

**WELCOME****2024**

More Grave Than the Attack 22 Years Ago

By Vappala Balachandran

Author is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, was a member of the two-man High Level Committee appointed by the Maharashtra Government to probe police handling of the 26/11 attacks.

This time, the delinquents managed to reach the virtual heart of Parliament while the proceedings were going on in the Lok Sabha.

There is an important difference between the Pakistan-sponsored terror attack on Parliament on December 13, 2001, and the intrusion into the new Parliament building by miscreants on December 13, 2023. This time, the delinquents managed to reach the virtual heart of Parliament while the proceedings were going on in the Lok Sabha. That makes the incident much more serious than the one in 2001, when terrorists could not enter the building.

In 2001, the terrorists were fortuitously intercepted by an alert security officer in charge of the escort vehicle of the Vice-President, whereas on Wednesday the security staff was blissfully unaware of the intruders' presence, putting the onus of resistance on the MPs. Remarkably, the security personnel were not spotted when the miscreants started spraying gas from canisters hidden in their shoes.

Also, the intruders seemed to have taken advantage of the layout of the complex, jumping into the Lok Sabha Hall quite easily from the visitors' gallery. The distance between the gallery and the hall seems to have been reduced in the new building, going by what some MPs said immediately after the incident. Another important point revealed by them was that the new system of entry into the building through a single access point as against three or four entry points in the old building seemed to have burdened the security apparatus.

That perhaps might have been the reason why the miscreants could hide the canisters in their shoes despite the much-touted five-tier security system in the new building. We can only imagine the horror that could have happened had they carried grenades instead of gas canisters. This incident was somewhat like what happened at Raj Ghat on October 2, 1986. Several VIPs, including the President, the Prime Minister and MPs had been saved, not by their security staff, but only because Karamjit Singh — an assailant who had hidden himself in tree branches despite a prior intelligence alert — possessed only a primitive muzzle-loading gun. Like in 1986, we cannot depend on providence for our VIP security.

In 2001, according to the Supreme Court's records, a white Ambassador car with a red beacon on top entered the Parliament complex around 11:30 am and arrived at the point where the convoy of the Vice-President was waiting near Gate No. 11. Inside the car were persons dressed in some sort of uniform. Since the escort vehicle was blocking its way, the suspect car turned away. This made the ASI in charge of the Vice-President's escort vehicle suspicious and he told the car driver to stop.

Instead, the driver reversed the vehicle and tried to move away. In the process, it hit the Vice-President's car. The ASI and the Vice-President's driver ran towards the suspect car and caught hold of the driver by the collar. Five Pakistani terrorists then got out of the car and started laying wires and detonators.

Seeing this, the ASI fired a shot, hitting the leg of one of the terrorists. The terrorist fired back, injuring the ASI in his right thigh. This exchange of fire alerted the police and special forces in the Parliament complex and a gunbattle started. The terrorists went from gate to gate within the complex, firing at the security men, and the latter returned fire.

Then BJP MP Ram Naik had told the media that there were three gates: Gate No. 12, through which the Vice-President — who is also the Rajya Sabha chairman — entered; Gate No. 1, from where the MPs usually came in; and Gate No. 5, from where the Prime Minister entered. He said the terrorists fired at all these three gates but could not enter the building as CRPF constable Kamlesh Kumari Yadav had closed the main entrance. According to reports, she died after being hit by 11 bullets.

None of this happened on Wednesday. The entry of the offenders was smooth. After the incident, several complaints were made by Opposition members: the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Security has not been constituted during the 17th Lok Sabha; there is 'political bias' in issuing visitor passes; there is increased presence of private security guards, who have allegedly replaced official parliamentary security guards and Central police forces in the new building.

Officially, the new building's five-tier security is foolproof: Visitors' entry is through the 'reception' near the Rail Bhavan. Also, verification of credentials is done at the security post on Raisina Road before they reach the 'reception'. There is a stipulation that before entering, all electronic gadgets, bags and wallets must be deposited in a designated cloak room. The visitors are screened at the reception, their passes are verified again, and they are checked again near the entry gate of the new building. The visitors are then grouped into those going to the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha and checked again at two gates. Before entering the respective visitors' galleries, they are checked once more.

None of this prevented the entry of these determined intruders. This audacious security breach, which comes weeks after Sikhs for Justice founder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's threat to Air India, speaks very poorly of the overall security of our sensitive institutions. Did our security managers assume that only Air India needed to be protected after that threat?

