

PRESS RELEASE

Dec. 01, 2016

Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, AICC has issued the following statement to the press today:-

Reflecting complete vulnerability of cyber security and lack of safety of digital data; twitter account as also email account of office of Congress Vice-President, Shri Rahul Gandhi were hacked yesterday evening i.e. 30th November, 2016. In another brazen attempt by the same unscrupulous and venal trolls; twitter account, email account and website of Indian National Congress were hacked today morning. Demonstrative of disturbing insecurities of a prevalent fascist culture to abuse and intimidate, hackers used the accounts to post and propagate profanity and derogatory comments, statements and opinions in a malicious fashion. Within seconds, an entire licenced army of trolls retweeted and reposted the hateful and reprehensible comments and statements of the hackers indicating that they were acting in concert and collusion in pursuance of a predetermined conspiracy.

Every right thinking Indian is shocked by such despotic and vulgar attempts, which reflect the extremities of a growing intolerant culture around us that resorts to abuse and insult every time it lacks answers to the questioned raised by those who disagree with their point of view. It is a systematic attack on free speech and right to disagree in our country.

Extreme elements have attacked the Congress ideology and its thoughts over last 132 years in different manifestations, both by spoken words and physical violence. Congress has always dealt with such hatred and animosity with Gandhian compassion and tolerance. Truth is that totalitarian and authoritarian ideas are an anathema to India's inclusive democracy.

Brazen hacking attempts also raise serious questions on the digital safety and privacy of millions of Indians, who use social media like facebook, twitter, whatsapp, instagram etc. as not only conversational platforms but also for exchange of ideas and dissemination of information. Truth is that every Indian's privacy is similarly under attack and onus lies upon Modi Government to do suitable course correction for protecting privacy of everyone who is on social media.

Another important question being asked by every Indian is if conversational platforms like twitter can be hacked so unabashedly by hackers, what is the safety of entire digital payment network? Does it not prove the inherent cyber security risks that exist for all electronic transactions and payment gateways? Time has come for Modi Government, which speaks of cashless economy, to ponder over these important imponderables that have exposed the susceptibility of the entire digital financial platforms. We sincerely hope that Modi Government will provide the relevant answers to people of India.

Congress Party has also filed complaints to the Cyber Cell of Delhi Police in the matter. We sincerely hope that Modi Government will move expeditiously to not only probe and punish the guilty but will also revisit the issue of digital safety.