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Joint trade union stir on Tuesday

Special Correspondent

In a show of unity unprecedented in recent times, eleven Central trade unions and several State-level unions are joining hands across the State on Tuesday to press for change in the Central government's economic policies.

The stir, being organised as part of the countrywide agitation called by the Central trade unions, would see the unions holding joint rallies and dharna in all the 14 districts. The major demands of the unions include urgent steps to hold the price line, social security coverage for workers in the unorganised sector, end to sale of PSU equities and contract employment and amendment of the Minimum Wages Act to ensure payment of a minimum wage of Rs. 10,000 to all workers. Outside Kerala, the stir would see the trade union activists courting arrest.

Trade union coordination council convener and AITUC State general secretary Kanam Rajendran and secretary and INTUC State president R. Chandrasekharan said that there would be no boycott of work or hartal as part of the stir which would be confined to rallies and dharnas in which the entire working population in the State, including Central and State government employees, bank officers and workmen, insurance employees and PSU employees and workers.

Mr. Rajendran said that the demonstrations and dharnas in 12 districts would be held at the district headquarters. That in Idukki and Wayanad would be held at three centres each. In Ernakulam, the demonstration would be held at Vyttila. The stir would be held under the leadership of INTUC in Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam and Kozhikode, under CITU in Thiruvananthapuram, Kannur and Kasaragod, under AITUC in Thrissur and Alappuzha, under BMS in Palakkad and Kottayam, under UTUC in Kollam, under HMS in Wayanad and under STU in Malappuram. In Thiruvananthapuram, the rally would be held in the evening. In all the other districts, the rallies would be held at 11 a.m., he said.

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