

Twitter Thread by SamSays

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Digging out old unrelated images and videos and circulating them with a false narrative has become a booming cottage industry. Thread on the misinformation that has been spread to discredit farmers' protest and how #AltNewsFactCheck has busted each claim.■1/n

In the right-wing mind, the easiest way to malign is to manufacture a Muslim angle. So an old photo that predates the bills was dug out & falsely shared BJP office bearers and supporters as Muslim man disguised as Sikh to participate in the agitation. 2/n <https://t.co/4oJ9fDI92E>

80+ yo 'Shaheen Bagh Dadi' still rattles the RW like no other. So a photo of an elderly Punjabi woman was shared with the false claim that she is Bilkis Bano and is paid to join the protest. KanganaRanaut, GaruavPradhan were among those who shared it. 3/n <https://t.co/Cff7ZsTdNg>

When the Muslim angle failed, Khalistan angle was pulled out. An old video of pro-Pak, Khalistan chants during cricket World Cup match in UK was shared as farmers' protest. BJP's PritiGandhi, PunitAgwaral etc shared this. 4/n <https://t.co/sMh0nOU9R3>

A photograph shot during anti-CAA protests in Shaheen Bagh in February was shared with the false claim that it shows 'Hathras Bhabhi' at farmers' protest. BJP leaders were joined by supporters like Shefali Vaidya in spreading the misinformation 5/n <https://t.co/BBJ1y9ZyBG>

A Sikh man's turban was removed by a cop during 2011 protests of retrenched rural veterinary pharmacists in Mohali. This old video was dug and circulated with the false claim that it is of SDPI's 'Nazir Mohammed' disguised as Sikh at farmers' protest. 6/n <https://t.co/HHwkoh0pVl>

Then we had BJP's Amit Malviya posting a clipped video of the baton swinging cop to water down police action. In a first in India, Twitter marked his tweet as manipulated media. 7/n <https://t.co/Q1Pnb0amID>

Every trick in the bag was used to discredit farmers. A 2019 photo of Shiromani Akali Dal protesting revocation of Articles 370 and 35A from J&K was falsely shared as farmers raising Kashmir issue. ShefaliVaidya was again at the forefront. 8/n <https://t.co/gBUIV2e1oo>

Another RW favorite target is Ravish Kumar. A photograph of him covering farmers' protest in 2018 was dug out and falsely shared as him participating in the recent agitation and heading for Biryani. 9/n <https://t.co/LIVzepbNLe>

An AIKS banner from 2018 farmers' protest has been misrepresented by BJP members and supporters to suggest the recent peasant movement has 'ulterior' motives 10/n <https://t.co/rHma3lYMLLe>

A video from 2018 where some labourers alleged they were paid Rs 350 each to take part in an AAP rally is viral with farmers' protest spin in yet another attempt to discredit the ongoing movement. 11/n <https://t.co/l8ao6RvkDf>

A screenshot from a Facebook Live video covering farmers' protest was edited to show a 'Sikh man without moustache'. False claims suggested that a Muslim man dressed up as Sikh. BJP supporters joined in to mock the Sikh man.12/n <https://t.co/75vdUEgfg8>

Attempts to link with Shaheen Bagh took centerstage again as photos of anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh were shared with the false claim that the same protesters were spotted at farmers' protest. 13/n <https://t.co/UaBSDnlj0k>

Desperate to find a Khalistan angle, an old video of a pro-Khalistan rally held in San Francisco, US is widely circulating on social media. It has been falsely linked with the ongoing farmers' protest. 14/n <https://t.co/vCGSejDoHF>

Here is yet another one. A 7-year-old image of a pro-Khalistan rally in Amritsar has been falsely linked to the farmers' protest. False messages claim that the protest has an underlying motive to demand a sovereign state for the Sikh community. 15/n <https://t.co/d7usFmrBo8>

If the farm bills are so wonderful, why so much energy is being devoted to discredit the protests? I'm sure there will be lots more in the coming days.....will keep adding to the thread. 16/n