

PM Modi refers to ban on Dev Anand's films to blast Congress on Emergency

Agency: Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to the arrests of poet Majrooh Sultanpuri and actor Balraj Sahni and the ban on Dev Anand's films on Doordarshan during the Emergency period to attack the Congress over freedom of speech. Replying to the discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, PM Modi said the word "Constitution" does not suit Congress as it handcuffed and chained leaders like George Fernandes during the Emergency. "(Actor) Dev Anand was requested to support the Emergency publicly. However, he clearly refused. He showed courage, and therefore, all the films of Dev Anand were banned on Doordarshan," PM Modi said in an over one-and-a-half hour speech.

Dev Anand was among several artistes who faced a ban for not abiding by the government's diktats during the Emergency. The late actor has detailed his experiences in his book, *Romancing with Life*. After the actor refused to talk in support of the Emergency on Doordarshan, all his films were banned from being screened on TV. PM Modi also mentioned how the then Jawaharlal Nehru-led government sacked Lata Mangeshkar's brother, Hridaynath Mangeshkar, from All India Radio (AIR) for reciting a poem on Hindutva ideology Veer Savarkar. "During Nehru's tenure, a workers' strike was held in Mumbai. During that strike, the famous poet Majrooh Sultanpuri recited a poem. After that, he was put in jail. Famous

actor Balraj Sahni was also jailed only because he participated in a protest. Hridaynath Mangeshkar had written a poem on Veer Savarkar and wanted to sing it on Akashvani but was banned from Akashvani for life," PM Modi said. Continuing his tirade against the Congress, the Prime Minister alleged that "licence/permit raj" under successive Congress regimes stalled growth and India had to wait for years to get new technologies. "People had to pay bribes for permits. It would take years to import a computer... Today, the country is taking a sigh of relief after being freed from the clutches of Congress," PM Modi said.

Attempting to turn the tables on the Congress over claims that the BJP was "destroying" the

Constitution, PM Modi emphasised that it was the Congress that "hated" BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. "It is well documented how much anger and hatred Congress had towards Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar. They never considered Baba Saheb worthy of the Bharat Ratna award. The party also tried to defeat Ambedkar twice in elections. But today, due to compulsions, they have to raise the slogan of 'Jai Bheem,'" PM Modi said. In the 1952 Lok Sabha election, Ambedkar was defeated by Congress's Narayan Kajrolkar in Bombay (North). He was defeated again by the Congress in the 1954 by-election in Bhandara. The Prime Minister also underscored that while the

BJP's model of development was "nation first", for the Congress it was "Family first" - a reference to the Gandhis. "Expecting 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' from Congress would be a huge mistake. It is beyond their thinking, and it also doesn't suit their roadmap because the whole party is dedicated only to one family," the Prime Minister said. Training his guns on Rahul Gandhi over

his caste census push, the Prime Minister warned of attempts being made to spread caste poison in society. "For many years, OBC MPs from all parties had been demanding Constitutional status for the OBC panel. But their demand was rejected, as it might not have suited their (Congress) politics. But we gave constitutional status to this panel," PM Modi said.

Use of restraint US SOP: S Jaishankar as video of cuffed deported Indians emerges

Agency: Amid vociferous protests by the opposition in Parliament over the "inhuman manner" in which illegal Indian migrants were deported from the US, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha that the use of restraints was part of America's standard operating procedure (SOP). Several opposition MPs, including Congress's KC Venugopal, protested in the Parliament premises by wearing "handcuffs" to highlight the plight of the Indian deportees. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Jaishankar assured the opposition that India was engaging the Donald Trump administration to ensure that the returning deportees are not mistreated in any manner. While confirming that the male deportees were handcuffed and chained, Jaishankar asserted that women and children

were not restrained. "The deportations by the US are organised and executed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The SOP for deportations by aircraft, effective from 2012, provides for the use of restraint. We have been informed by ICE that women and children are not restrained," Jaishankar said. The Union Minister said that the deportees were given food and medicine during the 10-hour flight. However, he underscored that the government's focus should be on a strong crackdown on the illegal immigration industry. "During toilet breaks, the deportees are temporarily unrestrained if needed. This is applicable to chartered civilian aircraft as well as military aircraft and there has been no change from the past procedures," he said. On Wednesday, a US Air Force aircraft carrying 104 Indian nationals landed in Amritsar as part of

Donald Trump's crackdown against illegal immigrants. Most of the deportees were from Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat. The Indian nationals claimed they were handcuffed and their feet tied with chains throughout the journey. US Border Patrol (USBP) chief Michael Banks also released a video showing the Indian nationals in restraints while boarding the aircraft. Jaishankar's statement came as protests by opposition MPs over the deportation of 104 Indian nationals saw proceedings being disrupted in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. In the Lok Sabha, opposition MPs took to sloganising and protested in the well of the House even as Speaker Om Birla appealed to them not to resort to "planned disruptions". "Your matter is with the government. This is the matter of the Ministry of External Affairs. This subject is related to another

