

Indian Constitution has stood test of time : Sitharaman

New Delhi, Dec 16 (GNS) India's Constitution has stood the test of time in the last 75 years of its existence, even as most of the 50 countries that framed their Constitution around the same time have rewritten or changed features of their Constitutions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. Initiating the discussion on the 'Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India' in the Rajya Sabha, she paid homage to the 389 members of the Constituent Assembly, including 15 women, who took up the arduous challenge and prepared the Constitution for India in a very challenging environment. The Constitution of India "has stood the test of time," she said. "Today we are extremely proud of the way India's democracy is growing." As the country marks the 75th year of its Constitution, "it is time to reaffirm our commitment to build India, that is Bharat, that

shall uphold the spirit enshrined in this sacred document," she said. Stating that India and its Constitution stands out in a separate league of its own, Sitharaman said post second World War, over 50 countries had become independent and they had their Constitution written. "But many have changed their constitutions, not just amended them, but literally changed the entire feature of their constitution. But our Constitution has stood the test of time, of course, it yielded itself to very many amendments," she said, adding the amendments were the need of the hour. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said time would not be a constraint and as many speakers willing to speak would be accommodated by extending the duration of the discussion. The Rajya Sabha is functioning today for the first time since almost over two weeks of wasted time over multiple issues



-- BJP's attack on the Congress over alleged links with US businessman George Soros and his anti-India designs and an Opposition notice to bring a motion for the removal of Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar accusing him of acting like a government spokesperson. The Rajya Sabha will debate on the issue on Monday and Tuesday.

India, China Special Representatives' talks to be held in Beijing on Dec 18

New Delhi, Dec 16 (GNS) The Special Representatives of India and China on border issues will meet here on Wednesday to discuss the restoration of the bilateral ties following the October 21 agreement to disengage troops in eastern Ladakh. As agreed, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will hold the 23rd meeting of Special Representatives for the China-India Boundary Question in Beijing on December 18,



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian announced here on Monday. According to informed sources, Doval will arrive on Tuesday to attend the crucial talks, which are expected to provide a way forward

for the two countries to normalise the relations. Constituted in 2003 to comprehensively address the vexed dispute of the India-China border spanning 3,488 km, the SRs mechanism over the years met 22 times.

Grand Inauguration of Arya Samaj's 150th Foundation Year Celebrations

New Delhi, 16 December: Arya Samaj, which played a pivotal role in India's cultural and social renaissance, marked the grand inauguration of its 150th Foundation Year celebrations on 15 December 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, with Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh lauded the contributions of Arya Samaj over the past 150 years and emphasized the relevance of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's teachings in today's context. He appreciated institutions like DAV schools and the Gurukul system, which continue to play a crucial role in societal upliftment. Shri Singh unveiled the symbol for the year-long celebrations and expressed gratitude to the Postal Department for issuing the commemorative postal stamp on Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 200th birth anniversary.

Chief Guest Acharya Devvrat underscored the continued relevance of Maharishi Dayanand's teachings in addressing contemporary challenges. He praised Arya Samaj's educational institutions, which have successfully carried forward their role in nation-building for the past 150 years. The event was presided over by Shri Surendra Kumar Arya, Chairman of the Gyan Jyoti Parva Organising Committee. He assured Arya Samaj's active support for every progressive step taken by the government. Dignitaries including Shri Dharmpral Arya, Shri Prakash Arya, Shri Rakesh Grover, and Shri Virendra Sachdeva (Delhi BJP President) were also present on the occasion.

Resolutions Passed:

On this occasion, Arya Samaj passed the following significant resolutions:

1. Support for the Waqf Board Amendment Bill:

► Commemorative Postal Stamp Unveiled on Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 200th Birth Anniversary



Arya Samaj expressed strong support for the Waqf Board Amendment Bill, describing it as essential for just administration.

2. Concern over Atrocities on Minorities in Bangladesh: Arya Samaj expressed deep concern over the atrocities faced by Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and urged the Indian government to take strict action.

3. Opposition to Caste-Based Census: Arya Samaj opposed caste-based census, stating it poses a severe threat to the unity and integrity of the country.

4. "Gale Lagao" Campaign: To bridge societal inequalities, Arya Samaj announced the launch of the "Gale Lagao" (Embrace) campaign, aimed at integrating the most marginalized sections into the mainstream.

