helicopter. He will address a meeting of the Adivasi Ekta Parishad at the Ambedkar Stadium in Morena, a party spokesman said Friday.

A large number of people under the banner of the Adivasi Ekta Parishad have embarked on a foot march from Gwalior on 2 October (Gandhi Jayanti), seeking land rights for tribals and farmers. The march will conclude in New Delhi.

"We have embarked on a foot march from Gwalior on 2 October for Delhi. The Congress president will arrive at Morena tomorrow (Saturday) to listen to our problems and to tell us how these problems will be solved in the event of his party

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(https://images.firstpost.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Rahul-Gandhi-Rajasthan_PTI.jpg)

coming to power at the Centre," Adivasi Ekta Parishad's national convener PV Rajgopal said.

"This is the Ekta Parishad's third yatra from Gwalior to Delhi," he added.

Rajgopal said the parishad had sent an invitation to the Congress as it is the main Opposition party. Rahul accepted the invitation and is coming to address

the agitators.

Senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh, Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath and the party's state-level poll campaign committee chairman Jyotiraditya Scindia will be present for the occasion among others.

After this, Rahul will go to Jabalpur, perform "Narmada puja" at Gwarighat and embark on a roadshow from the Bandria Tiraha (tri-section) to the Abdul Hameed Tiraha, the spokesman said.

Congressmen have put up posters, banners and set up nearly 100 temporary stages on both sides of the eight-kilometre-long roadshow route.

Rahul will also address a public meeting at the Raddi Chowk in the city, the spokesman added.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in view of the Congress chief's visit.

Rahul had earlier visited Bhopal and Rewa-Satna in the Vindhya region. Morena and Jabalpur fall in the Chambal and Mahakaushal regions respectively.

The Assembly polls in the state, where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power since 2003, are due by the year-end.

Updated Date: Oct 06, 2018 00:01 AM



Rahul Gandhi begins two-day visit to Madhya Pradesh from tomorrow, to start tour by offering prayers at Kamta Nath temple

Shivraj Singh Chouhan calls Rahul Gandhi's 'Made in Bhopal' remark 'laughable and illogical'; says Congress gave birth to corruption

Congress leaders say BSP's 'unrealistic' demands led to breakdown of seat-sharing talks, claim Mayawati sought 50 seats

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