

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ತುಣುಕುಗಳು
PAPER CLIPPINGS

36

ಇಲಾಖೆ / ವಿಷಯ : DEPARTMENT / SUBJECT:

Agriculture Act

ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER:

The Hindu

ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE : 26/1/21

Bridge to U.P. closed ahead of farmers' rally

Protesters all set for Republic Day tractor parades in Delhi

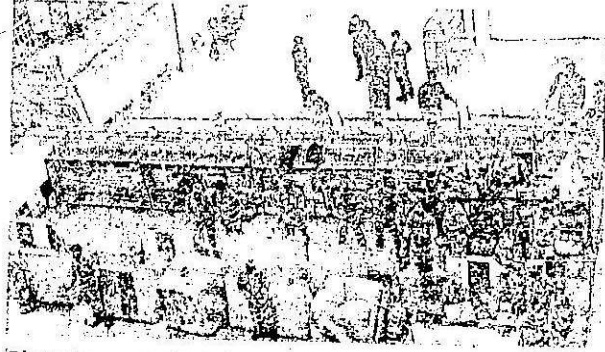
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
ANUJ KUMAR
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police closed the Signature Bridge over the Yamuna on Monday night after tractors tried to enter the capital from Uttar Pradesh.

Farmers on hundreds of tractors from Baghpat were "threatening" to enter Delhi at the Loni border, said Iraj Raja, SP (Rural), Ghaziabad.

"They are directionless and leaderless. They want to go to Red Fort. They were told to take the prescribed route via the Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal expressway to reach the Ghazipur border but they refused and are misbehaving with the police. They are using abusive language and are agitated," Mr. Raja said, adding that extra forces had been called in. "The orders are to be as patient with them as possible but right now they are refusing to listen," he said.

Protesting farmer unions had received permission to hold tractor parades in three border areas of Delhi along three pre-determined routes, with strict condi-



Obstacle course: Security personnel keeping watch at the Ghazipur border on Monday. *R.V. MOORTHY

tions specifying the number of tractors and that they would not enter the capital until noon, by when the Republic Day parade on Rajpath would be completed.

March to Parliament

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) also announced a Sansad march to Parliament on February 1, the day when the Union Budget will be presented, as the next phase of its protest, keeping up the momentum from Republic Day.

Dharmendra Malik, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said both the

Uttar Pradesh and Delhi police were trying to instigate farmers to turn violent.

"Those coming from Baghpat to Ghazipur border had to either pass via Delhi or take the Bhopura route in Ghaziabad to reach the U.P. Gate. But both routes have been blocked by the police and farmers are being told to go back 40-50 km and enter through the KGP Expressway. It is impractical and a way to needle farmers at night. We are trying to negotiate with the administration," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

37

100

FROM PAGE ONE

Bridge to U.P. closed ahead of farmers' rally

Earlier in the day, a Punjab union, the Kisan Mazdoor Sangarsh Committee (KMSC), declared its intention to defy the police conditions by heading for Delhi's Outer Ring Road, instead of the approved routes. The group, which had previously defied directions to lift a rail roko in Punjab, said it would not take any decisions "under pressure from the government".

Leaders of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), which is representing a coalition of thousands of farmers protesting on Delhi's borders, sent multiple delegations to the KMSC leadership, pleading with them to change their plans for the sake of the whole movement.

The SKM has also announced a Sansad march to Parliament on February 1, the day when the Union Budget will be presented, as the next phase of its protest, keeping up the momentum from Republic Day.

Tuesday's rallies are expected to attract 1.5 lakh tractors, and will display the extent of support for the farmers' demands, not just in Punjab and Haryana but from across the country, said Krantikari Kisan Union president Darshan Pal.

More in the offing

Balbir Singh Rajewal, who heads a faction of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said the Sansad March would be undertaken on foot, and would only be the beginning of programmes planned during the upcoming session of Parliament.

"After we march round the route on Republic Day,

no one will go home. Those who have come from Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, as well as those who have come from Odisha or other faraway place - we will not go home until the government listens to our demands and repeals the three laws," said Mr. Rajewal.

Protesting farmers are demanding that three new agricultural reform laws be repealed, and that a new law be enacted to guarantee remunerative prices for farm produce. As they enter the capital for the first time on Tuesday, union leaders say they are determined to keep the protest peaceful, but may be stymied by conditions announced by the Delhi Police on Monday evening.

The No Objection Certificate for the tractor parades, issued by Delhi Police, has 37 conditions, including one on the numbers of participants. "The organisers shall keep the limit of gathering of participants in rally to 5000 persons along with 5000 tractors," it said.

The police added that movement of the procession must not stop, must not take more than two-thirds of the carriageway, and must flow in one direction only. The prescribed time period is from noon to 5 p.m. only. Non-compliance to these conditions could result in termination of the NOC, it warned. Union leaders say the participant limit is not practical.

(With inputs from Vikas Vasudeva in Chandigarh and Saurabh Trivedi in Delhi)