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Farm law

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Three farm laws a violation of Constitution: Former SC judge

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The three farm laws passed by the Central government totally "violate the Constitution", said former Supreme Court justice V. Gopala Gowda here on Saturday.

He was speaking at a panel discussion organised by the Forum for Democracy and Communal Amity-Karnataka chapter (FDCA-K) on "Current issues facing the nation".

Agriculture being a State subject, the three farm laws were violative of the federal feature of the Constitution under which each State is sovereign. If the farm laws were supposed to double farm income, then why has Minimum Support Price

(MSP) not been included in the statute, he questioned. The Amendment to Section 17 of the Land Reforms Act brought in by Karnataka would allow corporates to take over farmers' lands, he warned. He lamented that political parties had failed the people and urged people to raise their voice against them.

Social democracy

Justice H.N. Nagamohan Das, former judge of the Karnataka High Court, speaking on "Decline of democratic values in India" pointed out that contrary to what was being claimed by some, much had been achieved in India in the last 71 years. But now, 18 institutions that

were meant to protect democracy had been compromised.

He lamented that while political democracy was debated, economic and social democracy were not debated. Constitution is the only weapon in the hands of the people, and they should read it and use it to save democracy, he said.

A. Narayana, associate professor at Azim Premji University, speaking on "Intolerance of dissent and free speech in India", said the State had become "pathologically intolerant". But more dangerous than this pathology of the State was the tolerance of society to the intolerance of the State, he said.