



BASAI News Updates

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Like Tikri, farmers set for a long haul near CM's Sangrur house

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TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SANGRUR, OCTOBER 10

More farmers are joining the ongoing agitation near the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's local residence. Like last year's agitation at the Singhu and Tikri borders, they are coming prepared and have started parking their loaded tractors on the roadside, cooking food and setting up a new village here.

Apart from making permanent staying arrangements in their modified tractor-trailers equipped with all facilities — fans, food, mobile-charging points and utensils among others — farmers have also formed special committees to supply the required milk and other grocery items daily at the protest site from across the state.

"Despite making big claims, the Punjab Government has failed to fulfil our long-pending demands. It claims there's dearth of funds, then why is it wasting crores of rupees on highlighting their achievements in the media? Like me, all farmers have come pre-



Modified tractors parked near the protest site in Sangrur on Monday.

pared for a long agitation," said Rajinder Singh, an elderly person sitting in his trailer parked near the protest site on the Sangrur-Patiala road.

Interestingly, the indefinite agitation has given an opportunity to the farmers to further sharpen their attack against the Centre and the state government.

"Our discussion and criticism of the governments goes on till late night. We do group discussions while many of us even go live on Facebook. I am hopeful all this will yield a good result in the coming days, when thousands of people from across

the state will join us here as well," said Sukhmeet Singh, a youth standing near the stage set up at the site.

Notably, the farmers have separate demands from the Centre and the state government. Like from the Punjab Government, they are demanding the immediate release of crop loss relief, special assessment of crops damaged recently, allotment of special budget for public water projects, closure of liquor factory near Zira for causing pollution, quick action to prevent the pollution of various canals by industrialists of Ludhiana and other districts.

8,800 fruit-laden trucks allowed to move to Jammu

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 10

Over 10,000 trucks moved towards Jammu on the Srinagar highway during the last 24 hours, officials said on Monday. Traffic officials said that 8,800 among those trucks were carrying fruits to the markets outside the Union Territory.

Fruit growers and merchants in the Valley have been agitating for more than a fortnight alleging that their produce had been rotting in parked trucks as these were not being allowed to move towards Jammu.

J&K Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta took a meeting of officials on Sunday and gave directions that all the fruit-laden trucks stuck at different places on the highway should be allowed to move without any further delay. Earlier, the trucks remained halted at several places due to inclement weather, landslides and shooting stones. — IANS

ISB facilitates sale of Indian wild hazelnuts

Indian wild hazelnuts, known as than-gi (locally), harvested by Jarhun Nag Swayam Sahayata Samooh, a self-help group in Chamba, are now reaching end-consumers through the shelves of Dry Fruitz Basket, a premium retail store in Hyderabad. Indian School of Business (ISB) facilitated this partnership.

Rain delays paddy harvesting, purchase across state

TRIBUNE REPORTERS

FARIDABAD/AMBALA/KARNAL,
OCTOBER 10

The recent spell of rain has resulted in up to 30 per cent loss to kharif crops in the district. It has also delayed harvesting and procurement of paddy in the grain markets.

Claiming that only 20 to 25 per cent of the crop had been harvested since the procurement began on October 1, Purshottam Dagar, a commission agent at Ballabgarh Anaj Mandi, said the recent spell of rains had heavily damaged the crop and could delay the arrival and procurement of the crop due to the presence of moisture in it.

"A majority of the farmers will suffer huge losses as they may not be able to sow the next crop due to waterlogging in their fields," he added.

Kishan, a farmer hailing from Jalhaka village in the district, has grown basmati variety of 1121 and 1718. He said

Crops suffer loss up to 30% in Faridabad



Paddy bags stored at the Ballabgarh grain market. TRIBUNE PHOTO

SITTING IDLE FOR 2 DAYS

“Due to heavy rain for three days, paddy has not arrived in grain markets. We have been sitting idle for over two days. Crops have been heavily damaged and procurement could be delayed due to moisture in the crop. Purshottam Dagar, COMMISSION

AGENT, BALLABGARH ANAJ MANDI

the rains had resulted in up to 30 per cent loss. "The crop which was expected to be harvested by now, will not be able to come to market for 15 more days, even if there is no rain."

Karnal: The situation is similar in the grain markets in Karnal. Farmers, arhtiyas and officials of procurement agencies are worried as a large quantity of paddy is lying in the open to be lifted in grain

markets across the district.

Farmers said the rains had delayed harvesting and exposed the insufficient arrangements made by the authorities of the market committees for the procurement of the crop.

They blamed the authorities for not ensuring sufficient arrangements to cover their produce in the grain markets and alleged that

they had to bring sheets from homes to cover the crop.

Rajnish Chaudhary, president, Karnal Arhtiyas' Association, and Rajesh Arora, secretary of the association, reiterated the demand for speedy lifting. They said since the arrival had slowed down, the authorities should clear the backlog by ensuring speeding lifting.

"It is the peak of paddy

arrival, but due to unfavourable weather conditions for three days, farmers have put harvesting on hold. I have asked the agencies and transporters to lift the remaining paddy from the grain markets," said Sushil Malik, Zonal Administrator, Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB).

Ambala: Though the procurement agencies have already lifted around 70 per cent of the total procured stocks from the city grain market, farmers and commission agents said the lifting should be further improved and sheds should be cleared to store the fresh arrivals.

Ranjeet Singh, a farmer from Matheri Jattan village, said, "The weather has been cloudy and uncertain. Farmers have already suffered heavy losses due to untimely rains, poor seeds and dwarfing disease in paddy. Any more rain at this point will damage the grain."