5. "Rishte Bachao, Desh Bachao" Campaign:

Highlighting the growing divide within families as a demographic challenge, Arya Samaj called for strengthening relationships through this campaign to protect the social fabric.

The highlight of the event was the unveiling of the commemorative postal stamp on Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati's 200th birth anniversary, released by the Postal Department of the Government of India.

Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati founded Arya Samaj on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada in 1875 in Mumbai. The 150th year will be completed in March next year. To commemorate this milestone, grand events will be organized in Mumbai and Delhi, with over 15,000 Arya Samaj institutions worldwide hosting year-long programs focused on education, social welfare, and cultural preservation.

Green Energy Policy of Telangana is getting ready: CMD

Hyderabad, Dec. 16 (NSS): Musharaff Faruqui, CMD, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd said the Green Energy Policy of the Government of Telangana is getting ready and will be released soon.

He was the chief guest at the valedictory function of the International Conference on Clean Energy organised, by the Energy Committee of the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in support of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India. Telangana has huge potential in terms of Green Energy. Telangana's potential is unique.

It is a landlocked state. It has specific advantages and challenges. It is the only state in India which gives free electricity to agriculture. It is also the reason why shifting from electricity to green energy is also challenging the officer added.

He unveiled an AI-powered platform brought out by a startup providing actionable insights and empowering consumers to conserve energy & reduce electricity bills.

Emphasis on the school's holistic approach to education

► Tulips International School celebrated annual day with great pomp



New Delhi: Tulips International School, Puth Khurd Delhi Bawana Road celebrated its annual day with great enthusiasm and a live display of talent. The event held at the school premises brought together students, teachers and parents in a celebration of creativity, achievement and unity. The event began with the lighting of the lamp by Councilor Anju Aman Kumar from Puth Khurd, Diya Badgel, National Director of AFS India, who was present as the chief guest, Pradeep Grover, President of Tulips International School, Dr. Vandana Tandon, Principal of Kamal Model Senior Secondary School Mohan Garden. Other members of the school management were also present on the occasion. In her welcome address, Co-Chairman Sunita Grover emphasized on the school's holistic approach to education, which combines academic excellence with extracurricular enrichment. At the same time, the cultural programs organized during this time became the center of attraction, in which the students gave many attractive

presentations. It highlighted the cultural diversity of India with performances ranging from classical and folk dances to contemporary performances and was received with thunderous applause. The school choir and instrumental ensembles enthralled the audience with a harmonious blend of Indian and western melodies at the concert. In ballet, senior students presented a poignant ballet titled Shadows in the Land Pollution Resonance, which conveyed a powerful environmental message. The event also recognised outstanding academic and extra-curricular achievements through a prize distribution ceremony. Kumar's inspiring speech impressed the audience, while Principal Zahra Ramish Rizvi in her annual report reaffirmed the school's commitment to holistic development, saying that true education lies in nurturing curiosity, courage and compassion. The event concluded with the school anthem, leaving the attendees with a deep nostalgia and a sense of pride in the school's achievements.

Baroda BNP Paribas AMC Introduces Baroda BNP Paribas Children's Fund to Secure Your Child's Future

Mumbai, December : Baroda BNP Paribas Asset Management India Pvt Ltd (Baroda BNP Paribas AMC) has launched a New Fund Offer (NFO) of Baroda BNP Paribas Children's Fund, a solution oriented goal based, equity mutual fund scheme designed to help parents secure their children's future. The solution-oriented fund will open for subscription on 6th December 2024 and close on 20th December 2024. The scheme is benchmarked to the Nifty 500 Total Return Index and will be managed by Mr. Pratish Krishnan. "As a goal-oriented solutions scheme, this fund addresses the crucial question on many parents' minds: 'Have we saved enough for our child's future?' It's our endeavour to offer a credible, growth-oriented investment option that aims to grow with the child and help fulfil the parents' dreams for their children," said Mr. Suresh Soni, CEO of Baroda BNP Paribas AMC. As a parent, we want the best for our children. But rising costs of education and extracurricular activities can be expensive. With education costs rising rapidly, it's essential to plan ahead. Inflation in education costs is 11% per annum, almost double the average inflation rate. In the last 20 years, MBA programs have become a staggering 8 times costlier! The rising cost of education is a pressing concern for parents today. Mr. Soni adds, "At projected inflation rates, say even an engineering degree costing Rs 6 lakh today could reach Rs 28 lakh in 20 years. Parents can leverage Systema-

