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Images of the Farmer Protests

The following 12 photographs are all taken from the Wikipedia page, “2020–2021 Indian farmers' protest.” We present them with minimal information: location, date taken, and photographer’s name and geographic affiliation. Each photograph has been shared with a Creative Commons license. We urge readers to explore further details of the photographers and the sharing conditions, as well as other photographs available on this Wikipedia page, along with the page text.

The first eight photographs are from two points on the border of Delhi (the National Capital Territory) and the neighboring state of Haryana. Tikri is on the main highway entering Delhi from the west (NH 9), and Singhu is on the main highway entering Delhi from the north (NH 44). The latter direction leads through Haryana to Punjab, and is essentially the route of the old Grand Trunk Road and its precursors. NH 9 also reaches Punjab going west. Photographs on the penultimate page are from a toll crossing on the highway to the Punjab city of Patiala (NH 7), slightly west of NH 44.

The last two photographs are from half a world away, a protest in New York City, spearheaded by the Punjabi Sikh diaspora in that part of the United States, and just one example of many such diaspora shows of solidarity. The placards in English in these photographs highlight the elemental status of food and farming. Similar ideas can be found in the messages in Punjabi and Hindi in the first photograph of this collection. A different kind of statement can be found on the highway to Patiala, commenting on one of the government’s more problematic responses to the protests.

We leave it to readers to explore and reflect on the different verbal messages (English speakers can find someone to translate the Punjabi and Hindi statements), as well as the symbolic meaning and significance of the activities of the protesting farmers, as they camp through the winter months, many miles from their homes.

Flags are another important symbol, and we note that the flag on the first page of the compilation is that of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), a large farmers’ union with a national footprint. Readers will find BKU flags in many photographs of the protests outside this compilation, and can further explore the BKU’s role in the protests.
Tikri Border, December 4, 2020
Mulkh Singh, Haryana

Singhu Border, November 29, 2020
Randeep Maddoke, Punjab
Singhu Border, January 8, 2021
Harvinder Singh, Chandigarh
New York City, December 13 2020

Felton Davis