(September)

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

Reporter: Right now farmers are trying to break down the barricades at the Punjab and Haryana border. The farmers are trying to block the highway there. The police were clearly instructed to not use force and ensure that the highways aren’t blocked. But now water cannons are used to disperse the farmers and we are informed that the situation is quite tense there. And the police may resort to riot control using batons. A very dynamic situation there. The farmers are still sticking to the protests there, they aren’t moving away, they want to cross over and the police are trying to keep them from blocking the highway.

Anchor: Are these protests expected in other parts of the state as well?

Reporter: Yeah. In most of the districts of Haryana, a call was given for a three hour highway blockage. In many districts the farmers have come out. The police are just waiting for the three hours to pass by so the farmers will go away. The farmers don’t seem to be in that mood, they might not leave even after three hours. So there are reports of confrontations from other parts of the state as well.

# **January**

# **India Today: Farmers R-Day Protest Live: Chaos At Tikri Border Before Mega Rally; Farmers Knock Down Barricades**

Anchor: Wishing all of our viewers tuning in from India and across the world a very happy seventy second Republic Day. In just a few minutes from now the ceremonials will begin in central Delhi as the prime minister, the president and others begin arriving in about an hour from now to begin all the protocol ceremonials and the republic day parade. But the dominant image right now is not in central Delhi, it's happening a few kilometers away near the border farmers at the singhu border as well as the tikri border have broken barricades and begun to enter delhi at least four hours before the approved time that they had agreed that they would enter with their tractors. They've spilled in large numbers across the barricades into Delhi and are now present in huge numbers with their tractors many hours before the stipulated security time that was approved by the Delhi police after many days of negotiations and talks.The pre-approved routes are being used at this time but the images going out are the ones you see on your screen on the left you can see the preparations for the republic day parade that will be taking place in just about a few minutes, which means that the actual ceremonials and commentary which we will be cutting to begin in just a couple of minutes from now and an hour from now to an hour and a half from now is when the parade will begin and that will of course be live but it cannot be ignored that in another part of the very same city Delhi the images you see are the ones on your right, farmers in their thousands from Punjab have crossed over barricades before the stipulated time and entered delhi in huge numbers well before the 12 p.m time that they had agreed to and been granted as part of a conditional no objection certificate by the Delhi police. So these are the two dominant images that you're going to see today ladies and gentlemen of what's happening. I actually want to put the two borders in front of you now. We've got the Singhu border, we've also got the Tikri border. Let me show you what's happening in both of these areas at this point of time. We've got images coming in from both the borders. This is the Singhu, this is the Tikri border. This here is the tikri border where barricades have similarly been broken and on the left-hand side you can see the Singhu border where barricades were broken before 8 am actually and the large numbers of persons have already started coming in. So violations are different levels, one that the barricades have been broken well before the stipulated time. Two the numbers of of punjab farmers appear to be much higher than agreed, it's supposed to be three or four persons per tractor here you're seeing these huge mobs already come in let me let me say once again that the people you see on your screen are Indian citizens, they have every right to be here but there was a agreed protocol and an agreed a set of rules and timings that were that were mutually agreed upon by both sides so as to take care of the security protocol required in the national capital during the republic day parade and that's one of the reasons why those rules were set down set down between both sides but those rules appear to have been cast into the wind now because now things are fully up in the air. And these as our guests have been telling us as well are the dominant images that are going out in a moment. We'll have our reporters from both these borders to get us the ground reports from both the Singhu border as well as the Tikri border. In a moment we'll also get live images from the Gazipur border which is Delhi's border with Uttar Pradesh as well to get you a sense of what the mood on the ground is and what the situation is on the ground. The tractor rally which was begun at which was to begin at 12 p.m has begun at 8 00 a.m four hours before the stipulated time Kamaljit Sandhu continues to be on the road on which this large crowd from the Singhu border has spilled into delhi and is heading towards the interior parts of the city. Kamaljit, take us through what you're seeing right now, what are you hearing? Anything from the government about how they're seeing this entire situation unfolding now? Hold the mic a little closer to yourself, because we can barely hear you over the noise Kamal. We're going to try and boost your audio because obviously the ambient noise around you is deafening so we're just going to get our technicians to fix that audio and then I'm going to come right back to you but keep that camera fixed on these images as I talk to our viewers through them. Our viewers who are joining our coverage right now. Let me tell you that we're six minutes now officially into republic day protocol programming that has begun in central delhi and what you're seeing here at the Singhu border is happening you know some some kilometers away from where the republic day parade is happening and I know what's going on going you know going on in most people's minds. Is this going to overshadow the parade? Could there be an overlap? Could these images take over from what's happening at the parade? Well it certainly looks like this is these are dominant images at least for the moment because this is turning out to be a definite security situation because this is a highway that has been completely occupied by the punjab farmers who've entered across the Singhu border four hours before the stipulated time/ They've broken the barricades. They appear to be larger numbers than agreed upon initially. Though it must be said that the farmers had rejected the conditional approvals given by the Delhi police so that is their justification for what is happening right now. Kamal back to you. I hope we've been able to fix that audio. Kamal back to you. Tell us about the pictures that you're seeing first hand you're in that car just a few feet away from this large crowd that's advancing now.

