

Against unemployment, inflation, corruption, communalism and the loot of the working people!

For employment, education, healthcare, housing, and unity and solidarity of people!

# Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra

(12 March, 2023 – 14 April, 2023)

Brothers, sisters, and comrades!

The country is going through an unprecedented crisis. Unemployment, inflation, corruption, economic inequality have broken all records. Inflation has been driven to a peak by the imposition of tax burdens of Modi government. Arrangements are being made to fill the coffers of the wealthy by facilitating the loot of the working class. The pernicious wind of predatory liberalization-privatization policies launched by the Congress has turned into a formidable tornado under Modi's rule. **Modi government made a lot of fake promises, but in reality the life of the working masses has become hell. People have never suffered so much due to unemployment, inflation, corruption and increasing loot.** To prevent the common people from coming together for their rights and to hide the failure of the government, the BJP is misleading common people on fake issues like communalism-casteism-jingoism. The BJP, which trumpets 'nationalism', has swallowed up the pensions, allowances and now jobs of army personnel. Today media is not telling the truth, and is engaged in spreading communal poison in the society, because large parts of the media are controlled by the corporates.

Apart from BJP and Congress, all the smaller and regional parties like AAP, SP, BSP, RJD, JD(U), NCP, Shiv Sena, Akali Dal, DMK, AIADMK, YSR Congress, Trinamool Congress etc. are also just serving the capitalists, rich farmers, contractors, brokers, middlemen, builders etc. in their respective states and regions, in their own ways. They also divide the people in the name of religion, caste, region and use it for electoral gains. Parties like CPI, CPM, CPI-ML (Liberation) who call themselves the representatives of the working masses make a lot of claims in their favor but serve only the exploiting classes. They primarily serve small and medium proprietors-traders and rich farmers rather than big capitalists. The policies of Liberalization-privatization are implemented without hesitation whenever they are in the governments.

Today, the people do not see any solution for their liberation, but this lack of alternative is not the fate of us and our country. The brave youth of the country, the working masses-peasants will definitely come forward to change this current situation. That is why we have started 'Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra' inspired by the revolutionary legacy of our great martyred revolutionary forefathers. The purpose of this Yatra is to bring about a new revolutionary awakening in the society and organize the people by making them aware of their real problems.

#### Modi Government's Attack on Employment is an Attack on Our Right to Life!

Crores of people lost their livelihood under Narendra Modi's regime, which in 2014 sought votes on the promise of providing two crore jobs every year. Demonetization, GST and the mismanagement of the Covid pandemic have kicked the working masses out of jobs especially in the unorganized sector. Government enterprises, created out of public funds, are being privatized and handed over to the capitalists. As a result, good education and treatment are now available only to the moneyed classes.

32 crore people in the country are facing unemployment today. Lakhs of posts in the government departments are lying vacant, and instead of filling those posts, the government is scrapping the posts themselves. In the name of Agniveer scheme, the government has ended permanent jobs even in the army. The New Education Policy-2020 is a document promoting communalism, increasing privatization and against creation of jobs. Modi government created only 7,22,311 jobs in the last 8 years, when the number of

applicants was more than 22 crores (22,05,99,238). Today many are committing suicides due to the extreme unemployment. 7,20,611 people committed suicide in the four years of 2017-2021, of which most were daily wage workers and farm-labourers, poor peasants, students-youth and petty "own account entrepreneurs". Are these the 'Acche Din' (Good days) that the corrupt Godi media sings tunes of everyday? If the government cannot give jobs to the people, then why does it exist? Unemployment is not a natural calamity and neither is it a result of population. If there are people willing to work, and the necessity for development exists along with the resources, then there is no reason for people to remain unemployed. But in a system that runs only for profit, the resources remain unutilized and people remain unemployed, while the rich enjoy the fruits of "development" and the common people get the left-overs.

