

Tension between India's Conservative Farmers Movements and Modi Government

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Although the conservative farmers' movement Bhartiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), remains firmly part of the 'majoritarian cultural nationalist,' movement, there are emerging fault lines between them and the right-wing Modi government. This can be seen for example in the increasing strength of BKS's demands such as higher minimum support price for farm produce, ban of genetically modified seeds, lower interest rates on loans, better health and education facilities and so on. These rising demands stand in direct opposition to the policies of the BKS' ideological allies in the Modi government.

Right-wing populist governments in various parts of the world have important social base in the countryside, such as Trump and rural America. India has a similar situation, with Modi and the Indian countryside, in the form of powerful conservative farmers' movements like BKS. But my study will show that there are fundamental tensions and contradictions between the Modi authoritarian populist regime and its rural social base. What these are, and how these get played out has been the key inquiry of this study.

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