

Date - 17.02.2023

Joint Press Release

Subject : Padyatra in Chhattisgarh for the creation of the Hindu Rashtra
Memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister by sensitive civil organizations

According to the news published in various newspapers and news portals, on the coming 18 February 2023, Saturday, Mahashivratri, the affiliated organizations of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are going to start a Pad Yatra together, which has been named as “Hindu Swabhimana Jagran Sant Padayatra”.

In this entire journey, more than 500 saints from all over the country will participate, who will take out padyatras from different places of Chhattisgarh. After that a big religious gathering (Dharma Sabha) will be organized in Raipur on 19th March. On the occasion of Dharma Sabha, the saints will make an appeal to declare India a Hindu nation constitutionally. Through this yatra, along with Hindutva Jagran and Connecting Hindus, a campaign will be launched against conversions and anti-religionists. The voice will be raised against conversion and love jihad in the march.

In the context of the above march, People's Union for Civil Liberties (Chhattisgarh), Chhattisgarh Nagrik Samyukta Sangharsh Samiti and Chhattisgarh Progressive Christian Alliance, with more than 20 left democratic and civil society organizations of the state, jointly submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, through the District Magistrate, District Raipur.

It has been said in the memorandum that there is no doubt that the main objective of such events is not only to disrupt the social harmony of the state but also to create a crisis for peace in the state. This is not solely preaching of a particular religion, but an attempt to attack the basic foundations of law and order and constitution with a targeted political objective. That's why in a peaceful state like Chhattisgarh, as soon as the assembly elections are near, this type of activity are increasing rapidly. This is a matter of serious concern for the

peace-loving citizens of the state who believe in peaceful coexistence of followers of all faiths and religions.

Communal polarization in the state has been growing since the formation of the state in the year 2000. Right-wing communal organizations have become increasingly active against Christian minorities, especially Christian tribals, after the Congress government came to power in the state in the year 2018. In the year 2022, more than 100 incidents of violence and atrocities occurred against the Christian minorities in the state. There had been more than 60 incidents of violence, harassment and social boycott against Christian tribals in Narayanpur, Kondagaon and Kanker districts in the last November and December. Last December, around 2000 affected Christian tribals in Narayanpur district were forced to flee their villages.

According to the officials of the affected districts, there has not been a single case of conversion by force, fraud or allurement in the entire region. So there is clearly a definite political agenda behind such padyatras in view of the state assembly elections scheduled later this year.

There is apprehension that in the guise of these padayatras, attempts may be made to incite communal tension by using hate and inflammatory speeches, false information and rumours and communal propaganda.

India is a secular country, where the values of tolerance, diversity, dignity, equality, fraternity and justice are deeply enshrined in the Constitution. While freedom of thought and expression, to form associations and assemble are fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution, the offense of hate speech and incitement to communal hatred and violence cannot be committed under the guise of exercising these freedoms.

The state of Chhattisgarh has a long history of syncretism and secularism, where various communities have co-existed harmoniously. Attempts to communalize the state and incite violence in the past have had disastrous consequences for the people. This cannot be allowed to happen again.

In order to restore and raise the spirit of communal harmony, social peace and fraternity in the entire state, it is necessary to make serious efforts at the government level, in which cooperation of various civil society and social organizations should also be taken.

It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure that hate speech is stopped and the guilty are punished, instead of being given impunity and a free run.

Through the memorandum, the Chief Minister has been requested to take immediate cognizance of this entire matter and take appropriate action at the level of the Government and administration, to protect the rule of law according to the constitution, to protect the people of all religions and to maintain public peace and order.

Sd/-

Ad. Sayyad Sadik Ali

Member - State Council

Peoples Union for Civil Liberties,
Chhattisgarh

9425515411

sadik.advocate@gmail.com

Sd/-

Jaswant Claudius

Coordinator - Public Affairs Cell

Chhattisgarh Progressive
Christian Alliance

9424213303

jasclaudius@gmail.com

Sd/-

Akhilesh Edgar

Coordinator

Chhattisgarh Nagrik
Sanyukt Sangharsh
Samiti

9993236016

edgar.akhil@gmail.com