

Nationwide strike: Trade unions to take out rally

- [Staff Correspondent](#)

Employees in transport, banking, and other sectors are expected to participate in the nationwide strike on Friday opposing the Union government's anti-labour policies, Mahesh Pattar, convener, Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU), Hubballi-Dharwad, has said.

He told presspersons on Wednesday that the strike call had been given to create awareness among the people about the anti-labour and pro-capitalist policies of the Union government.

Over 5,000 workers including APMC daily wage labourers, staff of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and bank employees would participate in it.

More than 1,000 people would take out a rally at 11 a.m. from the old bus stand, which would pass through Basavavana, Indira Glass House, Chennamma Circle, Court Circle, Lamington Road and culminate at Ambedkar Circle. A public meeting would be held there later. Ten central trade unions have charged the Union government with not responding positively to their 12-point charter of demands. They include increasing minimum wages to Rs. 18,000 a month; intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to solve the Kalasa-Banduri water dispute; dropping of Road Safety Bill, 2015, among others.

Mr. Pattar alleged that instead of speaking to the unions, the government was trying to break the unity of the workers. It had called the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, a right-wing trade union, for talks. Mr. Modi had been trying to make labourers slaves of his corporate friends by amending labour laws that had been protecting the interest of workers, he alleged.

KSRTC Staff and Workers Federation State vice-president R.F. Kavalikai said that KSRTC buses would stay off the road on Friday.

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