

## Noida factory protest over wages turns violent; CM urges caution

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A protest by factory workers demanding a salary hike turned violent in Noida on Monday, as unrest spread across multiple industrial areas.

Angry workers reportedly vandalized more than 50 factories, pelted stones, and set vehicles on fire while marching with sticks and raising slogans.

The situation first escalated in the Phase-2 industrial area, where workers, frustrated over the lack of response to their demands, began pelting stones and damaging property.

Several vehicles and buses were torched. When police attempted to intervene, protesters allegedly overturned a police vehicle and attacked personnel with stones. In response, police used tear gas shells to disperse the crowd and imposed barricades on key roads.

The violence soon spread to nearly 10 industrial zones across Noida and nearby



districts. In Sector-57, more than 30 factories and offices were vandalized, while companies in Sectors 40 and 60 were surrounded by protesters. In Sector-85, the gate of a major electronics company was broken. Traffic was also disrupted in Sectors 1, 15, 62, and near the DND Flyway, where roads were blocked.

To bring the situation under control, additional forces, including RAF and PAC units,

were deployed in sensitive areas. Senior officials, including DGP Rajeev Krishna and ADG (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash, are closely monitoring developments from the control room. Authorities have warned of strict action against those spreading rumors.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, speaking at an event in Muzaffarnagar, urged workers to remain cautious and not fall prey to elements trying

to incite unrest.

According to police, over 1,000 employees from several companies in the Phase-2 industrial area had been protesting for the past three days over wage-related issues. Around 500 workers had gathered outside a major manufacturing unit, where the violence initially broke out.

The district administration has appealed for calm and urged workers not to believe in rumours. Noida District Magistrate Medha Rupam stated that discussions with companies have led to several decisions aimed at addressing worker concerns. These include setting up workplace committees to prevent sexual harassment (headed by women), installing complaint boxes, ensuring respectful treatment of employees, timely payment of salaries by the 10th of each month, and mandatory issuance of salary slips.

Efforts are ongoing to restore normalcy as authorities continue dialogue with workers and companies.