

Draft Declaration

National Convention of Workers and Farmers 29th July 2026, Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi

Dear Friends,

We the Central Trade Unions and Sectoral Federations and Associations along with the Samyukta Kisan Morcha are jointly organising this second National Convention of Workers and Farmers today after the first one organised on 24th August 2023. Since then, we have been extending solidarity to the action programmes of each other, organising coordinated programmes as well as joint programmes. The growing unity of these major productive forces of the country is of utmost importance at this juncture when the country is faced with deep economic, political, social and cultural crises. The central government continues to pursue policies to the advantage of big corporates, national and foreign whereas the inequalities have further perpetuated amongst the people in general, and vulnerable and poor masses in particular.

Despite of six National General/Industrial Strikes and mass mobilisations on several occasions by the platform of CTUs in the last six years, sometimes jointly and then also in coordination with SKM, the government went ahead and notified draconian four labour codes on November 21st 2025 and notified rules on 8th and 9th May 2026. This aims to weaken and cripple the unions, making registration and recognition of trade union difficult whereas the deregistration and derecognition made easier while legalizing violations by the employers. According to Labour Codes the unions and their leaders are to be criminalised whereas decriminalization of the employers is put in place. The inspection at workplace are being done away with, in the name of facilitators and online driven random selection for inspection. The right to strike practically being made impossible, the increase in working hours and fix term employment being made normal, safety of vast majority of workers jeopardised under these codes. The increase in threshold in Factories Act and in Industrial Standing orders has excluded more than 70 percent factories and 90 percent of organized sector workforce out of labour law protections. The collective bargaining and all international labour standards including tripartism are under attack. Indian Labour conference has not been held after 2015. The existing social security acts have been dumped in the code on social security to weaken and kill those schemes, to the advantage of the private sector insurance companies. The migrant workers will be worst sufferer as the only act for their protection is dumped in Code on OSH with almost 20 clauses removed. The informalisation of formal economy is adding to the huge workforce in the unorganised workforce approximately about 90% of the workforce, for them the social security is non existent or minimal, depriving them of minimum basic living standards. Many sector specific laws which provided social security benefits are repealed for example the Act for 75 lakhs of Beedi workers. The list is endless.

On the otherside all the eleven promises made to the farmers while repealing the three farm laws after their historic and prolonged sit in at Delhi borders, having lost precious lives of more than 700 farmers, remain unfulfilled. The farmers have been demanding MSP at C2+50%, to safeguard the agriculture from corporate take over there should be modernisation of agriculture under producer cooperatives, comprehensive loan waiver and enforcement of the LARR Act 2013 etc. Ignoring demands of farmers, the center has shamelessly chosen the path of making changes in market mechanism and land relations through active involvement of state governments to implement their anti-farmer policies through backdoor.

Now the Central Government is moving ahead for the trade deals with USA, European Union and some others, designed to the disadvantage of our Agricultural sector and MSMEs. Certainly this will pave the way of ruination for farmers, small businesses, trade and supply chain of our country. The right of farmers on seeds and scientific innovations by our agricultural universities for the advantage of our indigenous growth of agriculture is undermined and threatened.

The war situation in middle-east and in Europe is also a matter of worry as for resulting in escalation of fuel and fertilizer prices. The USA imposed tariff on the pretext of Russian oil import has already created extreme adverse impact. We the workers and farmers are opposed to wars and stand for world peace. The Indian workers in these war zones in west Asia and Russian – Ukraine war in Europe have faced deaths as well as job losses.

The government continues to pursue privatisation/ disinvestment and sale of Public Sector enterprises and public services such as railways, port and docks, coal and non-coal mines, oil, gas, steel, copper, defence, road transports, airports, banks, insurance, telecom, postal, atomic energy, electricity generation and supply etc. and push for National Monetisation Pipeline 2.0, threatening the self-reliant economy of our country and serving the interest of corporates (specially a few chosen one by the ruling party) and international finance capital.

The workers and farmers are on agitation path continuously and we need to further strengthen these struggles in the national interest.

The struggle of fix term and contract workers in the last few months beginning in Barauni and then spreading to Panipat, Manesar, Surat, Noida, Bhiwadi, Neemrana, Faridabad, Peethampura and several other cities is the awakening call. The Governments are ruthless in using police force and arresting the protesters who fight for their wages, working hours, workplace safety and union rights etc.

The agricultural workers' unions and the rural labour in general has been on agitation against the scrap of MGNREGA, a demand based right to employment and replacing it with centrally controlled scheme VB-Gram-G. Demand for job guarantee scheme for urban unemployed is still pending. The CTUs and SKM extended support to all the action programmes taken up by the agricultural workers' unions and will continue to do so.

The New Education Policy has been opposed by the students and teachers organisations and several groups of educationists against commercialisation and communalisation and they have launched several protests. Now the rotten system of examinations for admissions to several professional courses and recruitments has agitated the students and youth of our country. Almost 152 papers have been leaked in last ten years. The leak of various examinations year after year has harassed the students-youth and their parents alike.

