

SC on Shaheen Bagh: Protests cannot block road, cause inconvenience

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

HEARING PETITIONS against the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh, the Supreme Court said on Monday that protests must be held in "identified areas" and protesters cannot block public roads and cause inconvenience to others.

"You cannot block public roads. There cannot be indefinite period of protest in such an area. If you want to protest, it has to be in an area identified for protest," said a bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph. "You cannot create inconvenience for the people," it said.

"There's a law enacted, and challenge to it is pending in the Court. It's fine that some people may want to protest. The protests have gone on for many days... There must be an area where you can protest. It cannot be held wherever one wants. It has to be in identified area... Otherwise people will go and protest anywhere," said Justice Kaul, adding that protests cannot be held at the cost of the citizens' interests.

The court was hearing petitions filed by Advocate
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Director Bong Joon-ho with the cast of *Parasite* at the 92nd Academy Awards in Hollywood. The film won four Oscars — Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Foreign Film. Reuters

Parasite is Best Picture: Subtitles finally speak truth to Hollywood

SHUBHRA GUPTA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

BY THE time you read this, Bong Joon-ho may be busy recovering from a hangover of a lifetime.

"I am ready to drink tonight, until next morning," he said on stage, grinning delightedly, and the theatre full of delirious winners and putting-a-brave-face-on-it losers knew exactly how

he felt.

On top of the world, because that's what winning the Oscar feels like, and Bong Joon-ho won not one, but four of those, creating history at the 92nd Oscars.

The punters had put their money on *1917*, Sam Mendes's beautifully orchestrated World War I saga featuring two young soldiers and the futility of all conflict. Quentin Tarantino's nostalgic ode to a Hollywood

that was, was thought to be a favourite with the Hollywood that is. But it was *Parasite* which swept the biggies which included the expected Best Foreign Film, Best Original Screenplay, Best Director, and, oh yeah, oh yeah, Best Picture.

You could say Bong, 50, who graciously nodded to Scorsese and Tarantino, had earned his drink.

The other wins are exhilarat-

ing enough. But the Best Picture award has never gone to a film which has, in Bong's words, one-inch subtitles running at the bottom of the screen.

This recognition has multiple ramifications but the biggest of them all is that the Academy, whose voters are primarily middle-aged White Americans, has finally woken up to the fact that "foreign films" are also worthy of
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SABARIMALA REFERENCE TO BE HEARD DAILY

Questions of law can be sent to larger bench: SC

Will take up seven issues, turns down objections that review scope narrow

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

CLEARING THE way for hearing a reference in the Sabarimala case on the larger question of discrimination against women at different religious places, a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court Monday said "this Court can refer questions of law to a larger bench in a Review Petition".

It framed seven issues to be taken up by the court and fixed February 17 to start the hearing on day-to-day basis.

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, M M Shantanagoudar, S A Nazeer, R Subhash Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant, turned down objections raised by Senior Advocate

EXPLAINED
E Possible impact on other pleas

THE 5-JUDGE bench sent the reference last year, saying petitions seeking entry of women to mosques, challenging female genital mutilation among Dawoodi Bohras and practices in the Parsi community were pending and could be impacted by questions raised in the Sabarimala matter.

Fali S Nariman and some others that the court could not make such a reference in a pending review petition as the scope of review was extremely narrow.
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This may push the envelope on personal law reform, UCC

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

THE SUPREME Court's decision to consider seven questions of law touching upon the fundamental right to freedom of religion is set to push the envelope on the idea of reforming personal laws.

"We have heard the parties at length. For reasons to follow, we hold that this Court can refer questions of law to a larger bench in a Review Petition," a nine-judge Constitution Bench said Monday. It did not indicate when a detailed order will be passed.

One of the seven questions of law framed by the court itself is
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PSA detentions in J&K: One HC judge quashes orders, another upholds

KAUNAIN SHERIFF
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

LAST FRIDAY, a single-judge bench of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, while rejecting the petition filed by J&K HC Bar Association president Mian Qayoom challenging his detention under the stringent Public Safety Act, observed that a court

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THE PROBLEM WITH PSA
BY RADHA KUMAR
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is not a "proper forum to scrutinise the merits of administrative decision to detain a person" and

that such a detention is "not based on proof".

