

FIFA satyagraha yatra begins on 25th Feb

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The Federation of Independent Farmers' Associations (FIFA) is launching a farmers' satyagraha yatra from Nizamabad district in Andhra Pradesh tomorrow (February 25) to Nanded district in Maharashtra to assert farmers' right to sell paddy and rice outside the State.

It may be recalled that FIFA had defied Andhra Pradesh Government restrictions on movement of fine varieties of paddy and rice outside the State by marching into Karnataka and undertaking sales on February 19.

Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan, President of FIFA and the Lok Satta Party, will lead the satyagraha yatra from Pocharam village in Nizamabad district at 10-00 a.m. tomorrow.

The farmers will reach Bodhan for the night after touching Nagireddipet, Ellareddy, Banswada, Varni and Rudrur en route

They will resume the yatra from Bodhan at 9-00 a.m. on February 26 and pass through Kotagiri, Yettonda, Pentakurru, Salampadu and Salur, and cross the border check-post at Salur. They will undertake sale of paddy at Esgi in Nanded district of Maharashtra around 1-30 p.m. on February 26.

According to Lok Satta Party Working President D. V. V. S. Varma, the farmers have launched the movement to protest against the ruinous policy of the Andhra Pradesh Government which would neither ensure the minimum support price nor allow farmers to sell paddy outside the State. The Andhra Pradesh Government's restrictions are illegal and run counter to Government of India directives, he says.

Farmers cutting across party lines are joining the movement. The Shetkari Sanghatan of Maharashtra too has extended its support to the yatra.

Dr. JP will be addressing public meetings and interacting with farmers at a number of places during the road show.