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Change Of Wind In Pakistan's Sindh

By NC Bipindra

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The question of Sindhudesh, a separate homeland for ethnic Sindhis sans any religious or other distinction, has consistently found widespread traction in the seven decades of existence of Pakistan.

The movement has been given impetus by the systematic oppressive policies of the Pakistani establishment, which the Urdu-speaking Muhajirs initially dominated and gradually overtaken by Pakistani Punjabis.

This relegated the natives to the margins of Pakistan's socio-economic development trajectory in Sindh, Balochistan, and tribal areas. Pertinently, Sindh continues to endure a demographic assault by the state-patronized influx of predominantly Pakistani Punjabis, resource deprivation as signified by a low share in the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award, skewed job opportunities, and significant suppressive measures.

The genesis of the Sindhudesh movement dates to the centralization of Pakistan's polity in the 1950s under the contested 'One Unit Plan,' wherein the provinces of Sindh, Balochistan, Pakistan Punjab, and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) were reorganized into a single unit, West Pakistan, at par with the East Pakistan (East Bengal) in 1955.

This autocratic move of extreme centralization, which continued till 1970 when the military took over under General Yahya Khan, sparked widespread resentment from the people and called for regional autonomy and federalism in the country. Sindhi nationalists regard this period as the "darkest epoch" in their history as the province came under complete dominance of Pakistani Punjabis.

With regards to Sindh, the seeds of discontent were sown during the very creation of Pakistan with the influx of Urdu-speaking Muhajirs from India and express state patronage to transform Karachi, the central city of the province, into the center of Muhajir politics, and imbalance its demographic composition.

The One-Unit plan, therefore, only added fuel to the prevalent disgruntlement as it appropriated and obliterated their local identity. Adopting Urdu as the pan-Pakistan official language further aggravated the situation, impressing the people that their cultural history was at stake.

As Farhan Hanif Siddiqi argues in his 2012 book, *The Politics of Ethnicity in Pakistan*, this put them at a significant disadvantage "as they had to learn a new language to apply for government jobs and positions."

These instances gave rise to a persistent sense of alienation among Sindhis. Ghulam Murtaza Syed, regarded as the founding father of modern Sindhi nationalism, even accused Pakistan's founder, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, of dismembering "Sindh by cutting off Karachi, its leading city, from it and handed it over to the Central administration with Liaquat Ali Khan as its head, for colonization of the town by Muhajirs.

For the Sindhis, the flight of socio-economic dominant Hindus to India during partition did not translate into any gain as Muhajirs took over the properties as well as the administrative jobs and hence continued being rendered at the lowest pedestal of the socio-economic pyramid of the country.

With continued marginalization at the hands of the Pakistani establishment, Syed, for the first time, called for the independence of Sindh and the establishment of ethnic Sindhudesh in 1972. These calls for freedom were also influenced by the dismemberment of Pakistan through the creation of Bangladesh a year ago in 1971 on ethnolinguistic differentiation.

Syed, in his 1974 book “A Nation in Chains: Sindhudesh,” which provides a blueprint and his conception of Sindhudesh, asserted that Sindh cherished a distinct language and culture, being home to Indus Valley Civilisation, and a 5,000-year-old history “which any nation and any country in the world would feel the greatest of pride to own and cherish.”

Apart from Syed, the other two most influential leaders shaping the Sindhi nationalist consciousness included Ibrahim Joyo and Shaikh Ayaz, jointly referred to as the “Sufi saints of Sindhi nationalism.”

Syed, who endured nearly 30 years of incarceration for Sindhi nationalist politics, further gave an organizational shape to the movement by establishing Jeay Sindh Mahaz in 1972, which riled the Pakistani state with its open calls for the liberation of Sindh and the establishment of Sindhudesh.

Given the high-handed approach of the Pakistani Army, the movement gradually descended into an armed struggle where several outfits have taken up the cause of the Sindhudesh establishment. Some of the prominent resistance groups include the Sindhudesh Liberation Army (SLA), Jeay Sindh Qaumi Mahaz (JSQM), Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz (JSM), Jeay Sindh Students’ Federation (JSSF), among others.

The Pakistani state has continued to adopt systemically discriminatory policies vis-à-vis Sindh over the years, using high-handed measures against the Sindhi nationalists along with the enforced disappearance of hundreds of civilians by the state security services.