tic Investment Plans (SIPs) with step-up options to potentially accumulate Rs 1 crore in 20 years\$ just by investing Rs 9,000 seeking to achieve their goals for a secure future for their child." The Baroda BNP Paribas Children's Fund will allocate at least 80% of net assets in the portfolio to equities and equity-related securities, using a comprehensive investment strategy that combines a top-down sectoral focus with a bottom-up stock-picking approach. This approach allows the fund to stay market cap and sector agnostic, aiming to maximize returns while managing risk. This open ended, solution-oriented Children's scheme comes with a 5-year lock-in period until the child reaches the age of majority, i.e 18 years (whichever is earlier). The clear goal orientation and lock-in period helps investors to stay invested for long-term. This allows investors to harness the power of compounding, ultimately aiming to create wealth to fund their child's dreams. The investment in the scheme can be made both, by way of lump-sum and Systematic Investment Plan (SIP). Key Highlights: Open for Subscription: 6th to 20th December 2024 Investment Focus: At least 80% in equity-related securities Benchmark: Nifty 500 Total Return Index Goal-Oriented: Helping parents save for children's education and other future needs For more information, visit [https://www.barodabnp-paribasf.in/] or get in touch with your AMFI registered investment advisor/ mutual fund distributor.

IUI vs IVF: Understanding Your Options for Success

When faced with fertility challenges, couples often turn to assisted reproductive technologies (ART) such as Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) and In Vitro Fertilization (IVF). Both options serve different fertility needs and offer different success rates, depending on individual circumstances. Understanding the differences between these two treatments is essential in choosing the right path to parenthood. Dr. Manjunath CS, an Infertility Specialist at Birla Fertility & IVF in Bangalore emphasizes, "IUI and IVF serve different fertility needs. IUI, often the first step, is less invasive and has a 10-20% success rate per cycle for unexplained infertility." IUI is typically recommended as the first step for couples experiencing unexplained infertility or mild fertility issues. In IUI, sperm is washed and concentrated before being directly inserted into the uterus, increasing the chances of fertilization. While less invasive and more affordable than IVF, IUI offers a lower success rate per cycle—typically ranging from 10% to 20%. Dr. Manjunath adds, "IVF, offering a 55-65% success rate for women

under 35, is preferred for complex cases like tubal blockages or severe male factor infertility." For more complex fertility issues, such as blocked fallopian tubes or severe male infertility, IVF is often the preferred choice. IVF involves fertilizing eggs outside the body and then transferring the embryos into the uterus. With advanced technologies, IVF has a much higher success rate, especially for women over the age of 35, with success rates ranging from 55% to 65%. It offers precision and can address a wide variety of fertility challenges, including issues that IUI cannot solve. "While IUI is cost-effective, IVF ensures higher precision through advanced techniques like embryo freezing," says Dr. Manjunath. IUI is a more cost-effective treatment option, but IVF offers a higher level of precision through techniques such as embryo freezing, genetic testing, and sperm injection, making it suitable for more complicated cases. IVF allows for better control over the fertilization process and offers the ability to preserve embryos for future use, providing greater flexibility.

Speaking out of turn

It will never be known for certain if Germany's naval chief Kay-Achim Schönbach would have had to resign 10 days ago if he had spoken respectfully about Russian President Vladimir Putin in Berlin, Brussels or Paris, instead of in New Delhi.

Vice-Admiral Schönbach said at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) in New Delhi that Putin needed to be treated as an equal by the West. 'It is easy to give him the respect he really demands — and also probably deserves.' His comments created a storm in the western world and he put in his papers to 'avert further damage' as he put it.

It is reminiscent of the military governor of the American Occupation Zone in Germany, General Dwight D Eisenhower's famous remarks at a post-World War II mass rally in Paris, where he spoke in glowing and respectful terms about the 'great people' without naming them. Charles de Gaulle, then chairman of the Provisional Government of the French Republic, who was present, assumed — as did the huge crowd — that the US army's Chief of Staff was speaking of the French people. The crowd clapped in delirious delight and de Gaulle beamed proudly.

No, Eisenhower clarified later. He was speaking of the German people, what a great people they were, as they are today too, without doubt. It is tempting to think what fate would have befallen Eisenhower if there was Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp in 1945 when he had spoken in praise of the defeated Germans. Would Eisenhower have got the marching orders from President Harry Truman, like the German naval chief? Perhaps. But instead, Eisenhower went on to become the first Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and then the 34th US President.