Kamaljit: The pictures are overwhelming and it seems the security forces including Delhi police are overwhelmed. We are right ahead of the tractor march. The Delhi police are marching ahead of the tractor rally. This is one of the first kinds of situations we are seeing on republic day. A huge symbolic gesture being made by the farmers at this point of time. The government tried to avoid the situation, they tried to put terms and conditions. At least 30 such conditions were kept by Delhi police regarding the timing, their route, what could be done and one of those kinds was that they can carry on the tractor rally but it cannot be parallel to the Republic

parade. But that part no longer stands. The barricades have been breached and the farmers have since morning been moving ahead and there is a lot of color out here. Tricolor flags. And there is this doubt that was created by the government, by agencies, that this would turn violent that they were extremist elements and that is why the onus has largely been kept on the farmer union leaders but they will ensure that this tractor line remains peaceful. Now remember all of them here are carrying these posters “Jai Kisan”, all that we see here is a sea of farmers holding tricolor flags, the khalsa flags and this is a moment where farmers are on this particular tractor rally parade. And remember all eyes whether this can really be peaceful. Now we've seen boots on the ground but compared to say the common man or the citizens, the farmers here, they have been adamant, mostly from punjab and haryana that they want to repeal those laws and now today seems like a twilight before that situation where there is a buildup of the situation over the past two months and coming to certain crux here. Remember, they are motivating the crowd to move ahead. They are doing it effectively. And clearly there is enough crowd of tractor rallies going on for kilometers and kilometers and the Delhi police keeping a track of this, but it cannot lead to any confrontation, one, because they are simply outnumbered, and two, they have to ensure that everything is done peacefully between them. They are going for kilometers now, some of them are running, obviously they will tire out quickly. It will be relay where some of them will go into jeeps and tractors and some will replace them. And yes, it's a long day and let's see if the fingers can be kept crossed for this entire situation today. We have covered the Republic day parade for several years, but a rally like this is very unusual and the government has to face this. Within the country, two parallel parades are taking place simultaneously. Tractors which are colorful, lined up with posters and banners.

Anchor: I just wanted to tell our viewers that the Singhu border is about 44 kilometers by road till Rajpat. It is not clear what route this particular farmer crowd is taking. There are police over there, they're videographing everything at this point of time hoping to be able to shape the route of the farmers even though they have demonstrated, at least so far, that they're not willing to listen to the mutually agreed approvals that have been granted to them by the Delhi police. But kamal at this point of time 44 kilometers is the distance according to our information from the Singhu border, where the barricades were broken till Rajpat in central Delhi where the Republic day parade is taking place. Now I'm not saying that these farmers are heading towards the parade but do we have a sense, Kamal, of where the farmers are headed at this point of time? Are they going across the pre-approved route or are they heading towards central Delhi?

Kamal: So far we are much ahead of the Singhu border and the announcement constantly being made is about the route. The farmers said they will go ahead with the Republic day march, and there is support coming in from several of the bystanders. So this is a situation where farmers are moving ahead, the Delhi police are outnumbered, and there are all these people, the onlookers supporting the movement. Remember this is a situation which can quickly spiral out if there is any confrontation. So there it is. All these farmers are led by this Delhi police pilot vehicle parallel to the vehicle which is leading this. So yes, going parallel is to ensure that there is some sort of a trust between them, that trust was momentarily broken in the morning when the farmers breached the barricade. But now is the time where even if farmers want to go ahead