These discriminatory policies have led to a growing alienation among Sindhis and hence given impetus to the nationalist struggle that the Pakistani government had claimed to subdue earlier through widespread suppressive measures from the 1970s onwards.

A prominent Sindhi advocacy group, Worldwide Sindhi Congress, accuses the Pakistan Army of “the practice of enforced disappearance” under which “hundreds and thousands of Sindhis, political workers, human rights activists have disappeared” over the years.

On record, the Government of Pakistan in 2021 asserted that it gave closure to nearly 5000 cases of enforced disappearances, even as over 2000 remain unresolved. However, these claims have been disputed by the rights groups, accusing the government of deflating the actual numbers.

The situation has been further aggravated by the fact that hundreds of unidentified bodies have sprung up over the years across the length and breadth of the province, pointing to the practice of extrajudicial killings at the hands of the state, as claimed by many rights groups.

A US Department of State report for 2022 has also highlighted that the Sindhi nationalists have been subjected to enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings, with dozens of bullet-riddled and mutilated bodies recovered across the province.

A September 2023 report by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan denounced the Pakistani government “over the human rights situation in northern Sindh, including rights violations against vulnerable groups, precarious law and order, poor access to education and healthcare, and other curbs on fundamental freedoms.”

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COP28: A Significant Compromise

By Uday Kumar Varma

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Historic Strides or Faint Echoes?

The concluding moments of COP28 saw the approval of a pivotal agreement, signalling a transition away from fossil fuels. The objective was clear - achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions globally by 2050. This decision, the most significant outcome of the Conference, referred to as a global stocktake, emerged after intense deliberations and a night of fervent negotiations. President Sultan al-Jaber characterized it as a plan propelled by science, describing it as an enhanced, balanced, and historic package to expedite climate action.

Yet, despite the optimism, the agreement's language on fossil fuels fell short of the expectations of many. Rather than endorsing a phased-out approach, as advocated by over 100 nations, the agreement called for a more measured "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade."

The Alliance of Small Island States expressed dissatisfaction, deeming the text incremental rather than transformational and pointing out perceived loopholes. This discontent highlighted the deep divides within the global community on environmental priorities.

A Beacon in the Darkness: Loss and Damage Fund

Amidst the complexities, COP28's outset offered a glimmer of hope. Diplomats from nearly 200 countries came together to approve a plan for a 'loss and damage' fund, a demand championed by developing nations for over three decades. This fund, currently backed by pledges totaling \$549 million, aims to provide assistance to vulnerable countries grappling with the aftermath of climate-related disasters.

The contributions to the fund vary, with the UAE and Germany leading the way with \$100 million each. The UK and Japan pledged \$75 million and \$10 million, respectively. However, the U.S. commitment of \$17.5 million drew disappointment, considering its status as the largest economy and the considerable impact it has had on climate change.

UNFCCC Reports: A Call for Urgent Action

The prelude to COP28 featured crucial reports from the UNFCCC Secretariat on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term low-emission development strategies (LT-LEDS) under the Paris Agreement. These reports, instrumental in shaping discussions at COP28, underscored the pressing need for accelerated global efforts to alter the trajectory of emissions.

The analysis of NDCs revealed a projection that emissions in 2030 would be 2% below 2019 levels. However, the absence of a rapid downward trend raised concerns. The peaking of emissions before 2030 was deemed contingent on implementing the conditional elements of NDCs, which in turn depended on enhanced financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building support.

The second report focused on LT-LEDS, incorporating submissions from 75 parties representing a substantial portion of the world's GDP, population, and greenhouse gas emissions. Despite many nations targeting net-zero emissions, uncertainties, and a deferral of critical actions to the future were evident.

COP28: A Confluence of Challenges

Even before the conference commenced, doubts lingered regarding its potential outcomes. The shadow of terrorist attacks across the globe, driven by groups prioritizing hatred and violence

over environmental concerns, cast a pall over the event. The Middle East crisis, the Hamas-Israel conflict, and the Russo-Ukraine war further overshadowed COP28, diverting global attention and impacting the intensity of discussions in Dubai.

In this challenging context, COP28 faced a formidable and fractious task. The global stage was set, and the expectations were high, but the hurdles were numerous.

