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# Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union

## PRESS RELEASE

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has called the drivers and delivery workers of app-based companies as frontline workers keeping the city and country operational. In this current wave of the Omicron variant with the ease of restrictions on movement, app-based companies have started their operations again, but they have done so while abandoning their responsibility to ensure the safety of their drivers and delivery workers. Companies like Ola, Uber, Swiggy, Zomato, Amazon, Big Basket, Flipkart, Rapido, Dunzo, Urban Company etc. have simply asked their drivers' and delivery workers to follow the COVID-19 guidelines as they get back to work. The onus to keep everyone safe comes onto the drivers and delivery workers, to keep not only themselves safe as they move around the city but also to keep the customers and their own families safe.

Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) and Indian Federation of App based Transport workers (IFAT) have extended their support to the app-based workers in these trying times. App based transport workers are questioning both the government and the companies to take responsibility for the health and safety of the workers, their demands include:

1. Companies should provide proper and adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sanitizers, disinfectants, for all drivers and delivery partners and plastic screens/shields between the driver and passenger for all app-based vehicles.
2. Companies should conduct COVID-19 tests for drivers and delivery workers every 15 days. If any of the workers tests positive the cost of treating the driver or delivery worker should be borne by the Companies and compensate the workers for the loss of pay. If any of the family members' of the drivers or delivery partners get infected the Companies must take responsibility for their treatment and well-being.
3. Companies should provide Free vaccination camps/drives for all the drivers and delivery workers working for them. The initiatives started by Companies like Ola, Uber, Swiggy, Zomato, Amazon, Big Basket, Flipkart, Rapido, Dunzo, Urban Company etc. Should be rolled out for all workers working with app-based Companies.
4. Reducing the commission amount from 20% to 5% so that the financially straddled drivers can partly mitigate their economic miseries that have been heaped over them due to the pandemic.
5. State and Central governments should direct the app-based Companies to provide health insurance coverage to all its drivers and delivery partners and provide them with a fixed pay if they are infected with the virus while working and are unable to continue working.
6. State and Central governments should issue proper guidelines to police and other administrative agencies on the permission available for the cab aggregators and delivery companies to operate so that the drivers and delivery partners are not being harassed on the streets as they continue to do their jobs.

These demands for the drivers and delivery workers working for app-based Companies are universal and common for all the app-based workers working in various cities of India. TGPWU hopes that these demands of the drivers and delivery workers are accepted and implemented as soon as possible. If these demands of the workers are ignored TGPWU and IFAT in solidarity with all the app-based workers will strive for a nationwide agitation and stop all delivery and ride hailing services across cities.

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