

Tense night in Ghazipur: police, farmers face off, protests swell

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TENSIONS ROSE at Delhi's Ghazipur border Thursday after the administration in neighbouring UP's Ghaziabad district issued orders for protesting farmers to vacate the site by night.

By evening, as police in anti-riot gear started spreading out at the site, the protesters camped

there and their leaders, including BKU's Rakesh Tikait, said they would not leave.

Tikait also issued an emotional appeal on stage at the site where he said that the agitation would continue. As videos of the farm leader breaking down started doing the rounds, farmers in Haryana blocked the Chandigarh national highway near Kandela village of Jind district.

Late Thursday, more farmers

started arriving in Ghazipur even as several appeals were made by leaders in western UP asking others to join Friday.

A mahapanchayat was also held in Tikait's native village of Sisauli in Muzaffarnagar, where a public gathering has been scheduled at GIC ground Friday.

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