

PRESS RELEASE

Feb. 20, 2016

Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge Communications, AICC has issued the following statement to the press today:-

"Valuable lives have been lost in the fire of reservation agitation in Haryana. We offer our deepest condolences to the families of the deceased as also to victims of violence. We appeal to people of Haryana to maintain peace, tranquility and brotherhood.

Violence has no place in democracy. Essence of democracy lies in solving every dispute through dialogue. Unfortunately, certain vested interests are indulging in violence in garb of reservation agitation to destroy the peaceful comradeship and fraternity of communities in 'Dev Bhoomi' Haryana. Time has come for all Haryanvis to stand united against forces that seek to create a 'caste division' in the State.

Great discomfort and inconvenience has been caused to people of State and country in course of agitation. We demand that BJP governments at Centre and State should settle the entire dispute immediately and peacefully besides taking strict action against those indulging in violence.

I am deeply pained to note that while BJP-RSS seek to divide the entire Nation on grounds of 'religion' and 'region' to carry forward their political agenda, a sinister attempt is being made to create bitter divisions of 'caste' in the pious land of Haryana.

BJP MPs, Ministers and MLAs have made repeated irresponsible and provocative statements over last 15 months. Having created

intense division and provocation, BJP government in Haryana has utterly failed and proved incompetent to handle the volatile situation.

We want to caution BJP governments at the Centre and State to forthwith stop the politics of 'divide and rule', take decisive steps to restore peace and follow '*Rajdharm*'. We appeal to 2.5 crore Haryanvis to maintain the time tested traditions of peaceful coexistence and brotherhood and urge that the reservation agitation should be forthwith withdrawn immediately in the interest of the State.”