(September)

# **NDTV:Haryana Farmers Block Roads In Protest Against New Farm Bills**

Anchor: Farmers in Punjab and Haryana have been protesting against the controversial agriculture bills that have been passed in parliament today as farmers attempted to break barricades on the highway near the Punjab Haryana border. The police resorted to the use of force and water cannons to disperse the protesters. The state government had intensified security arrangements after several farmer bodies across Haryana gave the protest call. We spoke with the farmers and the commission agents.

Reporter 1: Farmers are protesting against the new laws here in Amritsar in the deputy commissioner’s office. As you can see many farmers have come in, many have gone out for a protest march. I’m joined in by the senior farmers who have seen things over the years, how farming and agriculture has improved over the years, or whether it has deteriorated over the years. Sir, can you tell me that the government is directly paying you without any middleman, but still you aren’t supporting them?

Farmer 1: Yes. Speaking of the payment, we used to get it before as well from the market after selling our products. We have only one or two farms. We cannot sell our products to a private party. We cannot sell it outside. The private party will think only of their benefit, why will they give us good prices.

Reporter 1: They don’t trust the private players. This is their biggest apprehension. If private players are involved in the procurement process, they fear that there will be exploitation of farmers having less land holding and those who don’t have purchasing power. Let’s ask some middlemen and service providers about their opinion and apprehensions. Please tell me your name and why you are protesting.

Arti: My name is Aman. Our community is with the farmers. Their intention is to kill the farmers with the bill. All the labourers and the shopkeepers will be ruined. The government is breaking the relationship between us and the farmers.

(January: Red Fort approach)

# **NDTV: Farmers Protest: NDTV At Ground Zero Of Farmer-Police Clashes**

Anchor: We are hearing that more people are coming in and the security mechanism is not enough. What are you seeing and hearing Saurabh?

Saurabh: Absolutely, as you can see more farmers are approaching. One thing is clear now, the police and paramilitary forces have vacated the floor where they had assembled, holding religious flags. The police have removed the farmer protesters from that floor. You can see police are right there, and they will not allow anyone there right now to climb to that floor. Now just outside Red Fort the farmers are coming again, some of them are leaving as well. As of half an hour back, this whole premises was crowded by farmers, there were tractors which were parked. I’m joined by my colleague, Mukesh. Mukesh police have removed people from here, they have used riot batons as well.

Mukesh: See, a lot of people had climbed the pillar, and placed their own flag and the Sikh religious flag below the Indian flag. So, police tried to calm them, and then after some time used riot batons to control them and cleared the pillar above. But, there have been these rumours going around that there was some firing inside, after that the farmers have begun mobilizing again and going inside. Now, the farmer leaders and the police are in talks. There is also an ambulance that has arrived here.

Saurabh: There was intelligence failure from the Delhi police, because they could not anticipate this. They were trying to convince these farmers. There was not enough police force to control them. What is the reason and how have they been allowed to reach till here, what do police sources say?

Mukesh: Delhi police had two challenges in front of them. One, if they had not allowed the farmers, the farmers would still march inside here on 26th January. This is why farmer leaders held meetings to decide predetermined routes. But, there was one group who had already started the tractor rally at 8 am, and they reached Red Fort. After reaching Red Fort, the farmers climbed the pillar. They did not disturb the Indian flag, but they put up their own flag along with Sikh religious flag. Police are trying to convince the farmers to leave this place, but people aren’t listening.

Saurabh: As you can see these visuals from Red fort, the police have vacated the floor from these farmers. And you can see some riot control by the police here and they are removing these protestors from here. Farmers are running to save themselves. A clear confrontation from the farmers and the police. Police are very much clear that they will not allow the farmers to enter the Red Fort premises. Whosoever is trying to enter inside the premises are being chased away. I can see a few ambulances as well. We cannot confirm who is inside the ambulances, maybe some injured protestors and farmers. Mukesh, what do you hear from the police sources, the next course of action because we can clearly see that few farmers are injured.

Mukesh: Looks like some farmers have been injured due to the clash between police and the protestors. About four to five ambulances have been called. This is why the farmers have become angry and are trying to enter the Red Fort again. There is a lot of chaos. There are still a lot of protesters here. And in the clashes, few of the protesters have been injured.

Saurabh: As you can see, few farmers are leaving. Let’s talk to a few farmers. So what’s the plan now?

Farmer: Now we will silently go back and leave this place. But some of our farmer protesters are held by the police.

Saurabh: So why did you climb the pillar?

Farmer: Look, that was the expression and mood of the protesters. I did not climb, I stood right here. We wanted to go back using this road. Again, I want to request the prime minister of this country with folded hands to repeal and roll back these three black laws.

Saurabh: So why did you decide to deviate from the route then? You had given a plan to Delhi police and then deviated from it. Why did you do that? Our reporters were there.

Farmer: No, actually I am coming from the predetermined route. There was a break out, the farmers were going on a decided route, then the police came in and started beating people, and I don’t know by whose order, after that everyone spread and the entire crowd just fell out. So once again I want to request all the protesters to be peaceful and non-violent.

