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# National interest first, talks on issues must go on: Modi

Says Democracy Is A Medium To Solve Differences

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New Delhi: In what seemed a defence of the new farm laws and other reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said all decisions should be taken keeping na-

► **PM: Basavanna first thought of parliamentary democracy, P 5**

tional interest in mind and that of the current and future generations in mind even as he quoted Guru Nanak to say a "dialogue must go on" on the issues of the day.

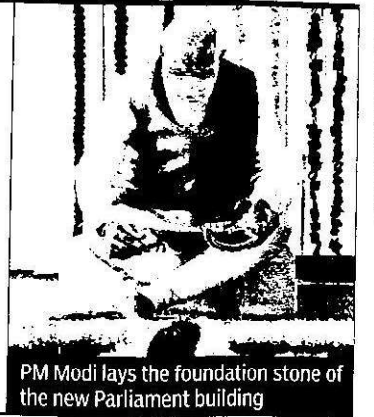
In a speech to mark the foundation stone ceremony of the new Parliament building, Modi said democracy has al-

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“Guru Nanak had said, 'jabtak sansar rahe, tabtak sambad chalte rehna chahiye' (so long as the universe exists, dialogue must go on). All our debate and dialogue, whether inside or outside Parliament, should reflect our oath for serving the nation and our dedication to national interest... If the old Parliament House gave direction to post-independence India, the new building would become a witness to the creation of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'

— PM Narendra Modi

The foundation for a new Parliament building was laid on the ruins of a liberal democracy

— P Chidambaram | Congress



PM Modi lays the foundation stone of the new Parliament building

ways been a medium to resolve differences. Pointedly citing the teachings of Guru Nanak, he said, "Guru Nanak had said, 'jabtak sansar rahe, tabtak sambad chalte rehna chahiye' (so long as the universe exists, dialogue must go on)."

The Prime Minister's remarks came in the backdrop

of several opposition parties skipping the function. No Congress leader was present barring former Speaker Shivraj Patil (former PM Manmohan Singh send a message), and DMK, TMC, NCP, Left parties, Shiv Sena, SAD and SP gave the proceedings a miss. Several opposi-

tion parties have opposed the Central Vista re-development plan and those that did not turn up have backed farm unions opposed to the new farm laws. Those who attended included YSRCP and BJD among some others.

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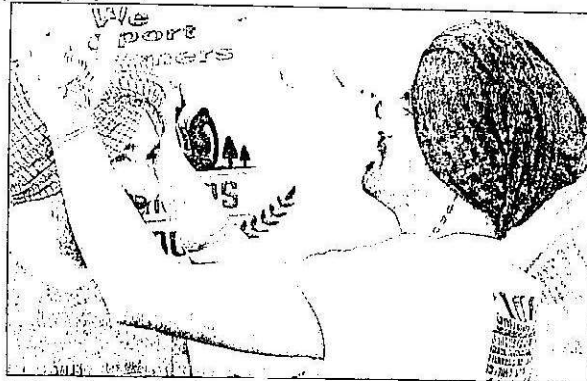
# Farmers getting benefits of new laws, says Tomar

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Farmers are protesting over the laws that allow sale of produce outside APMC-regulated mandis with protective legal framework, encourage contract farming and set higher bar for imposing stock limits on essential farm commodities.

Explaining the farm laws, Tomar said, "The government wants to liberate farmers from the shackles of 'mandi' so that they can sell their produce anywhere, to anyone, at their own price, outside the purview of the 'mandis'. The government has made this law for the whole country and farmers have started getting benefits." Goyal added that the election result of local bodies in Rajasthan was a testimony of farmers' support to the laws.

On the issue of penalty provisions for stubble burning in the new ordinance on air quality management in Delhi-NCR, Goyal explained the high penalty provisions were largely meant for industries or industrial pollution. "The government is committed for the well-being of farmers. On the stubble issue, the government is sympathetic to ensure farmers are not put to any inconvenience," he added.



Not only farmers, local people at Singhu border are also showing up in a sizeable number to support the protest against farm laws

## Making farmers protest in winter a violation of human rights: BKU

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**Bathinda:** Farmer organisation BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), which observed International Human Rights Day at Tikri border on Thursday, has claimed that farmers facing the brunt of winter while on protest is a violation of human rights by the Centre.

The organization said human rights violations are on the rise in the country for many years and raised its voice for unconditional release of writers, intellectuals and rationalists, including Gautam

Navlakha, Varvara Rao, Anand Tejtumbde and Sudha Bhardwaj, who were arrested in the Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Activists of most of the 32 farm organisations are sitting at Singhu border but BKU (Ekta Ugrahan) members have been stationed at Tikri border for the last 15 days. "The government is openly indulging in violating human rights, which needs to be reversed," said organisation president Joginder Singh Ugrahan.