The unemployment is unprecedented. The sanctioned posts in various Government departments and Public Sector services remain unfulfilled, rather the sanctioned posts are being surrendered as in the recent case of notification in railways. There are 26% teaching posts vacant in government universities and 28% vacancies lying in government technical institutes. There are almost 50 lakh sanctioned posts lying in various government departments.

Insults imposed on the youth for being unemployed and in pathetic condition for which they are not responsible, while the system is failing them, has enraged them. We have witnessed their historic continuous agitation and mobilisation in lakhs on Delhi roads arriving from all corners of India for last more than a month that has led to the resignation of the union education

minister. This mobilisation of students and youth on roads signals the pent up anguish against education and examination system which is perpetuating the uncertainty in life. In order to suppress the agitation, repression was let loose, allegedly even pellet guns and shock batons were used. The future of the country is in distress. The trade unions and farmers organisations extended their solidarity support to the agitating students on their genuine demands for change in the corrupt examination system and for the government to accept its accountability.

The budgets on social sectors - health, clean drinking water, affordable government transportation, social security, shelter and minimum basic civic services etc. are shrinking in practical terms. The lives of common citizen is in distress in the face of unprecedented rise in the price of essential commodities.

The democratic space is shrinking. The new laws imposed centrally such as BNS or the laws such as public safety adopted in Maharashtra and West Bengal, contain the provisions which are in violation of the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution of India. The agenda of intolerance, polarisation and hatred in the name of religion, caste, language and culture is pursued, endangering the centuries old composite culture of our country.

We, the workers and farmers along with all other sections of the society commit ourselves to safeguard the constitutional rights, maintain peaceful and harmonious living and will continue to exercise our right to fight and agitate to achieve our just demands. We will continue heighten our struggle for change in the anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national policies of the Government to **Save the People, to Save the Nation.**

While affirming our understanding of the first National Convention held in 2023, and taking into consideration of the further deterioration in situation during the period, we are adopting this declaration with the following minimum demands for the forthcoming agitation programmes to be taken in solidarity and in coordinated manner and also jointly whenever so decided.

Our Demands

- Repeal Labour Codes and rules, Ensure for all workers of formal and informal economy- right to unionise, registration, recognition, 8 hours working day, work place safety, social security, right to strike, collective bargaining and end to fix term employment.
- Ensure MSP at C2+50% on all crops with guaranteed procurement.
- Take back Electricity Amendment Bill 2025. Repeal Shanti act, stop privatization of electricity.
- Raise and Ensure Minimum Wage Rs. 42,000 linked with DA to all workers including scheme worker and piece rated workers.
- Scrap of VB G GRAM G Act and Restore MGNREGA with 200 days of work and Rs 700 as daily wage
- Cancel the surrendering and sub-ordinating trade deals
- Comprehensive loan waiver for the farmers and poor people.
- Strictly Enforce LARR Act
- Modernise agriculture under producer cooperatives, agro-based industries under PSUs and Co-operative Sector.
- Stop privatisation/disinvestment and sale of PSUs and Public services, stop NMP 2.0, loot of natural resources, outsourcing and contractorisation.
- Restoration of OPS, Enhancements of EPS-95 and Universal pension to all
- Recruitments in sanctioned posts, create fresh posts/jobs/ livelihoods.
- Social security to all contractual/ daily-casual/home-based piece rate workers/hawkers-vendors/self-owned workers including waste collectors etc. Removal of any cap on eligibility in social security schemes.

- Ensure decent work, and ratify ILO conventions 87, 98, 189, 190 as well as recent concluded convention for gig and platform workers in 114th Session of ILC.
- Repeal NFSA Amendment Act, Check Rising prices, ensure universal PDS,
- Increase budgets of govt education from primary to higher education, check on corruption and accountability on paper leaks as in NEET and other such exams such as in recent CBSE case
- Health as a right, more coverage in ESIC and such govt health services, increased budgets for govt health services from primary/local to district and city hospitals.
- Government services for clean drinking water, sanitation and shelter/housing etc.
- Withdraw the draconian acts like UAPA and such provisions in BNS.
- Impose wealth tax and raise income tax on the super rich.

In this background of extreme distress, there is no other go than to unite and fight in all probabilities continue and as well to extend support to the democratic movements for the larger good of the country.

We hereby resolve to intensify independent and joint struggles against the anti-people, anti-national corporate government through coordinated and united actions and unite all sections of the people in these struggles.

- To observe the great Quit India movement against the colonial rulers of our country in 1942, we will organise protests on 10th August all over India in decentralised manner at district level and state capitals at governors' offices. The different formats such as rail-roko, rasta-roko, workplace lunch hour protests, wearing badges of demands, human chains etc.
- To organize joint and coordinated meetings/conventions in the states.
- To hold multiple day decentralized Mahapadav of workers and farmers in near future.
- To continue solidarity support to respective agitations of both the fronts.
- To prepare for multiday agitation/direct action programmes across the country if our demands are not fulfilled.

**Onward march for realizing our demands
and for strengthening struggle
to achieve a society based on equality and justice to all.**

Jointly adopted by the

**The Central Trade Unions, Sectoral Federations/Associations
And
Samyukt Kisan Morcha**