

Dear Comrades,

Greetings and thanks from Peoples Platform Against Fascism.

We have planned our first event “March for Secularism” as a counter activity to the VHP organized Ram Rajya Yatra. One of the key motives of this March was to bring together various democratic secular forces into a single platform. As we did not want the March to be hindered by the Police force we followed some due legal measures.

The Ram Rajya Yatra entered Tamil Nadu on March 20th and the opposition to the Yatra entering TN was intense. Almost all democratic secular forces opposed the Yatra and held protests in various places across Tamil Nadu. More than 6000 people were arrested when they tried to block the entry of Ram Rajya Yatra into Tamil Nadu through Senkottai, a small town situated in the Kerala Tamil Nadu border. On the same day, MLAs from Opposition parties as well as from parties supporting the Ruling party were forcibly sent out from the Assembly when they strongly opposed the entry of Yatra in the Assembly. On the same day when the Ram Rajya Yatra entered Tamil Nadu (a day before the day when our March was scheduled to start), the Police denied permission for PPAF’s March for Secularism citing law and order reasons.

Having anticipated that the Police might deny permission, we approached the court and filed a case. The government and the Court are deliberately prolonging the case for 3 hearings. Senior Advocate NGR Prasad is appearing on our behalf and defending the case in the High Court. In this background, our case is again coming for hearing on Monday 26.03.2018. Advocate General of Tamil Nadu is appearing on behalf of the TN Government on Monday. At a moment when a strong opposition against the Sangh Parivar forces are growing in Tamil Nadu, the government is very particular that this opposition should not get consolidated into a Movement. Hence, it is making all the moves to ensure the March for Secularism does not kick off.

It’s everyone’s guess that the whole State machinery is saffronised in Tamil Nadu. The judiciary is no exception. Judiciary is also supporting the government by prolonging and delaying the case as much as possible. Amidst the darkness created by the Saffron forces in Tamil Nadu, Peoples Platform Against Fascism stands as a vibrant resistive spark. We need the collective support of all the democratic secular forces to fuel this spark into a wild fire that would ward off the Saffron forces.

We have decided to fight this in two fronts - One to wage a legal battle against the Government in the Court and another to fight politically in the people’s front. You have been supporting the PPAF’s March for Secularism either politically or financially and morally. We strongly believe that our fight against the Government would turn fruitful this Monday. And we hope to start the March this week once the permission is obtained.

Defeat Fascism!! Unite for Democracy and Social Justice!!

With Revolutionary Greetings,
Peoples Platform Against Fascism.