



Post Covid Lecture Series National Online Lecture on

Farm Laws and Farmers' Agitation: A Political-Economy Perspective

by

Professor H. S. Shylendra

Professor, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat, India

27 February 2021 at 6.00 p.m (IST)

Speaker



Dr. H. S. Shylendra holds a Ph. D in Economics and is a Professor in Social Sciences at Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Gujarat, India. He is also a member of the Centre for Sustainable Livelihood and Centre for Rural-Urban Dynamics at IRMA. His areas of interests include Development Theories, Rural Development, Livelihood Impact, Gender, Decentralization & Local governance, and Microfinance. He has nearly 28 years of experience that combines research, teaching, training, and academic administration. Recently he was part of impact evaluation studies on National Rural Livelihood Mission, Narmada Canal Irrigation, and Training Impact of NIRD. Dr. Shylendra was the Chairman of the Standing Working Group

on Local Institutions of the Chhattisgarh Planning Commission (2016-17). He was a member of the Expert Committee of RBI on Credit Cooperatives (2012), member of Taskforce on Credit Related Issues of Farmers of Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India (2009) and member of the Working Group of Insolvency Board of India (2018). Dr. Shylendra was awarded the Dr. S.R. Sen Prize by Indian Society of Agricultural Economics for his work '*Diversification and Sustainable Rural Livelihood*' in 2012.

Prof. Shylendra participated in the farmers rally held on January 26, 2021 and interacted with the farmers who are protesting against the new farm laws in New Delhi, to understand the ground realities. He also sent comments on the three Farm Bills to the Expert Committee set up by the Supreme Court of India.

Moderator : Dr. T M Joseph, Hon.Professor, Prof.BS Bhargava Chair on Decentralized Governance and Development, CRM, Kottayam & Principal, Mount Carmel College, Karukadom, Kothamangalam, Kerala.

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 825 5120 0218

Passcode: 572622

All are Welcome

Please sign in at least 10 minutes before 6 .00 p.m (IST) on 27 February 2021

Greetings from Dr. Jos Chathukulam, Director, CRM, Kottayam, Kerala



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Abstract

India is witnessing currently one of the biggest farmers' movements in its history. Farmers in various parts of the country, more so from Punjab, Haryana and UP are vehemently protesting the three farm laws passed by the Central Government in 2020. The farm laws in essence are aimed at rapidly liberalising the agriculture by reforming the APMCs, facilitating contract farming and relaxing the Essential Commodities' Act. The farmers are demanding total repeal of the three Acts, and introduction of a Minimum Support Price (MSP) system legally. The agitation has raised enormous tensions deepening the cleavage between the state and the farming communities. The Acts and the agitations have occurred at a crucial juncture of the country's agrarian transformation process. While the government is keen to enable the capitalist transition of the agricultural sector through rapid market-based reforms, the sector itself is inflicted with severe crisis arising due to precariousness of growing small holdings with their continued dependence on agriculture owing to jobless growth scenario.

A better understanding of the farm laws and the agitation requires juxtaposing them with the larger agrarian realities. This lecture is an attempt in the above direction with a political-economy perspective. The speaker will also briefly share some of the insights gathered from his recent visit to the farmers' rally and interactions he had with the agitating farmers.

Organized by

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