with this tractor rally it should be peaceful. The ownership and responsibility clearly lies with the farmer union leaders. They have to ensure that these thousands of people in the rally, which is now marching ahead, need to be peaceful. There is a lot of sloganeering being done at this point of time. So I can say the energy amongst the farmers is high, that they are able to go ahead and do this parallelly to the Republic day rally is itself a moment that they've been waiting for. Some sort of terms and conditions which were laid down by Delhi police at least 30 such conditions were laid down. That is not being honored. The farmers are going ahead according to the timing set by them. So these farmers have already told the government that it's not you who keeps the terms and conditions, but we can have our way too, and this is the law of the land, the constitution is something which we abide by. But when it comes to promises there seems to be a trust deficit. The farmers, despite the government's assurance that the law will be kept for at least two years, are not agreeing to that and then leading to a certain climax of the social situation.

# **NDTV: Farmers Knock Down Police Barricades Ahead Of Tractor Rally In Delhi**

Anchor: Let's get in a quick update from Sukhiti joining us on the phone line. Sukhiti, what's happening at the Singhu border we're learning of barricades being broken?

Sukhiti: Well yes, that is the information coming at this point of time that this is near the Singhu border and this is a group of about five thousand farmers who are on 55 tractors and via the GT canal road they are trying to head towards the outer ring road. They've broken some police barricades. This is a group being led by farmer leader and the delhi police is trying to take control of the situation at this point of time we are waiting for more clear details on this one but as of now the police barricades have broken, and there is one group that seems to started the rally not just ahead of the time that they were not permitted for, but also the Delhi police had not given any permission for the farmers to enter the delhi in any manner. They were supposed to stick to the stretches that had already been decided and these were adjoining areas of the border. There were no permissions that the farmers got, the outer ring road or these areas of delhi. We had heard of certain factions of the farmers groups saying that they are not in sync with the other decisions that have been taken by other farmer leaders. They do not approve of the routes that have been decided after meetings that have taken place. So we had seen those differences. that there could have been chances of this happening, but now on the final day at least one group has already done this at about eight a.m this has already happened.

Anchor: Just to put this in perspective for our viewers, this is of course in terms of a law and order situation, it's a nightmare. Republic day is already known, Delhi is completely fortified on republic day in the weeks leading up to republic day as well. The permission that was granted by the Delhi police for the tractor rally was post the festivities at the rajpath. With this certain group that has now broken barricades at the Singhu border, are we anticipating that they'll enter Delhi ahead of the allocated time?

Sukhiti: Well at this point of time, the police are trying to control the situation, but how much of this is going to be actually in synchronization with the rules that have been laid down by the Delhi police is hard to say at this point of time. At least one faction so far has broken the rules and is trying to enter Delhi via the GT karnal road so already the things are going haywire. The rest of the group, as we know, had announced at least yesterday that they have already reached negotiations after several rounds of meetings with the Delhi police. They have decided they will be following those rules. There are certain timings as well and of course the Delhi police are given the permission only on the condition, that their rally begins only after the official parade is over and the no objection certificate says that they are permitted to carry out the rally only between 12 pm and 5 pm and it is 8 am right now and we've already heard one faction that is trying to reach the ring road area. That is not a permitted route and is also not in line with the timings that had been laid down by the Delhi police. So that they seem to have started on a note

that the law and order situation could see certain problems. The police however is trying to send

in personnel and control the situation.

(January: Death)

# **India Today:Farmers' R-Day Rally Live Updates: Tractor Tries To Run Over Cops; 1 Protester Died**

Ankit: All right. Shiv! I have very disturbing news. The tractor which rammed the barricade has completely turned turtle. And I think one protester, I can’t confirm, but I think that protester has died after somebody opened fire. That is the allegation, I can’t confirm. One of the protesters has in fact passed away. This is a very angry situation, we will try and move back. They are now seriously going after the media as well.

Anchor: You need to take care now. Be careful. Okay, the situation has worsened. There is violence, there are people who have been affected, there is someone who is injured on the road, a tractor has overturned. This has gone completely off the rails. The Delhi police which has used tear gas, done everything it can to bring the situation under control has so far failed to do so. They are attempting to reach out to the farmers to attempt to talk some sense into the farmers. This huge flood of protesters entering Delhi in this manner, things have completely gone out of control. There is nothing that they can actually do at this time. This is no longer a legitimate protest, or at least this part is no longer legitimate. This is a riotist anarchy that has descended into the national capital. Please take a look at the condition of parts of the capital as a result of what has taken place today. There is no justification.

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