



MP Pratap Simha presented life time achievement award to B N Jayaram at a function organised by the Tobacco Institute of India in Mysuru on Thursday. The other award winners are also seen | **SUDAYSHANKAR**

## MP to take growers delegation to PM

**MYSURU:** MP Pratap Simha has agreed to lead a delegation of tobacco growers to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss problems of growers. Speaking after inaugurating the 20th Tobacco Institute of India annual awards, he said efforts will be made to get licence for 10,990 unauthorised tobacco growers.

He said they have held talks with ITC company, submitted a proposal and claimed that the prime minister is responding to

their demands. Though there were talks that tobacco cultivation would be banned by 2020, the Union government has not taken a decision so far, he said. TII director Syed Mahmood Ahmad said lakhs of farmers, labourers, adivasis and women are dependent on tobacco cultivation. He said they have instituted awards to honour top tobacco growers. Tobacco grower B N Jayaram was conferred the lifetime award and 16 farmers were also honoured. **ENS**