India's Impact: From a 12-Year-Old's Activism to Prime Ministerial Commitments

India played a noteworthy role at COP28, capturing attention on multiple fronts. The dramatic entrance of Licypriya Kangujam, a 12-year-old climate justice activist from India, onto the COP28 stage sent ripples through the conference. Holding a sign that read "End fossil fuels. Save our planet and our future," Kangujam's brief appearance electrified the atmosphere, symbolizing the urgency felt by the younger generation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence at the conference underscored India's commitment to environmental issues. In his address on December 1st, Modi proposed hosting COP33 in India in 2028, emphasizing India's role in shaping global climate discourse. The launch of LeadIT 2.0, focusing on inclusive industry transition, showcased India's proactive stance in the pursuit of sustainable practices.

Addressing a session on Transforming Climate Finance, Modi urged developed countries to significantly reduce carbon footprint intensity by 2050. Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav echoed these sentiments, emphasizing equity and climate justice as foundational principles for global climate action. He outlined India's contributions, including initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuel Alliance.

Terrorism: An Uncharted Territory in Environmental Discourse

COP28 unfolded against the grim backdrop of global terrorism, with the Middle East crisis, the Hamas-Israel conflict, and the Russo-Ukraine war dominating headlines. While terrorism has traditionally been excluded from environmental discussions, there is a growing recognition of its indirect impact on sustainability.

Several arguments elucidate the links between terrorism and environmental threats, ranging from resource diversion due to counterterrorism efforts to the economic impact of terrorism diverting attention from green technologies. The need for acknowledging terrorism's role in impeding environmental progress is emphasized, considering its implications for global stability and cooperation.

An Honest Assessment: Unfinished Business

In a letter preceding COP28, the incoming UAE Presidency outlined four paradigm shifts: fast-tracking the energy transition, transforming climate finance, prioritizing nature and people in climate action, and aiming for the most inclusive COP ever. As the conference concludes, an honest assessment reveals limited progress in the first three shifts, with the fourth remaining largely aspirational.

Acknowledging the challenges, one minister aptly observed that, given the current global scenario, the outcomes of COP28 are a considerable achievement. 'There is an acknowledgement of the elephant in the room', this by itself is a great progress. The reaffirmation of environmental ambitions, while facing deferral in the face of present complexities, stands as a testament to collective intent.

In this seemingly dark hour, reflections on the night being darkest before the dawn prompt contemplation. COP28, with all its complexities and challenges, becomes a pivotal chapter in the ongoing narrative of global environmental commitments. As the world grapples with evolving crises and shifting geopolitical dynamics, the quest for sustainability continues, framed by the echoes of COP28 and the challenges that lie ahead.

New India's 5G Technology And 6G Testbed

By Alok Virendra Tiwari

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The 21st Century is often said to be the Era of Bharat. Bharat has been making significant strides in every aspect ranging from the social sector to the development of its technology. The Indic ideas are spreading rapidly and they are greatly helping in transforming the world. The Indian government since 2014 has been very successful in terms of improving the digital infrastructure in Bharat. On this line the rapid spread of 5G technology and the start of testing for developing the 6G technology is a very big step indeed.

In a remarkable stride towards a digitally empowered future, India is making significant progress in the field of telecommunications. With the adoption of 5G technology and the current research taking place to develop 6G, the country is on its way for developing faster, more connected, and technologically advanced lifestyles. India's rapid rollout of 5G services since October 2022 is indeed impressive. India's major telecom companies like Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea (VI) were actively participating in upgrading their networks to support 5G technology. As of August 2023, 5G services are already available in over 500 cities and towns across the country. This indicates a significant expansion of coverage within a relatively short period of time.

The Indian government has set an ambitious target of covering the entire country with 5G by 2024. This suggests a strong commitment to advancing the digital infrastructure and connectivity in India. Achieving this target would require extensive investment in network infrastructure, spectrum allocation, and regulatory frameworks. Capital expenditure required for 5G network rollout pan-India including spectrum, sites and fiber is estimated to be Rs 1.3 lakh crore – 2.3 lakh crore, of which Rs 78,800 crore – Rs 1.3 lakh crore is estimated for metro cities and 'A' circles.

It's important to note that the availability and implementation of 5G services can vary across different regions and cities within a country. While the government's target is to cover the entire country by 2024, the actual progress may vary depending on factors such as infrastructure development, technological challenges, and regulatory processes. The government has set up 100 5G labs across the nation which will provide the researchers and developers with the access to the latest 5G technologies and infrastructure. Be it 5G smart classrooms, farming, intelligent transport systems or healthcare applications it shows that India is emerging as a leader in 5G technology. This will help the government to create more jobs for our youths and reduce India's dependency on imported equipment's.