country. The government has taken cognisance of it," Om Birla said. However, the MPs continued with their protests, prompting the Speaker to adjourn the House briefly. Earlier, KC Venugopal moved an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha to discuss the issue. The motion urged the Centre to outline the diplomatic steps being taken to engage with the Donald Trump administration. Speaking to reporters, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the Trump administration's move to deport the Indian nationals in "handcuffs" was an insult to the country. "We are protesting the way in which this was done. They have every legal right to deport people who are illegally in their country... but to send them like this abruptly in a military aircraft and in handcuffs is an insult to India, it's an insult to the dignity of Indians," Tharoor said

the two countries". The development came a day after Hasina's speech on Wednesday night in which she called upon the people to organise a resistance against the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government. Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 last year after fleeing Bangladesh following a massive student-led protest that ended her 16-year regime. While she was delivering her speech, a large group of protesters vandalised and set fire to her father and Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence in Dhaka, a site of historical significance in Bangladesh's independence struggle. "They can demolish a building, but not the history. But they must also remember that history takes its revenge," Hasina said in her address on Wednesday night. "They are yet to have the strength to destroy the national flag, the constitution and the independence that we earned at the cost of lives of millions of martyrs with a bulldozer," she said in an apparent reference to the Yunus-led interim government. Bangladesh has sought Hasina's extradition to stand trial on charges of

mass killings during the students' uprising in July-August last year. The country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide". The ICT, originally formed to try the hardened collaborators of atrocities by Pakistani troops during its 1971 Liberation War, has issued two arrest warrants ordering authorities to arrest her and ensure her court appearance by February 12 as she was also accused of enforced disappearances during her rule. The interim government has already revoked the passports of Hasina and 96 others over their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and the killings during the protest against the Awami League chief.

Old vs New tax regime: Which one should you choose for income above Rs 12.75 lakh?

Agency: The Union Budget 2025 introduced some major changes to the new income tax regime, aimed at providing relief to middle-class taxpayers. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed an increase in the basic exemption limit to Rs 4 lakh and raised the income threshold for rebate under Section 87A to Rs 12 lakh. With this, people earning an income of Rs 12 lakh from salary won't have to pay any tax. In fact, with a standard deduction of Rs 75,000, people with an annual income of Rs 12.75 lakh won't have to pay tax. This has made the choice simple for millions of taxpayers with income less than Rs 12.75 lakh. But what if you earn more than Rs 12.75 lakh? Should you still opt for the sweetened new income tax regime or the deduction-heavy old income tax regime?

The new tax regime is ideal for taxpayers who:

1) Have an income of Rs 12 lakh or below, as they qualify for a full rebate under Section 87A.

2) Do not have deductions under Section 80C (such as Provident Fund, PPF, life insurance, or housing loan principal repayment) or Section 80D (medical insurance premium).

3) Prefer a simplified tax filing process with minimal

compliance requirements. If you do not claim substantial deductions and want a hassle-free tax filing process, the new tax regime can be beneficial as it offers lower tax rates without the need for detailed documentation.

The old tax regime is more suitable for individuals who can claim high deductions, including:

1) Section 80C: Contributions to PF, PPF, life insurance premiums, repayment of the housing loan principal, etc.

2) Section 80D: Medical insurance premiums for self and family.

3) House Rent Allowance (HRA) and Leave Travel Allowance (LTA).

4) Home loan interest deductions.

The old tax regime allows

taxpayers to reduce their taxable income significantly if they maximise these deductions. But for it to be more beneficial than the new tax regime, the total deductions must be higher than the break-even threshold for their income level. Below is a break-even analysis by CA Dr. Suresh Surana for annual income up to Rs 10 crore: The table below provides a comparative analysis of the tax liability under both regimes and

predicting a BJP comeback in the capital, upsetting the AAP. Sanjay Singh went ahead and claimed that the BJP has conceded defeat even before the results of the elections (on February 8) are out. "The BJP has accepted its defeat even before the counting of votes, and like the rest of the country, the BJP has started the politics of breaking parties in Delhi as well," he said.

Please retire Rohit Sharma: Fans troll

India captain after Nagpur ODI failure

Agency: Rohit Sharma was massively trolled by the fans after the Indian skipper's poor form continued in the Nagpur ODI between India and England on Thursday, February 6. The Indian captain scored just 2 runs off 7 balls and was dismissed by Saqib Mahmood as India were put under pressure early by England. Many of the fans went on to ask Rohit to retire. Rohit was back in India colours for the first time since his abysmal run of form during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia. The Indian skipper scored just

31 runs from 5 innings and ended up dropping himself for the final Test against the Aussies as India lost the series 1-3. Rohit would then head back to play for Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy but failed to make any impact with the bat in the loss to Jammu and Kashmir. India lost the toss in the first ODI and were put on the backfoot early by Phil Salt and Ben Duckett. However, some smart captaincy moves from Rohit saw India bounce back and bundle out England for 248 runs in Nagpur. Rohit had a new opening partner in

the form of Yashasvi Jaiswal,

who was making his ODI debut. It was the southpaw who took most of the strike in the early overs as Rohit was timid in his approach.

The Indian captain got off the mark with an aggressive shot, but the timing was off and he got just 2 runs.

