Movement Convergence: 'Abkibaar Hamara Adhikar'

Around 20,000 people from all over India, representing social movements, campaigns and people's organizations gathered at JantarMantar, New Delhi on 2nd December 2014 to defend people's rights, Rise against corporate raj, and to press for a democratic and secular society.

Activists from Udayani Social Action Forum, the Jesuits social Action wing, participated along with around 200 activists from West Bengal with the slogan, 'Abki baar Amara Adhikar'.



The BJP government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised 'good times', but it is clear that thesis only for the corporate class and political rulers, while very tough times lie ahead for the vast majority of ordinary people.

The new regime is planning to push through pro-corporate, anti-people policies in most brutal form, the Modi-led government has pressed the accelerator hard on pro-corporate economic policies, while putting a complete brake on social protection measures.



There is a systematic plan to withdraw even basic rights of people, to impose an authoritarian regime while spreading communal hatred on a massive scale, in order to ensure corporate plunder.

Existing social services and employment security are under threat, laws are being modified to accelerate corporate takeover of natural resources, and basic rights of workers are coming under attack.

Plans are underway to massively downsize NREGA by restricting its

implementation to only selected areas reducing workers to distress migration and even bonded labour.

A universal PDS had been demanded by the BJP in opposition, but now despite being in power for six months, the government has not even cared to implement the existing National Food Security Act 2013, instead it is now bringing in massive cuts in the food budgets.

Health allocations by the central government have been massively slashed this year with serious consequences for essential health programmes, the scheme for free medicines is likely to be constricted to a totally inadequate set of 50 medicines, and various forms of privatization of health care including problematic health insurance schemes continue to be promoted.

The Right to education is being denied by constricting funds, closing down schools and promoting privatization. Along with this education is being saffronised, with promotion of irrational and unscientific content.

Pension is essential for working people who perform hard labour throughout their working lives, however the current pension is targeted only to the poor, and that too is pegged at the paltry level of Rs. 200 per month despite spiraling inflation.



Global capital is being asked to 'Make in India', with the intention to make India a hub for labourintensive manufacturing, inviting them to exploit our natural resources and cheap labour.

Hence the act related to land acquisition and rehabilitation is being turned around to facilitate land grab by an increasingly aggressive corporate class, while denying people their right to consent and fair rehabilitation.



The Forests rights act is being diluted by removing the provision requiring Gram Sabha consent for forest land diversion, and denying community forest rights.

In this context, anticipating widespread popular discontent, repressive laws are being deployed to further constrict democratic rights including the right to dissent, while key accountability provisions like RTI are being weakened. Communal hatred and violence are being systematically perpetuated and the manufactured resurgence of Hindutva forces is increasingly threatening basic democratic freedoms, since this aggressive alliance of reactionary forces has many features of fascism.

It is clear that India is entering a time of unprecedented crisis, but this is also a time of significant



opportunity for diverse movements to unite their efforts and mobilise people.

The alliance between globalised corporate class, aggressive Hindutva, and repressive state is becoming openly visible, in a manner never yet seen in this country.

We join our forces to call upon all social movements, people's organisations and progressive forces to launch a massive combined

struggle that would challenge the entire established policy framework and system of social domination.

Today the struggle for people's diverse rights, the fight for protecting democracy, and the movement for defending the secular fabric of society need to come together as part of a larger common convergence.

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