It is an understatement to say that Germany has been less than enthusiastic about helping Ukraine in that country's ongoing war of nerves with Russia. While the US and a host of NATO countries have been supplying deadly weaponry to Kyiv, Germany has balked at doing anything of that kind.

Ukraine's government was livid last week when Germany responded to pleas for help with little more than 5,000 helmets to be used in the eventuality of a combat with Russia. To add insult to injury, as it were, Germany's defence minister, Christine Lambrecht, told Ukrainians that they should see this farcical German contribution to war efforts as proof that 'we are on your side'.

Are Ukrainian soldiers supposed to headbutt the well-trained, well-equipped Russian forces with these helmets if Putin sends in his troops across the border, a German political figure of Ukrainian descent asked on Twitter. It was one of many such sarcastic responses to the German defence minister's military aid announcement. Schönbach said in New Delhi that Putin was not 'interested in having a tiny strip of Ukrainian soil' and that he knew he could split the European Union over Ukraine. It may be this last part of his statement which cost the Vice-Admiral his job because it hit home. Germany is the stand out within the EU on getting Putin to back down on his opposition to letting Ukraine join the western alliance.

So when Schönbach talked about Russia's ability to divide Europe, he appeared to confirm worries in the US that Germany was, in fact, the stumbling block to a unified EU stand against Moscow's policies. That is the truth which Germany's ruling politicians have been trying to paper over. Lambrecht, therefore, was left with no option but to let her Chief of Navy go.

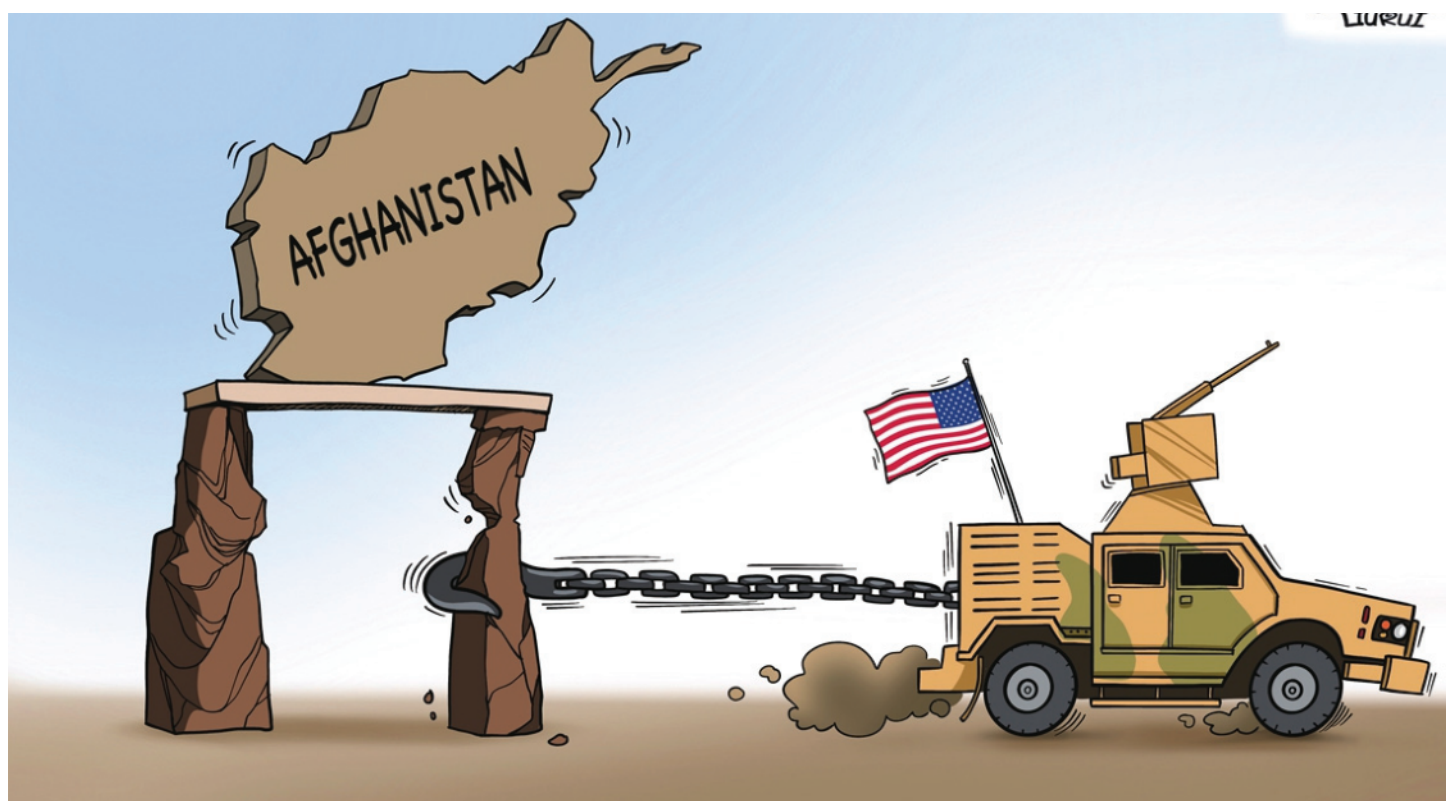
Many of the things the Vice-Admiral said at the MP-IDSA would not have to be said at all anywhere in Europe. Here are some examples. Schönbach described himself as 'a very radical Roman Catholic'. Such an explanation of identity is not called for in interactions at high levels within Germany or elsewhere in Europe. A statement of that kind has relevance only in a non-Christian country and while addressing people who are not of any Abrahamic faith. Yet, hearing such a statement from a European military professional can be jarring, especially when the wounds left by the ethno-religious conflicts in former Yugoslavia continue to impact the continent.

