



OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister
Rt Hon. Boris Johnson MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,
Agitation by Indian farmers and your forthcoming visit to India.

I am writing to you to request the UK government to convey its concern over callous heavy-handedness by the Indian police, including the use of tear gas and water cannons against peaceful demonstrations by farmers over new laws that will lead to their further impoverishment. The farmer's right to peaceful demonstration is supported by prominent lawyers, civil servants, trade unionists, university lecturers and all opposition parties.

India's farmers have suffered decades of exploitation by middlemen, leading to many suicides. The new laws will add to this by making it easier for large conglomerates to rig markets and dictate market prices; for example, by reducing the price paid for a commodity and storing produce in large silos for later sale at inflated prices.

I am writing to you as the Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations UK and in my capacity as a Cross-Bench member of the House of Lords who has devoted much of his life to working for the protection of basic human rights in many countries. Our request is that, prior to your visit to India next month, HM Government conveys its concern over brutal police repression of a peaceful demonstration by farmers and many sympathisers who have travelled hundreds of miles in the winter cold

We would like to add that the Indian Government is flouting India's Constitution which gives autonomy to India's States to determine their own agricultural policies. This was completely ignored in the rushing through of unconstitutional legislation without legislative scrutiny in the Covid19 pandemic.

We shall be grateful if, in preparation for your visit to India, you would raise serious concerns among many in the UK about the erosion of democratic imperatives and how this could affect a desired increase in trade between our two countries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Singh".

Indarjit
Lord Singh of Wimbledon
Director Network of Sikh Organisations UK