#### Increasing Brunt of Inflation, All Credits to Modi Government!

Another slogan that Narendra Modi and the BJP used a lot before coming to power was "Bahut Hui Mahagai Ki Maar, Abki Bar Modi Sarkar"! (Enough with the increasing price-rise, This time vote for Modi Government!) But in its 8 years tenure, Modi government has broken all records on the count of inflation. From food items to cooking gas and petroleum products, prices have skyrocketed. According to a report, a common man spends 53 percent of his income on food alone, while the rich spend **only 12 percent** of their income on food. The entire burden of the recession created by the capitalist system has been placed on the shoulders of the common people. The price of a gas cylinder was at Rs 450 and has gone up to Rs 1,100 now, diesel at Rs 55 per liter has gone up to Rs 95 and petrol at Rs 75 per liter has gone up over Rs 100. **The Modi government has raised large amount of tax money** by imposing tax on petroleum products, and this money is used to give tax exemptions and tax holidays to the rich, pay large salaries, pensions and luxuries to politicians and senior officials. Every increase in the price of petroleum products generally leads to an increase in inflation. The government is constantly increasing the tax burden on the masses, while on the other hand reducing the taxes imposed on the capitalists! Public and semi-public banks gave people's hard-earned money as loans to Ambani-Adani-Tata-Birla. During the 6 years, from 2015 to 2021, of the Modi era, 11 lakh 19 thousand crore rupees of loans were put into bad accounts, out of which only 1 lakh crore rupees were recovered, i.e. 10 lakh 19 thousand crore rupees were directly swallowed by the capitalists. In the 10 years from 2004 to 2014, the amount of loan waiver was 2 lakh 22 thousand crore rupees! The number of 'willful defaulters' who defaulted on loans of more than Rs 25 lakh has reached 15,000 and 40 rich people have fled the country after stealing public money. Is this possible without the connivance of the government? The cost of this theft is also imposed on us in the form of inflation. It is obvious that rising inflation is nothing but a direct attack on the people by the government and the looters.

#### The Double Standards and True Character of the "Sanskari" BJP!

BJP's politicians who always talk of ethics and *sanskar* (values) have set new records of blatant corruption. The fallacy of the slogan 'Na Khaunga, Na Khane Dunga' (I will not 'eat', and will not let others do it) has been exposed, and both 'eating' and 'feeding' are going on in full swing! The sequence of incidents from the Rafale deal, PM Cares fund, and Vyapam scam to Adani's mega corruption is living proof of this. The Hindenburg revelations clearly exposed corruption in collusion with Adani. BJP people and their favorite rich tycoons have definitely flourished under the Modi regime! That's why the rich have opened their coffers for the BJP! In return, the BJP is breaking the unity of the people by constantly creating an atmosphere of communalism and is enriching the rich further with pro-capital policies. The only thing left for us, the people, is to work hard to fill the coffers of the capitalists and then smash each other's heads in religious riots! Just think of this. Why is the house of any rich person, or leader-minister-bureaucrat never burnt down in communal riots and fights, why are they not seen running with swords and tridents, doing arson? In reality, their children are given the opportunity to haul money using posts like presidents of the cricket boards, but your sons and daughters are entrusted with riot weapons by inciting communal sentiments. Just think, how long will we continue to fall prey to these conspiracies?

#### Poverty and Economic Inequality at Record Levels

The number of people below the poverty line in our country has reached **23 crores** which is the highest in the world. By the way, this poverty line itself is a joke. This is actually the starvation line. Our country is **ranked 107th** in the list of 121 countries in the October 2022 **World Hunger Index**! According to the last figures of

2019, **8,24,000** infants died in India. That means three children dying every two minutes! In terms of hunger and child mortality, we are far behind even poorer countries in Africa. In 1981, India's top 10 percent owned **45 percent** of the country's total wealth, rising to 63 percent in 2012 and **over 80 percent in 2022**. At present, **90 percent of the total wealth** in the country is held by **only 30 percent of the people**. The **top 1 percent** of the rich hold more than **40 percent** of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 percent own only 3 percent of the total wealth. **This rising mountain of wealth on one side, and the starving children on the other!** This is the reality of the current profit-driven system that Bhagat Singh was warning us against.

