

A Nationwide Protest Dharnas against Exploitation of Ruling Governments

Oust Modi from Office has Resonated in every State

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and Central Trade Unions (CTU) jointly coordinated a two-to-three-day nationwide protest, expressing strong opposition to the policies of both the central and state governments. In this united protest, 500 trade unions and kisan unions from different states— which include Andaman, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, Srinagar, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal collectively participated in their respective states. Throughout this protest, the clamour to oust Modi from office has resonated in every state, with the aim of bringing about his defeat in the upcoming elections.

They expressed their demands in a collective voice. 1) A fair solution would be to establish a support price for all crops cultivated by the farming community, equivalent to 50 percent of the total production cost, and this measure should be legalized. 2) The electricity bill, causing financial strain on farmers and the underprivileged, should be revoked. Prepaid smart meters for agricultural and household purposes should not be installed. 3) All farmers, including tenant farmers, should have their crop loans waived. 4) A robust government crop insurance system should be enacted to ensure that farmers who suffer crop losses receive adequate compensation. 5) The four labour codes that subject workers to conditions of slavery should be revoked. 6) Revoke the new pension scheme for all employees and reinstate the old pension scheme. All contractual, outsourcing, and contingent employees should be regularized. 7) The minimum wage should be set at 26 thousand rupees and enforced. 8) The employment guarantee should extend the number of working days and raise the daily wage to 600 rupees. 9) Decrease the prices of petrol, diesel, cooking gas, food, and other essential commodities. 10) Eliminate the national education system that fosters religious bias while neglecting the scientific viewpoint. 11) Cease the privatization of public sector enterprises, including Visakhapatnam Steel plant. 12) The 'National Monetization Pipeline' for the sale of government assets should be eliminated. 13) The Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act-2023, formulated with policies adversely endangering all citizens, including tribal communities, should be repealed. 14) Families of farmers who lost their lives in the year-long peasant struggle should be compensated, and the legal cases against them should be dropped. 15) An investigation and appropriate punishment should be conducted in the cases involving Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra and his son Asish Mishra in the killing of farmers.

In the heart of the nation's capital **New Delhi**, hundreds of labourers and peasants congregated in the Mahapadav outside the Lieutenant Governor's residence. Those who extended their support to the movement were lawyers, intellectuals, students, and artists, demonstrating a collective stand.

The two-day Mahadharna organized collaboratively at **Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh** by Andhra Pradesh Farmer's Associations Coordination Committee and Trade Unions United Forum witnessed active participation from the public and progressive groups. In conjunction with the Maha dharna demands, they incorporated specific local demands.

Outside the Rajarathinam stadium at **Egmore in Tamil Nadu**, a 200-meter-long line of tents was set up for the Mahapadva. Flags from various organizations adorned the venue and nearby roads, underscoring the unity inherent in the ongoing struggle. They stressed on the 20-point charter of demands placed by the All-India united platform of farmers and workers.

In **Bangalore, Karnataka** close to 15,000 people so far participated in the Maha Dharna – a mammoth three-day satyagraha against the "Centre's anti-farmer policies". Under the banner of the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU), hundreds of IT employees united with other segments of the working class to partake in a large-scale protest march against the anti-people policies of the central government. This protest, named 'Raj Bhavan Chalo', concluded with a demonstration outside the Raj Bhavan.

In **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, a three-day Mahapadav took place at Raj Bhawan, with participation from 32 different farmers and trade organizations. This dharna was organized in opposition to the anti-worker, anti-farmer policies of the BJP government at the Centre. The leaders in dharna voiced against the extension of this government's tenure beyond 2024 is deemed detrimental to the nation.

During the three-day Mahapadav in **Haryana**, numerous farmers and workers actively participated. The event concluded with a 21-member joint delegation comprising representatives from SKM and trade unions engaging in an hour-long meeting with the Governor of Haryana at Raj Bhawan.

The Three-day Mahapadav organized by at **Guwhati in Assam**, SKM and Central Trade unions voiced that this struggle will intensify further and that the Mahapadav was only a symbolic programme. Along with this, farmers, and labourers said that they will not fall into the trap of communalism and the people will mobilise on their issues.

Trade unions, farmers' organizations, and bank associations are set to organize a three-day 'Mahapadav' in front of the Raj Bhavan in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**. The protest aims to voice opposition against the policies of the Union government, which are purportedly affecting the livelihoods and democratic rights of citizens.

The three-day-long protest 'Mahapadav' organized under the banner of CTUs and Himachal Kisan Sabha against the anti-labor, farmer, employee, and anti-people policies

of the Modi government at the Center ended at Chaura Maidan in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**. Thousands of labourers and farmers of Himachal Pradesh participated in the three-day Mahapadav.

Large numbers of individuals participated in the Rajbhawan Abhiyan in **Kolkata, West Bengal** organized by CTUs and SKM, in alignment with the three-day nationwide Mahapadav initiative. Workers and peasants, as part of this campaign, committed to rally against the perceived “corporate-communal nexus”.

Trade and Kisan unions from states including **Andaman, Bihar, Chandigarh, Odisha, Punjab, Srinagar, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand** actively participated in the ‘Mahapadav’. They joined in expressing concerns about the Modi government’s adoption of neo-liberal and pro-capitalist policies at the center, which is exacerbating issues such as unemployment, poverty, inequality, and livelihood crises. The simultaneous increase in unemployment and inflation has resulted in a surge in poverty and hunger. Leaders stressed that the rising inflation is placing a burden on the public, and the weakening of the public distribution system is compounding the challenges faced by the people.