

## Tharoor Reaffirms "Nation First" Stance Amidst Congress Internal Debate



Amid ongoing internal discussions within the Indian National Congress, party leader and Member of Parliament Shashi Tharoor reiterated his "nation first" philosophy on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Speaking at a private event on 'Peace, Harmony and National Development' in Kochi, Tharoor emphasized that political parties serve as a means to better the country, asserting that national interest should always supersede party affiliations.

Tharoor's comments come against a backdrop of recent tensions within the Congress, particularly following his public statements and actions, such as his support for the government's response to the Pahalgam terror attack and his participation in a parliamentary delegation. These instances have reportedly drawn criticism from some within his party who perceived them as deviations from the party line.

Addressing a query regarding his relationship with the Congress leadership, Tharoor articulated his steadfast belief in prioritizing national security and welfare. "Which is your first loyalty? To my mind, the nation comes first. Parties are a means of making the nation better," he stated. He acknowledged that his stance on supporting the nation's armed forces and the government in certain situations has led to criticism from some quarters, but he maintained, "I will stand my ground, because I believe this is the right thing for the country."

Tharoor further explained that while political competition is inherent in a democracy, cooperation is sometimes necessary, especially in matters of national security. He noted that when

individuals like himself advocate for inter-party cooperation in the national interest, it can sometimes be perceived as disloyalty by their party, creating a "big problem."

To underscore his point, Tharoor invoked a powerful quote from India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru: "Who lives if India dies?" He urged all political parties to set aside their differences when the nation faces peril, emphasizing that without India, there is no collective well-being. "India must come first, and then only can we all live," he added.

This reaffirmation of his "nation first" principle is consistent with Tharoor's long-standing public positions, often stressing inclusive development and national security. His remarks reflect an ongoing discussion within India's political landscape about the balance between party loyalty and national duty, particularly in moments of perceived crisis or significant national policy. As the Congress navigates its strategic path, Tharoor's consistent articulation of his priorities continues to be a notable voice in the national discourse.