



Farmers take out a massive march against ordinances promulgated by the government in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/RANJUP

Farmers oppose ordinances, take out massive rally in city

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Hundreds of farmers descended on Bengaluru on Monday morning and protested against the state government's proposed amendments to the Land Reforms Act, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, and Electricity Act.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Harisu Sene leaders and workers took out a massive protest rally from the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Station to Vighana Sangha. The protesters were stopped near the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna flyover by the police.

Venting ire against the government and its 'anti-farmer policies', thousands of farmers sat on the flyover raising slogans against the government. The farmers decided to stage a protest day and night till the completion of the monsoon session of the

state legislature.

Addressing the farmers, Rajya Raitha Sangha state president Kodihalli Chandrashekhar said they will fight day and night till the government drops these amendments to the acts.

"Both the state and the central governments are framing anti-agriculture and anti-farmer policies and we will continue our protest against such decisions," he said.

"The proposed amendments, being made at the behest of various corporate and multinational companies, will spell doom for the agrarian sector and farmers' community. The farmers will be deprived of their land and right for the better price for their agricultural commodities. We appeal to the governments to drop these amendments in the interest of the farming community," he said.

Chandrashekhar cautioned that successive governments, all these years, have given only assurances

to the farmers. "We will not go back with assurances this time. We will not move away till our demands are met," he said.

'Won't back off'

Thousands of farmers sat on the flyover and protested. Chandrashekhar addressed them from the middle of the road.

Akhila Karnataka Sugarcane Growers' Association, headed by Kurbur Shanthakumar, also participated in the protest rally.

The protest, which led to a traffic jam on Race Course Road, Sankey Road, Sheshadri Road, Nrupathunga Road, Majestic, Chalukya Circle, and surrounding areas, was witnessed after six months. There were hardly any protests ever since the outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown.

Police diverted the traffic leading to Race Course Road. Motorists had to take longer routes to reach their destinations.