



All India Road Transport Workers' Federation

P. Ramamurthy Bhawan, Plot No 20, M.B. Road, Pushp Vihar Sector 6, Family Court Lane, Saket,
New Delhi - 110017, Office: 011-29561432, Mail - airtwf.delhi@gmail.com

General Secretary : K.K.Divakaran

Press Handout

Vijayawada,

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Dear friends,

I cordially invite you all to the Press Conference being organized by All India Road Transport Workers' Federation (AIRTF), Andhra Pradesh Committee. The National Executive Committee meeting of our Federation is being held in Vijayawada at a time when the country, Working Class and the People at large are passing through a serious and critical situation. The Central Government under the leadership of Modi is dismantling all most all the institutions including the highest legislative body. The way it passed the Labour Codes, Agricultural Laws, Insurance Amendment Bill etc are the live examples. Privatisation and disinvestment have reached to a peak with the announcement of the National Monetisation Pipeline Project by the finance minister.

We strongly condemn the inhuman lathi charge by the Police in Haryana on the farmers who are protesting peacefully.

The Road Transport Sector both the passenger and Goods Transport is thrown in to severe crisis. The enhancement of Excise Duty on Diesel by Rs. 16 and Petrol by Rs.13 within three months (2020 March & May) when the entire Globe is attacked by COVID Pandemic. Nowhere in the World this was happened. All the Taxes/Duties together on petroleum Products are the highest in World in India. The early enhancement of Insurance Premium by the IRDA, ever increase of Toll Charges, the abnormal enhancement of Transport Department service charges put together thrown the industry in to crisis.

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As far as the Goods Transport sector is concerned, around 30% of the Trucks are off the road because of the above-mentioned burdens. Thousands of trucks in every state were seized by the Private Finance Companies due to nonpayment of monthly loan instalments. Many Auto Rickshaw Driver/owners have committed suicide due to financial problems.

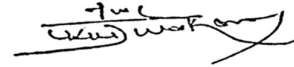
All the STUs in the country are almost struggling for survival. Financially, they are not in a position neither for augmentation nor even for replacement of old age buses. The workers are not getting salaries for months together like Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan etc. The workers in other STUs are not getting salaries intime. Terminal benefits are not being paid for years together to the retired workers in many STUs.

The conditions of the unorganized Transport Workers are very deplorable. They have to be on road round the clock in all the adverse weather conditions even at the risk of their lives. They are not covered under any labour law. They do not have any social security. The recommendations of the V.V.Giri National Labour Institute for enactment of a Social Security Act is unheard by the Government. Attacks of the anti-social elements on the Transport Workers are increasing day by day. Robbing the money, material and killing of the drivers/cleaners are reported in many states. The harassment by Police and other authorities has become the order of the day.

The meeting adopted 8 resolutions. 1) On farmer's struggle and the severe lathi charge in Haryana on 28-08-2021, moved by Ch.Sundaraiah /AP and seconded by Raghavendra/Karnataka. 2) Against Vizag Steel Plant Privatisation moved by V.S.Rao/Telangana and supported by Jiban Saha/West Bengal. 3) Against General Insurance Amendment Bill 2021, moved by anphazagan/Tamilnadu and supported by Sitalakshmi/AP.4) On the need to strengthen STUs, moved by Ramashray Yadav and supported by Jagnarayan. 5) On Transport Industry and for enactment of Social Security Act for the unorganised Transport Workers, moved by Rajkumar Jha/Bihar and supported by Vijay Sharma/Himachal Pradesh 6) On the atrocities against the Transport Workers and 7) On Monetisation of National Assets moved by R.Lakshmaiah and supported by Nepaldeb Bhattacharya.

Decisions adopted in the meeting:

- 1) We have to extend support and solidarity to the Bundh call on 25th September given by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha.
- 2) STUs National Convention will be held on 22nd November in Delhi.
- 3) National Convention on the Private Transport Industry & Social Security Act for the Unorganised Transport Workers will be held in Delhi on 23rd November.
- 4) District level Conventions and campaign on the Issues of workers and industry, both STUs and Private Transport shall be organised before November. In this campaign, the demand of the need to extend financial support by the respective Governments to the workers who lost their earnings shall be highlighted.



(K.K.DIVAKARAN)

General Secretary