Twitter Thread by ■yudhika

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@Rajat_Hind : This thread is dedicated to my two friends.

Declining a prestigious job in the US, a 28-yr old prodigy graduating from one of the Ivy Leagues, Princeton, chooses to return back to the motherland at a time when his future prospects looked bleak.



Two decades later, the young man had not only pioneered the science of building India's most celebrated space vehicles PSLV and GSLV but also raised to be the country's topmost cryogenic scientist.

This is the story of one of India's greatest space scientists, Nambi Narayanan

He envisioned the need for liquid fuelled engines for ISRO's future civilian space programmes.

Decades later, India envisioned a cryogenic engine project at ISRO and signed an agreement with Russia for transfer of technology to develop cryogenic fuel-based engines.

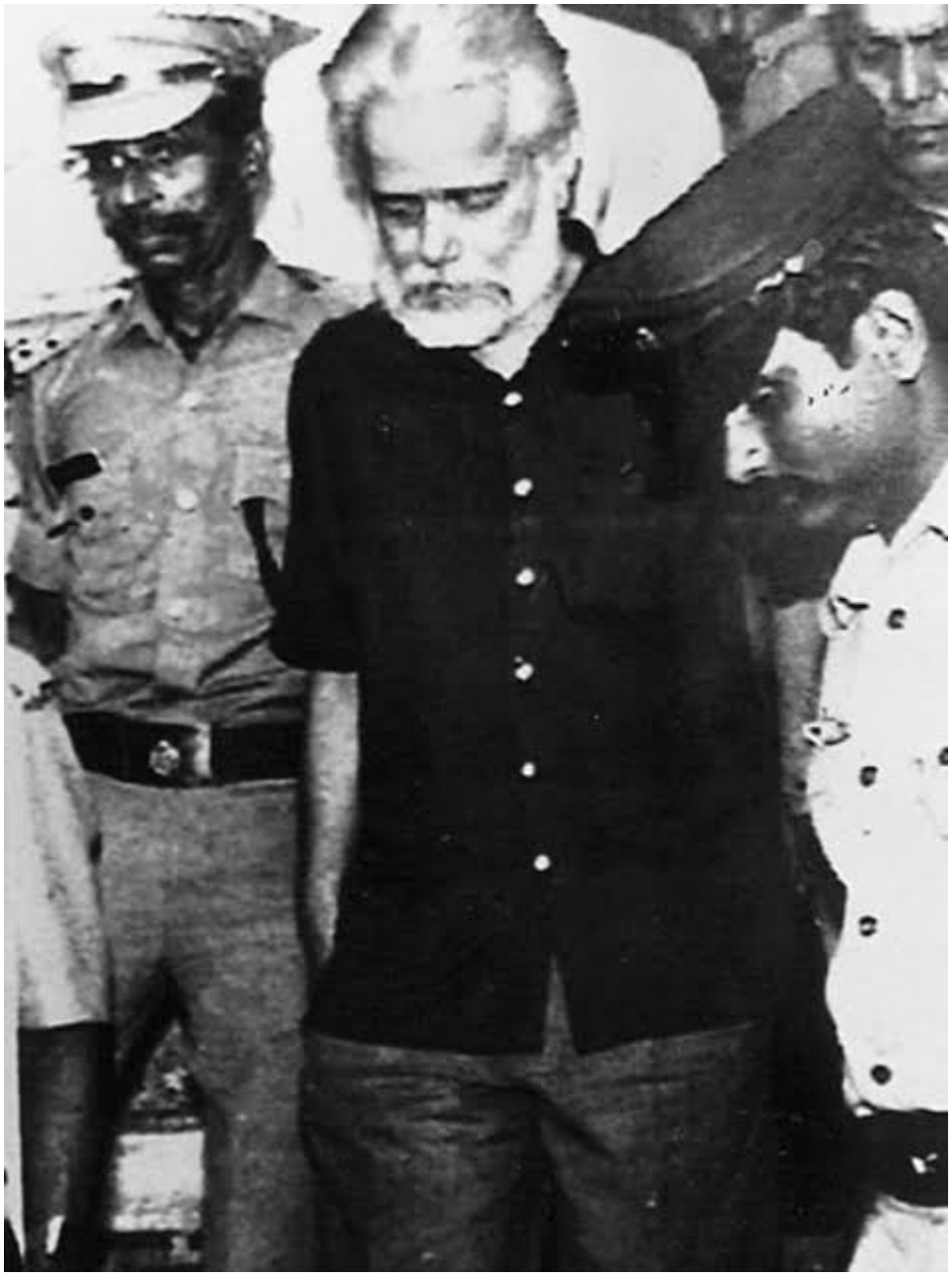


However, the deal did not materialise as the US put pressure on the Russians not to transfer such critical technologies to India

Nevertheless, India signed a new agreement with Russia to design four cryogenic engines and ISRO chose its finest man, Narayanan to head it.

At a time when everything was going at an ease, a fabricated spy scandal surfaced in late 1994 which shut the doors for one of India’s greatest rocket scientists, Narayanan. (A huge conspiracy/plot by the Congress).

Narayanan was arrested.



Initially, the police had come up with a theory stating that the two ISRO scientists, Narayanan and Sasikumaran had been trapped in a sex racket involving the Maldivians.

A team of IB officers had allegedly played a controversial role in the whole case to frame two top ISRO scientists who were incidentally working on a secret project to build cryogenic engines.

The case got murkier when RB Shrikumar, an officer close to Congress ecosystem was posted as the Deputy Director of the State Intelligence Bureau (SIB) at Trivandrum in 1994.

Shrikumar & other officials of the IB, along with the politically charged Kerala Police allegedly acted with a malafide intent not only destroy the career of Narayanan but also by compromising national security.

Years later, Narayanan pleaded the successive governments to investigate, expose the role of the CIA and politicians, police officers, media who had acted at CIA’s behest.

After 15 days of investigation by a SIT of the Kerala Police, the case was transferred to the CBI.

After 18 months of the investigation in April 1996 concluded that the case against Narayanan and others was fabricated. The CBI had reportedly submitted two confidential reports to the Union & Kerala governments listing respectively serious lapses by IB officials and SIT members.

Interestingly, five top most scientists of the country, Sathish Dhawan, UR Rao, Yashpal Rodham Narasimha, K Chandrasekhar and TN Seshan had also written a joint statement in 1997 stating how America is posing hurdles to block India's cryogenic engines programme.

The statement by the top scientists had subtly hinted regarding the outside interference in the cryogenic developmental programme by fabricating fake espionage cases against its top scientists like Narayanan.

However, the SC in 1996 had upheld the findings of the CBI and had asked the Kerala government to pay Rs 1 lakh in compensation to Narayanan and others. However, Narayanan had approached National Human Rights Commission seeking justice for the harassment & agony meted out to him



In 2001, the NHRC had awarded a compensation of Rs 10 lakhs to him.

The SC also awarded Narayanan a compensation of Rs 50 lakhs for his wrongful arrest and harassment by the Kerala Police in the 1994 ISRO spy case.

In 2019, Modiji finally awarded Padma Bhushan to Narayanan.



Can any compensation actually heal the mental and physical agony of our Scientists? Do they work hard only to be plotted against? How will our country progress if the Scientists are treated in this way?

All questions still remain unanswered.