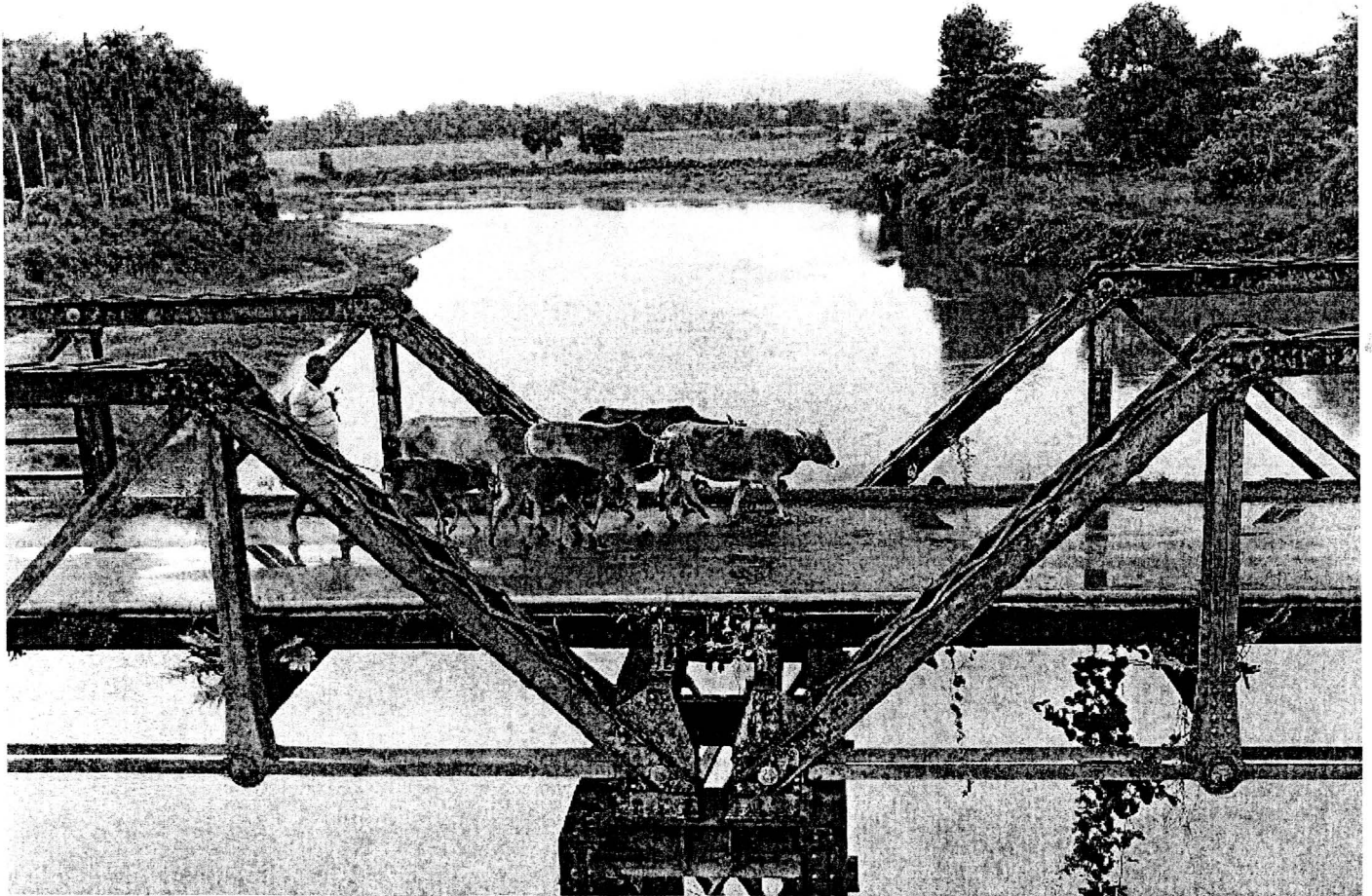


THE STRAITS TIMES

# Influential group in India launches nationwide protest against RCEP free trade pact



The Indian dairy and agriculture sector is particularly concerned about a rise in imports from New Zealand and Australia under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. PHOTO: EPA-EFE

🕒 PUBLISHED OCT 12, 2019, 1:37 PM SGT

NEW DELHI - Influential voices close to the Indian government have intensified their opposition to India's entry into the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) deal, as negotiations among the 16 trading partners enter the final lap.

Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), often described as the economic wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), began an 11-day nationwide protest on Thursday (Oct 10), claiming the deal in its current form will intensify the ongoing crisis in Indian manufacturing and agriculture.