The next big question is that are we just happy with our performance in the present day or are we thinking about the future? And the answer is very clear, under the leader of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi India released its 6G vision just five months after 5G was announced in the country under the title "Bharat's 6G vision" which envisages India to be a front-line contributor in design, development and deployment of 6G technology by the year 2030. The 6G mission will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will be implemented between the years 2023 -2025 and the second phase from 2025- 2030 will be implemented. Through which soon India will become the leader for this 6G network like 5G. Bharat 6G technology is based on the fundamental principles of Affordability, Sustainability and Ubiquity. As industry's evolution is towards the cellular wireless access for 6G. According to many reports, it's a drive for establishing the hard-core foundation of technically advanced 6G over 5G. Hence Indian government is taking initiatives to enhance these technologies. Government is investing in 6G research at leading Indian universities and also research institutions.

On March 23, 2022, India launched its first 6G testbed. India's 6G testbed is one of the first in the world. The testbed is being developed by a consortium of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and other leading research institutions involving eight institutions led by IIT-Madras. This testbed will test and validate new technologies and research advancements for 6G. Artificial intelligence (AI) will play a very crucial role in 6G, as facilitating advanced features like autonomous communication, intelligent networks and enhanced security. 6G is likely to operate in tera hertz (THz) frequencies, which would enable the faster rate of data transmission than the 5G's gigahertz (GHz) frequencies. The vision document has recommended the creation of 10000 crores funds in INR to facilitate the service over the coming ten years to the required industry. India now has a total of 127 global patents for 6G technology. Also, to develop new 6G based applications and services. In the future, this will surely help to ensure that 'Bharat' is at the forefront of 6G development. As 6G is expected to revolutionize communication with unprecedented speeds, ultra -low latency, and seamless connectivity will be able to transmit more data in less time, allowing the users with a smoother experience. The 6G vision document released by department of Telecommunications (DoT) states that while 5G technology provides a speed of 40-1100 Mbps with its full potential to hit maximum speed of 10000 Mbps; 6G will soon offer the people with ultra -low latency with speeds up to 1 tera bit per second. It is 1000 times more than the top speed of a 5G network. Therefore, opening the doors for industries yet not in one's mindset. That means in the coming years even more exciting developments can be expected. Thus, it can be concluded that while we are still in the early stages of deploying 5G networks globally, it is very much clear that the industry has planned something out of the box. This progressive approach will not only revolutionize the way we interact but also position India as a pioneering nation in this digital era, attracting investments and driving the growth of its digital economy. It sets a precedent for other nations to follow in the pursuit of technological excellence.

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Super Mediocre Democratic Talent Ecosystem

By Sanjay Sahay

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The public domain democratic ecosystem in super mediocre is a statement of fact. There is nothing democratic about it is a given. The talent has no parameters but has wings to fly which "all of them" can see. The one's who have assumed the task of spotting such talent are not sure of their talent themselves. The power they wield is their talent. And more often that not, they have also been spotted in a similar manner, so they find a method in the madness, which for sure does not exist. The less said about the process the better.

Lack of process is the process. Who owns the responsibility of the talent so spotted and overnight given positions, which hold key to the destiny of crores of people. The ones who spot such great talent are the ones who evaluate the performance. It is a very closed system. If such a talent is not able to deliver, just change the talent / person and put someone else in this place through the same formula. As times a whole group of such talented people, like a government is shown the door. A new talent group emerges, again to disappear in the blue, if some reasonable challenges were to crop up.

Any parameter can be go against you or go in your favour. The operational principle is you need to be a person who needs to be favoured. One thing is for sure, that your education, positive / proactive attitude, expertise, demonstrated capability to deliver, capability to learn, work in multifarious environments etc. will never come to the fore in your favour.

Caste, creed, gender, race, region, religion et al, all taboos as per the constitution will be in full display and has turned out to be the operating system of the nation. Each of these parameters as and when required can sort of problems in that sector, area or sphere, is the democratic presumption.