#### Let's fight Religious Fundamentalism!

The bonfire of communal bigotry has been fueled to prevent people from thinking about the real issues mentioned above. The British ruled using the communal policy of 'divide and rule'. They divided the people and eventually divided the country. Not only the Muslim League but Savarkar, the idol of the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha, also advocated the 'Two Nation Theory' which led to the partition of the country. Even the representatives of the rich people who came to power after independence left no stone unturned to make the people fight among themselves. Congress and various regional parties have also been playing the soft-communal card or singing the tunes of false secularism. The Sangh Parivar and BJP's agenda was always to weaken the mass movements by spreading communal hatred. In return, they have received tons of funding from capitalists. Even before coming to power in 2014, capitalists' money started pouring in on the BJP. In the four years from 2012-13 to 2015-16, the five national parties received 956 crore 57 lakh rupees from capitalists in the form of donations, of which 74 percent i.e. 705 crores 81 lakh rupees went to the BJP alone! In the year 2021-22 alone, the BJP received corporate donations worth Rs 615 crore, which is many times more than the total donations received by all other electoral parties. BJP's total declared wealth in FY 2020 was Rs 4,847 crore 78 lacks, while it was Rs 1,213 crore in 2017. Let's not forget that one sings to the tune of the one who pays! Historically the governments, from Congress to other electoral parties, have also served some or other section of the capitalist class, but in times of economic crisis, the capitalist class needs a party that can distract the people from the real issues, make them fight each other and suppress them in the name of religion, i.e. a party like the BJP. Fascist religious bigotry sown by BJP and Sangh Parivar only gives an opportunity to religious fundamentalist forces like Owaisi, PFI, and Amritpal to flourish. Communal and religious fundamentalist politics always leads to the destruction of the lives and property of common people. The house of any Yogi or Owaisi is never burnt.

Bhagat Singh rightly said that class consciousness is necessary to stop people from fighting each other. Irrespective of their caste-religion-language-region, the problems of the working masses are the same, and the powers that loot them are also the same. We can claim our rights if we unite and fight for them. We should today raise the demand for true secularism that separates religion from politics and social life, otherwise, the religious extremism and politics of communalism will destroy us, as it has done in other countries. We must reject communalism of any type.

Comrades, we need to do a new beginning by uniting on the true questions related to our lives. If the current system fails in providing us with education, employment, health, housing, social-economic security, democratic rights, true secularism, pro-people culture, and values, then we must build a new system in which the working masses will have control over production, state apparatus, and entire social structure. However, we can begin our journey towards this distant goal only by demanding from the government and raising struggles for our fundamental rights like education, employment, healthcare, and housing. The 'Bhagat Singh Jan Adhikar Yatra' has been started with the aim to educate the people about this struggle. This is our own movement, for ourselves. You too should join this yatra.

#### **Our Main Demands**

- 1) Education-Employment-Healthcare-Housing should be declared as fundamental rights. Privatization should be banned. **Bhagat Singh National Employment Guarantee Act (BSNEGA) should be passed,** and an unemployment allowance of at least Rs 10,000 per month should be given if employment cannot be provided. All vacancies in central and state government should be filled immediately. The '*Agniveer*' scheme should be revoked immediately and the system of permanent recruitment in the army should be restored.
- 2) All labour laws should be strictly enforced, and the proposed four new labour codes should be repealed.

The contract system should be abolished. Permanent employment should be provided on jobs of regular nature.

- 3) To check inflation, all **indirect taxes should be abolished** and a **progressive direct taxation system based on increasing wealth should be strictly implemented.**
- 4) Special tax should be levied on the rich class to make proper arrangements for subsidies on seeds, fertilizers, electricity, etc. for poor and middle peasants. Government should provide irrigation facilities for them, and make proper arrangements for institutional credit.
- 5) Besides including Education as a fundamental right in the constitution, the anti-people New Education Policy should be scrapped. Equal and free education should be provided for all citizens and the privatization of education should be ended.
- 6) MNREGA scheme should be strictly implemented, provision should be made for year-round work and minimum wages should be paid for this work.
- 7) Legislation should be enacted to ensure a truly secular state in place of fake secularism of "sarva dharm samabhav" (equal treatment to all religions). Mention and use of religion, community or belief by any leader or party in public life should be declared a punishable offense.
- 8) The constitution should be amended to declare not only untouchability but caste discrimination in any form as a punishable offense.
- 9) Public audits and investigations should be arranged to check corruption by all electoral parties and the government.
- 10) Strict laws should be made to end all forms of social, economic and cultural discrimination against women.
- 11) All kinds of organizations and parties inciting religious and communal strife and taking active part in communal violence and mob lynching should be declared terrorist organizations and strict action should be taken against their leaders and workers.

Comrades, these are some fundamental demands directly related to our lives. None of these demands is unfulfillable. In fact, many of these rights are available in many countries, as people have obtained them through their struggles. Then why is it not possible here? If a government can not satisfy the basic needs of the people, then such a government has no right to stay in power. If you agree with us, then do think about the above demands, unite around them, and join us in waging this struggle. It is the need of the hour to unite forgetting the differences of religion-caste-region-language. If we do not fight today, then the future will not forgive us.

### The ebb of darkness will subside, those who fight will ride the tide!



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