

**Unite and fight back the retrograde policies to
Protect the Industry and the rights
Make the Strike on 23rd & 24th February-2022 a success**

Dear Brothers,

The Auto Rickshaw drivers are facing serious problems. Expenses like prices of Diesel, essential Commodities, Insurance Premium, etc have gone up so high and the income has not increased proportionately. At the same time, hard earned money is being looted by illegal challans. Harassment by Police and other officials has become the order of the day. To put an end to all these we have to unite and fight back. The Central Trade Unions like CITU, AITUC, INTUC, HMS, AICCTU, AIUTUC etc and many independent All India Federations have called for a general strike against the anti-people, anti-worker, anti-national policies of the Central Government. Participate in the All-India general strike on 23rd & 24th February 2022. Demonstrate strength and make it a historical one.

Callous attitude of the Governments: A good number of Auto Rickshaw Drivers are educated youth. As they do not get employment, they are purchasing the Auto Rickshaws by borrowing some money and the remaining amount getting loan from the private finance companies to feed their families. Even though the Government did not help in any way, they are fixing the Auto fares. These fares are not being revised in accordance with the increasing prices of Diesel and other costs. In this situation, the metered Auto Rickshaws are not able to run on meter charges. This is creating many problems with the customers.

Harassment: The service Auto Rickshaw drivers are bound to take extra passengers for which chalans are issued with huge penalties. It is the responsibility of the Municipal administration to provide sufficient parking places. But miserably failed to do so. For the fault of the Municipal administration Auto Rickshaw Drivers are subjected to challans on the pretext that the Auto is stopped at an unauthorized place. Auto Rickshaw Drivers are being ill-treated and insulted for no reasons.

Suicide deaths: With the encroachment of UBER/OLA company's services, the income has fallen drastically. The Covid Pandemic has added fuel to the

situation. Due to the imposition of lockdown/restrictions in the Covid Pandemic time, the Auto Rickshaw drivers lost their earnings and suffered a lot to maintain their families. Except in few states that too for some Auto Rickshaw drivers, the Governments did not offer any financial support. Even today a good number of Auto

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Rickshaw drivers are in search of other labour works as there is no sufficient demand for all the Auto Rickshaws. The harassment of the Private finance companies for the payment of EMI is on high side. With all these together, some drivers in different places have committed suicides.

Social Security: Auto Rickshaw is considered as Public Transport as they are serving the people at their door step. Ironically, they do not have the Social Security as the Construction workers are having. After a prolonged and sustained struggle by AIRTWF, V.V.Giri National Labour Institute was entrusted by the Government to study the problems and to make suggestions. The V.V.Giri Institute has submitted its report with some recommendations. But even after a long period of almost 13 years, the Governments have not cared to it.

What is the solution? As long as we are divided and keep silence, nobody will come to our risk. We have voted the Government to power. After coming to power, they are serving the Corporates at the cost of our lives. We should not tolerate this atrocity. It is our right to catch hold off the elected Governments. The victory of the farmers united and sustained struggle is before us. By making the strike on 23rd & 24th February-2022 a success, we should send a warning signal to the Government that whether our demands are addressed or to face more vigorous struggles in future.

Demands:

1. Supply Food grains @10 kgs per person till March 2022 without insisting Ration Card.
2. Payment of Rs.7,500/ per month to all the unorganised Transport workers till March 2022.
3. Withdraw enhanced excise duty in the year 2020 on Diesel/Petrol and roll back the revised prices by the Oil Companies since 07th June 2020.
4. Bring Petrol & Diesel under the purview of GST duly compensating the loss of revenue to the states.
5. State Governments should make arrangements for loan through Nationalised Banks for purchase of new vehicles to the self-employed.
6. Steps shall be taken to control the harassment by the Private Finance Companies.
7. Insurance premiums are enhanced irrationally by the IRDA. It should be controlled and Trade Union representatives also shall be included in the Committee. Transparency shall be maintained.

8. Enact Social Security Act for the unorganised Transport Workers duly implementing the recommendations of V.V.Giri National Labour Institute for the appointment letters, applicability of Acts.
9. Withdraw the Amended M.V. Act 2019 and discuss with all the stakeholders for a better and proper alternative policy.
10. Withdraw anti Working-Class Labour Codes.
11. All the unorganised Road Transport Workers including self-employed shall be recorded in the registers of labour Department.
12. All the unorganised Road Transport Workers including self-employed shall be covered under all the labour laws. Suitable amendments shall be carried out accordingly.
13. Harassment of Police and other Officials should be stopped forthwith.

All India Road Transport Workers' Federation (AIRTWF)