

## Farmers' ultimatum to govt: Annul ordinance on land acquisition Act or face stir

**SURAT:** Criticising the ordinance on the land acquisition Act (LAC) as anti-farmer and pro-industrialists, the Gujarat Khedut Samaj (Gujarat Farmers Association) on Friday urged the Central government to rescind the ordinance and the state government not to implement it. To drive home their demand, all farmers' organisations in the state have decided to converge near the venue of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit in Gandhinagar on January 11 and stage a protest demonstration, said office-bearers of Gujarat Khedut Samaj.

This decision was taken at a farmers' meet organized by the Gujarat Farmers Association at Jehangirpura in Surat on Friday, said Jayesh Patel,

general secretary of Gujarat Khedut Samaj.

As per the amendments made by the Centre in the LAC, private hospitals and educational institutions will be considered as public interest sector and no permission was needed from the gram sabha to acquire agricultural lands. Further, no legal action could be taken against the land acquisition officer. The policy has been amended keeping in mind the development projects. "This ordinance is against the interests of farmers and it could deprive us of land which is our source of livelihood. It is nothing but a measure to allow multinationals, big businesses and corporates to acquire agricultural land without any restriction," Jayesh Patel said. ENS