To this talented group, the political leadership so to say, aligns the proven leaders of the permanent bureaucracy. They political leadership has its own pick, the parameters again unknown, at least not clear in the public domain. The two have been seamless, but of few odd aberrations which come to light in the public domain. Does lack of friction mean good governance, or manifests complete caving in, willingly or otherwise. What difference does it make? Add to this chunk of seamless democratic talent based on super talent acquisition; the advisors, consultants, companies, industry, academicians, researchers and what not, all spotted for talent in a similar manner. We are told they are bound to deliver. They have not so far, they never will.

DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC DOMAIN TALENT IS A MISNOMER.

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India is Proud of: Navrozji Fardunji

19th-century reformer and the 'great son' 1817-1885



Fardunji was one of the most influential figures to emerge from western India during the 19th century, and he played an outsized role in the political life of colonial Bombay and went on to contribute significantly to the emergence of the nationalist movement.

Born into a relatively prosperous Parsi family in Bharuch in Gujarat, a young Navrozji was a bright student and was sent to Bombay. Here, he was enrolled in a school run by the city's Native Education Society, which provided free education to deserving Indian pupils.

Navrozji's intellect and talent soon caught the attention of Alexander Burnes, the British explorer and political officer. In 1837, Burnes recruited the 19-year-old Parsi as a secretary and translator for a new diplomatic mission to Kabul.

However, he left the job and returned to India when his father died.

After returning to Bombay, Navrozji took up to teaching. He was appointed assistant professor at Elphinstone College, where, alongside the brilliant Maharashtrian polymath Bal Gangadhar Shashtri Jambhekar, he educated many future leaders of Bombay.

Their pupils included Bhau Daji Lad, Dadabhai Naoroji, Sorabji Shapurji Bengallee, and Vishwanath Narayan Mandlik. Navrozji became a trusted mentor to these students as they initiated Young Bombay's program of religious and social reform in the late 1840s and 1850s.

Navrozji engaged with a broad spectrum of Elphinstone graduates in promoting female education among various communities in Bombay. However, then the Bombay government, offered little financial support for setting up and running girls' schools. His persistence paid off. By 1858, Navrozji was in charge of a successful network of Parsi girls' schools in the city, managed and

financed by an energetic troupe of Indian volunteers and philanthropists, which operated in tandem with a growing number of schools for Gujarati and Maharashtrian girls.

Broaching the topic of self-government in 1880, especially before a panel of British government officials, required a degree of luck. Navrozji, however, had never worried about taking controversial positions in political matters. In 1852, he was a visible force behind the Bombay Association, where the shetia elite and young reformers joined hands to form the city's first political organisation.

Navrozji, along with Bhau Daji Lad, led the radical wing of the Association, which drafted a petition to the British Parliament in relation to the renewal of the East India Company's charter in 1854. Their petition demanded an ambitious set of political reforms, including Indian representation in the British Parliament as well as local councils and the broad appointments of Indians to the civil service.

Navrozji was particularly vocal about the need for Indian representatives in the British Parliament. In 1874, he collaborated with a prominent British supporter of Indian political reform, John Dickinson, on a proposal to create eight seats for India in the House of Commons, pointing out that the French, Portuguese, and Spanish already allowed some colonial representation in their legislatures.

In Bombay's municipal corporation and town council, Navrozji set the tone for strident Indian political activism, something later taken up by the likes of Pherozeshah Mehta. "His energy, his fluency, and his example have done more than anything else to make the Municipal Corporation of Bombay the first representative body in India," then the Times of India observed.

Increasingly, however, Navrozji became consumed with one issue: poverty. In the 1870s, along with Dadabhai Naoroji and members of the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, he began to push for immediate and wide-ranging political form to address India's glaring impoverishment. In a letter to British Prime Minister William Gladstone in 1871 he condemned the "deplorable" results of British rule, saying:

"The people are burdened with heavy taxes; India is impoverished by the drain of its wealth to the governing country; the people are denied an honorable career by being shut out from all the higher offices in the public service of their country, and no adequate efforts are made to rescue the people from ignorance, improve their condition and increase the produce and develop the resources of the country."

Such language quickly earned Navrozji many enemies within the British Indian establishment.

Navrozji passed away in Bombay in September 1885. News of his death apparently "spread like wildfire" through the city's streets, and the Bombay Municipal Corporation suspended its session as a token of respect.

Unfortunately, by 1930, the great man Navrozi Fardunji who always stood for just cause of Indian people, faded out from public memory.

Today, a short lane behind the Taj Mahal Hotel in Colaba is named after Navrozji Fardunji.

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