

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

(25)

ಕೃಷಿ ಪತ್ರವು

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: ಶ್ರೀ ಹಿಂದೂ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 21/1/24

Cong., farmers take out rally against 3 laws

They demand repeal of the farm laws and also protest against steep hike in excise duty on petrol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A large number of farmers from across the State led by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee on Wednesday took out Raj Bhavan Chalo, a protest march, in Bengaluru, demanding revoking of three farm laws enacted by the Central government. Farmers holding placards and Congress flags took out the march from Sangolli Rayanna statue at Ananda Rao Circle to Freedom Park in the city.

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah, and his counterpart in Council S.R. Patil, senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil, and B.L. Shankar were among those who participated in the rally. They said that an "arrogant Central government" had remained insensible to the pains and sufferings of 63 crore farmers.

The rally caused traffic blockade in and around central parts of the city for three to four hours. Motorists were



Hundreds took part in the protest march in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

diverted to adjacent roads after traffic came to a near standstill on Sheshadri Road, Nrupatunga Road, and Race

Course Road. The protesters also opposed the steep hikes in fuel prices. The Congress leaders said the Central go-

vernment increased excise duty on petrol by 258% and on diesel by 820% since 2014.

In a memorandum submitted to President Ram Nath Kovind, through Governor Vajubhai R. Vala, the leaders demanded calling a session of the Parliament to discuss the three farm laws.

Congress leaders urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold talks with the leaders of millions of farmers who were staging protests in and around Delhi opposing the laws. They demanded withdrawal of 12,000 FIRs filed against farmers in the case related to burning of stubbles. "If they want to improve these laws, they should bring forth a law that makes MSP mandatory and make it punishable if someone does not adhere to MSP," the petition said. The KPCC urged the President to intervene and ensure that the Central government concedes the demands of the farmers.

Many of the Congress leaders were detained by the

police near Raj Bhavan. Soumya Reddy, Jayanagar MLA, complained to the city Police Commissioner alleging aggressive behaviour of the police. "The women police surrounded the women protesters, manhandled and treated us like criminals," she said. She dismissed allegations that she had "attacked" a police constable.

Earlier, speaking to presspersons, Mr. Shivakumar said it was not a Congress protest, but that of farmers. "The Congress is only supporting the protest of farmers," he said. He added that the police had prevented farmers in Bengaluru, Tumakuru, Ramanagaram, and other districts from participating in the protest. "The government has insulted farmers by denying them the right to protest. I condemn this," he said. The protest would continue till the central government repeal the farm laws, he added.

Meanwhile, the BJP, in a statement, dismissed the Congress protest as "mere theatrics".