In worse taste was his assertion that Russia was also a 'Christian country, even if Putin is an atheist, it doesn't matter.' The inference it left behind was that in any quarrel between Christian and non-Christian societies, Germany would cast its lot with the Christians. It is possible that was not what Schönbach had in mind. As he explained, he was talking about China and its emergence. But China is not a Christian country, nor is India. Given Germany's pre-World War II history, such statements can be disconcerting. Its impact was amplified because he said those things in New Delhi. Such statements would not be made in Europe because these truths are self-evident there.

Afghanistan's economy is collapsing, the United states can help stop it

As an Afghan American, I have worked for the last 20 years to try to help the people of my home country overcome economic woes and build a more prosperous economy for all. Right now, those hopes are in jeopardy. Afghanistan faces one of the most acute crises I have seen in my career — and the antidote remains locked in New York. In August, the United States froze \$9.1bn of Afghanistan's national reserves held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. As a result, the economic situation in the country has deteriorated rapidly. The people of Afghanistan are increasingly unable to afford basic goods, its currency is facing hyper depreciation, and its already fragile economy is on the brink of collapse. Make no mistake, a catastrophe is imminent. The Central Bank of Afghanistan is supposed to conduct monetary policy operations to control the US dollar to the afghani exchange rate and keep inflation at bay. It has historically leveraged this auction process to produce remarkably stable exchange rates and inflation for a developing economy, in the single digit percentages. But with no access to its dollar-denominated reserves, the Central Bank is not able to perform this critical market stabilising function. Due to a heavy reliance on imports, the Afghan economy is dependent on the US dollar to function even in normal times. With rising demand for foreign currency and reports of 30 percent depreciation of the afghani against the dollar, the effective price of imported goods has increased by at least 20-30 percent over the last few months. In a country already devastated by the twin crises of war and COVID-19, the desperate lack of dollars in the market is leaving importers unable to pay for their shipments. Food is becoming scarce and grocery stores are unable to fully restock. As prices rise, people are rushing to withdraw and spend their savings before the banking sector collapses. Private businesses are not able to fund operations, shutting down and laying off the privileged few

► The US can allow some money of the Afghan national reserves to be used for economic stabilisation under strict control.