Jaiswal was dismissed by

Archer in the 5th over and the

next one from Mahmood saw

Rohit try to flick the pacer

to the boundary. However,

he ended up hitting the ball

up in the air and it went

straight to Liam Livingstone.

The fans were unhappy with

Rohit's performance and took to social media to troll the Indian captain. While

some joked that Rohit's form was 'back' in ODIs as well, the others brutally told the opener to end his career and

move on. Rohit's dismissal in Nagpur means that his horror run has continued in all formats of the game. In his last 16 innings, Rohit has scored 166 runs at an average of 10.37.

Drunk Russian woman sits on driver's lap before crash

Agency: A speeding Indigo car collided head-on with a scooter carrying three young men, leaving them critically injured. The accident happened on Raipur's VIP Road on Wednesday night. According to eyewitnesses, a young lawyer and a Russian woman, both allegedly heavily intoxicated, were behind the wheel. The eyewitness claimed that the Russian woman was sitting on the driver's lap at the time of the crash, severely impairing his ability to control the vehicle. Following the

collision, chaos unfolded after police officers rushed to the accident site. The Russian woman engaged in a heated altercation with them, creating a public disturbance. A video of the incident is going viral on social media, showing her aggressively arguing with the police personnel. Both the driver and the Russian woman, who is on a tourist visa, have been taken into custody. The accident occurred within the jurisdiction of the Telabanda police station, and a thorough investigation is now underway.

AAP alleges BJP elements offered Rs 15 crore to 7 of our MLAs

Agency: The BJP is trying to break the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) by offering Rs 15 crore each to seven of its candidates in the Delhi elections, party MP Sanjay Singh claimed on Thursday. The candidates are being lured to join the BJP, Sanjay Singh added. Without revealing the names of the candidates, Sanjay Singh said that seven of them received phone calls from the BJP, a day after the 70-member



Zomato board approves renaming company to Eternal Ltd: CEO Deepinder Goyal

Agency: Zomato will soon be known as Eternal Ltd., with the company's board approving the name change, CEO Deepinder Goyal announced in a letter to shareholders. The food delivery brand, however, will continue to be called Zomato. Goyal said the decision marks a new chapter for the company as it expands beyond food delivery. "When we acquired Blinkit, we started using 'Eternal' internally to distinguish between the company and the brand/app. We also thought that we would publicly rename the company to Eternal, the day something beyond Zomato became a significant driver of our future. Today, with Blinkit, I feel we are there," he wrote. The renaming comes weeks after Zomato entered the BSE Sensex on December 23, which coincides with the 17th anniversary of its founding. "Becoming the first tech startup in India

to make it to the Sensex is a moment of pride and also a moment of reflection, bringing with it a heightened sense of responsibility," Goyal said. Eternal Ltd. will house four businesses—Zomato, Blinkit, District, and Hyperpure. Once shareholders approve the change, the company will transition its corporate website from zomato.com to eternal.com, and its stock ticker will shift from ZOMATO to ETERNAL. Calling "Eternal" a powerful yet daunting name, Goyal said, "It is a tall order to live up to. Because 'Eternal' carries both a promise and a paradox.

True permanence isn't built on bold claims of invincibility or the swagger of success." Goyal said this is not just a name change but a mission statement. "A reminder etched into our identity that we will endure—not because we are here, but because we need to get there," he said.

Bangladesh lodges protest with India over Sheikh Hasina's 'fabricated' remarks

Agency: Bangladesh on Thursday lodged a protest with India's Acting High Commissioner over the "false and fabricated" remarks by deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in reference to her virtual address to her supporters from exile in India. Dhaka said Hasina's remarks were viewed as a "hostile act" against Bangladesh, and asked New Delhi to take appropriate measures to stop her from making such comments. The Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, in the protest note, conveyed its deep concern, disappointment and serious reservation, as such statements were hurting the sentiments of the people of Bangladesh. It also emphasised that such "activities by her, are considered as a hostile act towards Bangladesh and are not conducive to the efforts at establishing a healthy relationship between

the two countries". The development came a day after Hasina's speech on Wednesday night in which she called upon the people to organise a resistance against the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government. Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 last year after fleeing Bangladesh following a massive student-led protest that ended her 16-year regime. While she was delivering her speech, a large group of protesters vandalised and set fire to her father and Bangladesh founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence in Dhaka, a site of historical significance in Bangladesh's independence struggle. "They can demolish a building, but not the history. But they must also remember that history takes its revenge," Hasina said in her address on Wednesday night. "They are yet to have the strength to destroy the national flag, the constitution and the independence that we earned at the cost of lives of millions of martyrs with a bulldozer," she said in an apparent reference to the Yunus-led interim government. Bangladesh has sought Hasina's extradition to stand trial on charges of

mass killings during the students' uprising in July-August last year. The country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide". The ICT, originally formed to try the hardened collaborators of atrocities by Pakistani troops during its 1971 Liberation War, has issued two arrest warrants ordering authorities to arrest her and ensure her court appearance by February 12 as she was also accused of enforced disappearances during her rule. The interim government has already revoked the passports of Hasina and 96 others over their alleged involvement in enforced disappearances and the killings during the protest against the Awami League chief.

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