

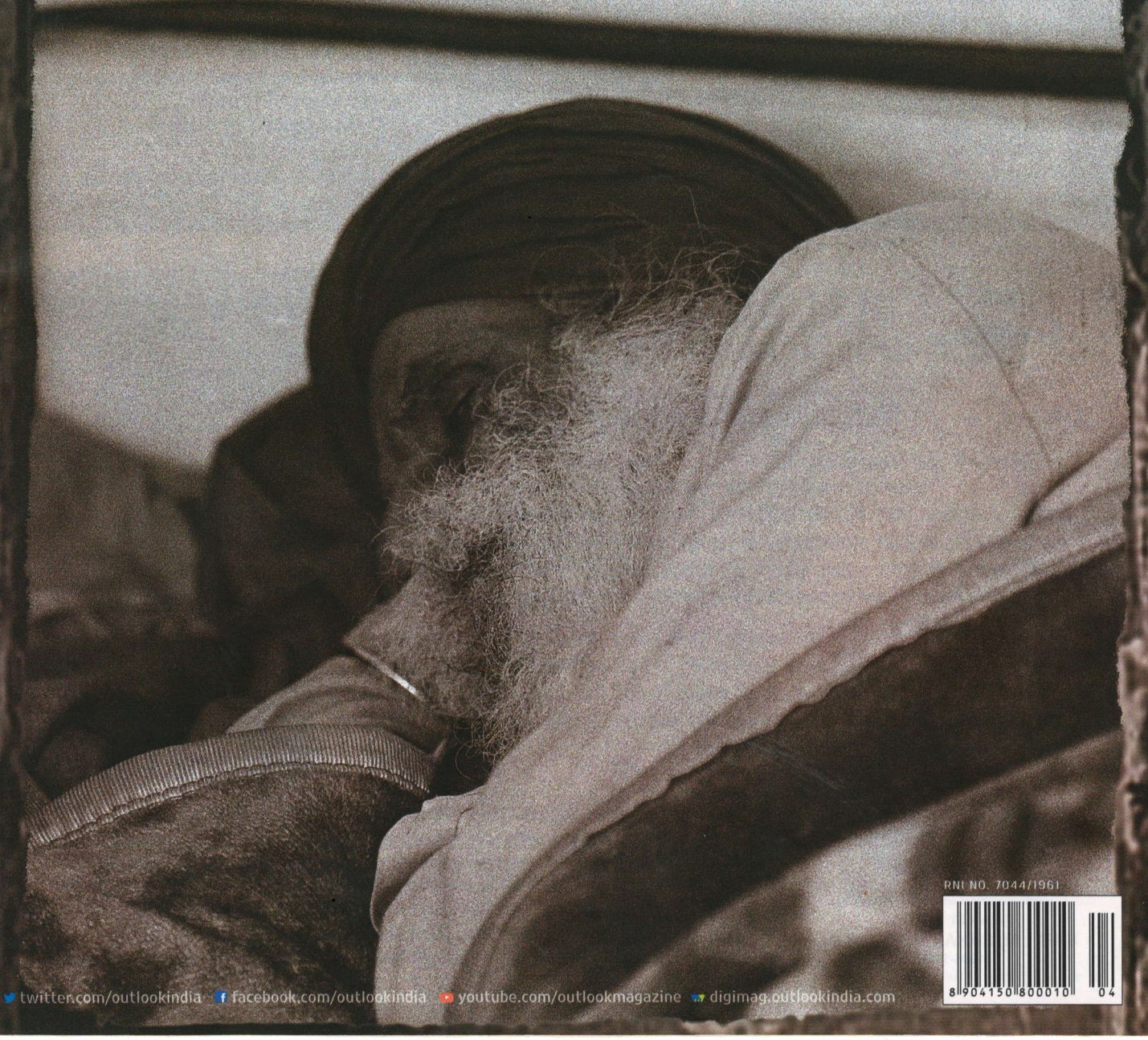
# Outlook

Read · Think · Understand

Farmers' Protest 2.0

## Don't Let This Farmer Die

Punjab farmer Jagjit Singh Dallewal's fast-unto-death at Khanauri border to protest for a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops entered the 53<sup>rd</sup> day on January 17. In solidarity with Dallewal, 111 farmers have also started a hunger strike. On February 13, the farmers' protest on the borders of Punjab and Haryana will complete a year. How long before the central and state governments stir?



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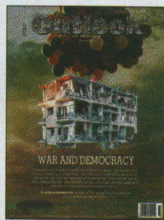


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COPY DESK S.S. Jeevan, Swati Subhedar,  
 Vineetha Mokkil



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AB-10, S.J. Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029  
 Customer Care: 9717086972 / 9818974410  
 Office Hours: 10 am to 6 pm  
 e-mail: yourhelpline@outlookindia.com

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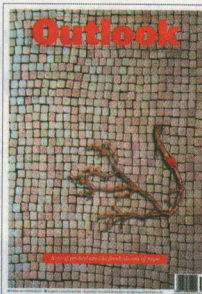
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#### ABOUT THE COVER

While Shubhakaran Singh—a farmer from Bathinda district who was allegedly shot dead on February 21, 2024, during farmers' efforts to march from Khanauri towards Delhi—had initially become the poster child for the agitation, Jagjit Singh Dallewal has now joined him as the face of the movement amid his growing popularity. He has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border inside a tractor trailer—6.5 feet X 10.5 feet—lined with foam sheet to insulate him from the cold outside. His fast entered the 53<sup>rd</sup> day on January 17, 2025. The trailer where Dallewal has been living since the beginning of the protest in February 2024 has a white tarpaulin ceiling.

**COVER PHOTOGRAPH:**  
 Vikram Sharma



ON a cold November afternoon in 2021, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the government's decision to repeal the three farm laws, the protest site at Tikri Border had already become a place of resistance and gardens. The farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh had been at several sites at Delhi's border for more than a year by then. They had begun to grow flowers. To remind them of home. Back then, there were two protests—Shaheen Bagh and the farmers' agitation—that defined dissent in this country. One was uprooted. The other continues. But both were about hope in our Orwellian present. Trenches had been dug, nails were laid out, there were water cannons and tear gas and batons and barricades.

In February 2024, farmers gathered to protest again in Punjab. Their march to Delhi was stopped. Two protests are on at Khanauri and Shambhu borders. A farmer is trying to defy the might of the state by fasting. Many others have joined him now. This issue is about the state and the farmers and the fate of a protest that has continued but has failed to register. *Outlook's* issue looks at the history of peasant protests in Punjab and the politics of such protests.

—Chinki Sinha

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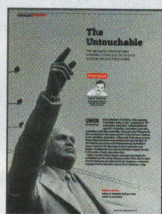
Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been observing a fast-unto-death at Khanauri border to pressurise the government to fulfil its promises to the farming community

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