

From Director's Desk

Beyond Recent Fake Viral Video On Migrants Attacked In Tamil Nadu:

Inclusive India?: A Country That is Bleeding with Unmitigated Prejudice and Inequity towards Socially Excluded Migrant Workers, mostly tribals and dalits.

On Monday, March 2nd, Danik Jagran, Lucknow edition carried a news of Hindi speaking migrant labours in Tamil Nadu allegedly killed; the basis of the news was a viral rumour and fake video on social media related to depiction of purported attacks against migrant workers in Tamil Nadu; the fake news is that violence between two groups of migrant workers was interpreted as an attack on migrant workers by locals in Coimbatore.

The fake news 'emerged', right when Bihar Deputy Chief Minister participated at the 70th birthday celebration of Tamilnadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin. There is this 'text book' tactics of grassroots politics that the fake news is to spoil the opposition party alliances for the 2024 elections by BJP. In recent months there were many talks on Youtube of the arrival of migrants in large numbers at central station, Chennai. These migrants travelling and occupying illegally the reservation coaches in Assam Train were evicted by the railway authorities at Tiruvottiyur Railway station. Some migrants were seen running with batons to strike the Tamilians; these scenes instilled fear, hurt and animosity among peace loving Tamils and became a cause for unresourceful, anti-migrant labour perceptions between the Tamils and the migrants.

Beyond the political hype, hatred speeches and videos of migrants, one has to understand the larger picture of the migrants suffering in their destined states. Respective governments are motivated for action only when their people are murdered or in jeopardy. The source state Chief Ministers and the Destinated state Chief Ministers have to be aware of the distressing conditions of the migrants. The overt misgovernance of planning and policies in the State



have pushed the poor, tribal, dalit to move out of their state in search of livelihood. The distressed migrants when they reach the southern states they are again exploited, be it due to systemic ills or otherwise.

A Failed Legal Frame work:

Over the last two decades 90% of workers in India have remained informally employed, contributing half of India's Gross Domestic Product(GDP). These labourers have no legal protection under the labour laws. 44 labour laws which had been in praxis, enacted out of the protracted struggle of the labourers, workers' unions and parties, have been altered without a debate, in the name of New Labour codes, in order to provide ease for business growth of corporates.; informal labourers have no priority in these codes. From the British period onwards these informal labourers were kept remote with regard to the labour frame work; the New Labour Code has regressed and lost its direction towards equity; it has reinvented and legitimized a cruel, unfair and step-motherly treatment towards these informal and inter-state migrants

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