Saurabh: Absolutely, so a very chaotic situation here at Red Fort. Few protesters and farmers are injured. Most of the tractors are leaving from here. They are saying again they will go back to their borders and wait. We are waiting to hear from the Delhi police about their course of action. Back to the studio now.

Anchor: You were just mentioning that police had to use batons to clear the Red Fort. There were some ambulances, about five, which moved out of the Red Fort. What else are you hearing? What is the plan of the police? Are there going to be additional police deployed? And when can this area be cleared out? Because I don’t see these protesters leaving.

Saurabh: No, no. The protestors are leaving, most of them have already left. An hour back when we were here, the place where I was standing was totally occupied. Most of them have left, few are also coming in. But clearly, as you can see, Delhi police are also mobilizing. Half an hour back they were standing quietly but as of now you can see the mobilization from them. Maybe, some action plan they are working on but as of now, they are mum about it. They aren’t disclosing anything.The whole outer ring road is totally occupied by the farmers. This entire premises had tractors, but now they are leaving. There were clashes before, on the platform. Few farmers were injured. We saw a few ambulances leaving from inside. There are unconfirmed reports that there were few bullets fired. But we still cannot confirm who fired them. As of now the situation is very tense. The Delhi police is trying to negotiate with these farmers, but one thing is very clear, that the police will not allow these protesters to enter.

Anchor: As Saurabh is getting us more information, he is saying that the police are on standby. Can we quickly see that frame?

Saurabh: Yeah absolutely, you can see here on my right side, there are few police personnel waiting for directions. An hour back there was not a single police officer. There are more arriving and more than one hundred police officers are inside. They are taking instructions from their senior officers in Delhi police. They will not allow farmers to enter the Red Fort. They can stay outside. They are not being removed from outer premises. Mukesh, please tell us more, it seems some people are injured?

Mukesh: Yes, both the protesters and police officers are injured. There were a lot of farmers who had climbed the pillar. So to remove them police had to use batons, where both were injured. Some of the farmers have also been detained. The other farmers are trying to free them. It's chaotic here. There is also a death of a protester, the police say that he was driving his tractor quite fast. This led the tractor to flip and caused his death.

Anchor: Can you ask Mukesh to confirm whether internet services have been suspended in the national capital in some areas? Borders?

Saurabh: No, as of now we don’t have any confirmation. Right now, here where we are standing, the internet is working very well. We are trying to get confirmation from our sources, but the internet is working fine as of now.

(January: Death)

# **India Today: 1 dead as tractor overturns at #Delhi's ITO during violent protest.**

Anchor: One protester had died on the road which led to a lot of tension in the area because the protestors claimed that he was fired upon and that he suffered bullet injuries. They have pinned the blame on the Delhi police. This video has been released by the Delhi police to counter that narrative and to counter the claim that this protest had died due to police action. And you can see what happens in that video clearly, a speeding tractor rams into the police barricade and rolls over. The police are saying that because of this the protester died and that there was no question of police firing. I want to take this to Ankit who is nearby at the location. Ankit, you saw how tension peaked right after the death of this protester because the other protesters there claimed that it was actually because of police firing that he died. The police are now countering that with this video that we have put out.

Ankit: That’s right, what we are seeing right now is the images of the road of the location. This is where the police, after three tractors came out and broke these barricades very dangerously, almost ran over the police, the media. Then the protestors chased the policemen. The police have just put up another barricade a bit further from here. The protesters wanted to break these barricades as well. The tractors came at very high speeds trying to ram into the barricade. It is at that moment we were also hit by stones and everything else. At that moment when we reached there, what we saw on the spot was a tractor that had completely overturned. And a person lying in a grievous situation. Now the police say they have released CCTV footage that this person died because a tractor overturned. We saw the tractor that was overturned. Now the protesters are claiming two versions. Few of them say that he was fired upon by the police. And the other set of protesters say that they were trying to fire a tear gas shell to try and dissuade these farmers from breaking the barricade and that tear gas shell hit this person who was driving the tractor at a very high speed and that is why he overturned the tractor. The body of this person, who is said to be from Uttarakhand, is still at the location. We had to leave the location because internet and telephone connections were snapped in that area. We were getting no access. So now the farmers at the location are sitting with the dead body. Now more and more farmers are joining them. They believe that the police are responsible. But only if the farmers give the dead body over to the police can a post mortem can be done. Then we would know whether that person died because of the injuries that he sustained because of the alleged police firing or because of the tractor turning completely upside down because he was driving at a very dangerous speed and running it into the barricade. The situation at the location, because of this person who has now died, has once again become very tense. You saw how other reporters including myself were heckled.

Anchor: Also another thing to note is that, Yogendra Yadav who was with the protestors for a few months claims that there has been no firing by the police. But yes, we will wait for the post mortem report for further details and this will give us details and close the issue once and for all.