But two earlier judgments related to the PSA, passed by another single-judge bench of the same High Court, had quashed administrative orders, underlining that preventive detention "cannot be used as an instrument to keep a person in perpetual custody without trial".
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Sexual harassment at Gargi: FIR filed after protest by students

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

HUNDREDS OF students of Delhi University's Gargi College came out in protest Monday to demand action against outsiders who forcibly entered their campus and allegedly groped students during a college festival last week.

Students of the all-women's college recalled a nightmarish afternoon as they spoke of dozens of men breaching security and sexually harassing them. The incident took place on February 6 — the third day of the college's annual festival, Reverie. On



Outside Gargi College in New Delhi on Monday. Praveen Khanna

Monday afternoon, an FIR was lodged by college authorities
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BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



FROM THE PICKET LINES

AN EXPRESS SERIES-PART II

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Media access to Central Hall of Parliament under scrutiny, review likely

PRADEEP KAUSHAL
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla is likely to constitute a committee which will take a fresh look at the much-coveted Central Hall passes granted to media personnel, sources disclosed Monday.

Access to Central Hall, where members of both Houses of Parliament meet, is currently granted to only over 200 senior journalists who have fulfilled the criteria laid down by the Lok Sabha Secretariat — one has to have experience of at least 10 years of Parliament reporting on a permanent pass to qualify for

entry to the hallowed precincts where the Constitution was framed.

The Central Hall is also where the joint sitting of the two Houses takes place. On most days, journalists go there for informal interaction with members of the two Houses to get insight into issues.

On Monday, Birla is understood to have flagged a proposal for discontinuing media access to the Central Hall of Parliament at a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Lok Sabha. The Speaker heads the GPC. "Charcha huyi hai (a discussion has been held)," sources
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16 months & Rs 100-cr fees later, no sign of IL&FS resolution plan

SANDEEP SINGH & AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

SIXTEEN MONTHS after the new board took charge of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) Group and having spent nearly Rs 100 crore in fees, the new board under the chairmanship of Uday Kotak has not been able to get the resolution plan approved.

This has led to delay in the overall resolution of IL&FS debt. Since the new board took over in September 2018, IL&FS has only been able to complete the sale of its wind energy assets,

thereby leading to a debt resolution of Rs 4,300 crore out of the total debt outstanding of around Rs 94,000 crore.

Two board members and an official with an advisory firm told *The Indian Express* that since the resolution process is not moving forward there is a level of discontent creeping among those involved in the process.

"Already roughly Rs 100 crore has been paid in legal fee and payments to the resolution professional and enough time has been spent. However, things are not moving the way it was expected," said an IL&FS board member on condition of anonymity.
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How to bow, behave in Japan: Olympic team to get lessons from Delhi-born prof

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 10

LISTEN, DON'T just speak. Don't mistake politeness for "openness". Learn how to bow, and remember when to bow. Avoid eating while using public transport. Get used to eating the *bento*, Japanese-style packed meal.

The Indian athletes' preparation for the Tokyo Olympics, to be held from July 24 to August 9, is likely to extend beyond the field of play. And these are some



Randeep Rakwal teaches at the University of Tsukuba

of the points they will have to bear in mind while competing at the Games.

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) have invited

professors from a Japanese university to sensitise the athletes and their support staff to the country's culture.

"Indian athletes are used to travelling abroad, but they may not be used to visiting Japan, which is unique in many ways," said Randeep Rakwal, a professor at the University of Tsukuba, who will conduct the sessions with his colleagues. "So, it is important for them to understand the country's culture, especially for those who will be staying in a host town, like the archery team."

While the Games will begin on July 24, several Indian athletes are expected to reach Japan for

acclimatisation several weeks before that. The archers, for example, will make Kurobe — about 400 km from Tokyo — their home in the weeks leading to the Olympics. Weightlifters will train at the Nippon University in the Japanese capital while boxers are likely to set up a base camp in Hiroshima.

"We will educate them on how to behave with the general population, especially women, from the moment they step out of the airport. People here are very polite. That politeness should not be mistaken for openness. It is important to not take anything for granted," said Rakwal, a
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