who still have jobs. A growing number of Afghans are suffering from hunger, poverty, and a lack of access to basic goods and services. In short, the country is in a total humanitarian crisis. While this will devastate every Afghan, the Taliban government in Kabul will avoid the worst of it. They will blame the US for the country's economic woes — and so long as they can point to the assets held frozen under US control, the people will believe them. The choice for the US government is simple: continue down the path that would lead to total economic devastation for millions of people or do what is needed to help the Afghan people. I propose that the US allow the Central Bank of Afghanistan limited, monitored, and conditional access to \$150m per month from Afghanistan's foreign reserves — roughly half of

what the Central Bank would auction off monthly in the past. This common-sense policy would unfetter the bank to fulfill its role of maintaining price stability and prevent this imminent crisis. The US would have the ability to verify how these funds are used via one of the independent international auditing firms that are still operating in Afghanistan. The transactions between the Central Bank and commercial banks take place on an electronic exchange where each transaction and its value are automatically recorded. If the US finds any misappropriation, it can cut off the funds at any moment. After all, the vast majority would still be deposited at the New York Federal Reserve. This type of leverage is a win-win for the US. The Central Bank is an entity independent from the Afghan government. For decades, it

has helped to achieve and maintain price stability and advance the economy, all the while remaining a beacon of hope and prosperity for Afghanistan. But if it is not allowed access to its reserves, that could all be lost. As the recent US engagement with the Taliban on the peace deal has shown, Washington has the power to negotiate many issues of national interest without hurting the economic future of the people of Afghanistan. Afghans deserve to be safe and prosper in their land. But right now, US policy is holding them back. The US must allow the Afghan people access to their own reserves in a monitored, common-sense way, or the country will collapse. We have the power to lift the Afghan people out of this crisis. For the sake of both my home and my adopted country, I hope we act on it.

Science-based growth part of Netaji's vision

► It is ironic that while technology is being used to perpetuate Netaji's memory, his ideas of economic planning based on science and technology, industrialisation and cooperative federalism have been buried under the new edifice of the NITI Aayog. Netaji had advocated a strong Central govt for rapid economic growth powered through industrialisation

THE year-long celebration to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has begun with the unveiling of a 'hologram statue' of him under the colonial-era canopy near the India Gate in New Delhi. A 28-ft-tall three-dimensional image of Netaji is being projected on a near-transparent holographic screen to create a visual effect of a statue, till the one cast in stone gets ready and is installed.

However, not far from this holographic tribute to the national hero stands a living monument signifying his biggest contribution to free India — the now-defunct Planning Commission. It is ironic that while technology is being used to perpetuate Netaji's memory, his ideas of economic planning based on science and technology, industrialisation and cooperative federalism have been quietly buried under the new edifice of the National Institute of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.

During Netaji's birth centenary year (1997), the Planning Commission published a booklet titled 'Subhas Chandra Bose: Pioneer of Indian Planning'. Madhu Dandavate, who was the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, wrote that Netaji's thoughts on economic planning were still relevant and that 'much of what he had advocated was still to be translated into reality'.

For instance, Netaji had advocated a strong Central government for rapid economic growth powered through industrialisation but by affording provinces 'a large measure of autonomy'. The Netaji centenary coincided with the formulation process of the Ninth Five Year Plan, for which the United Front government held consultations with state governments and also with Panchayati Raj Institutions and civil society. Twenty-five years later, as we celebrate another landmark anniversary of Netaji, we have neither any such pretension left nor the Planning Commission. Netaji was not only a pioneer of economic planning but also a strong believer in the application of science and technol-

ogy for development. Physicist Meghnad Saha was a senior of Bose at the Presidency College and the two remained in touch thereon.

Their ideas on several issues converged as Bose entered active politics. Saha had advocated the need for national planning in the columns of his journal, Science and Culture. Bose, as the Congress president, piloted the idea of establishing the National Planning Committee (NPC) at the Haripur session of the Indian National Congress in 1938 and invited Saha to join the process.

NPC, according to historian Robert S Anderson, was to be originally chaired by Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya who had already demonstrated the power of industrialisation through economic planning in Mysore.

Saha then convinced Visvesvaraya not to accept the offer as the panel would otherwise be seen as an academic exercise within the Congress party, a section of which was opposed to heavy industries. Thus, Bose wrote to Nehru to head NPC for it to be a success.

Saha got Bose to commit to a greater role for science and scientists in national development in India of future. At a meeting of the Indian Science News Association which Saha had founded, he pointedly asked Bose if the Congress party was committed to promoting science-based industrialisation and to set up a National Research Council.

'National reconstruction will be possible only with the aid of science and scientists,' Bose assured. He also supported the idea of a research council to conduct research aimed at applying science and technology in the process of industrialisation.

It was at this meeting in August 1938 that Bose made this famous statement that India could not afford to wait for a slow industrial revolution like Britain but needed 'a forced march as in Soviet Russia'. By this time, the NPC had already started guiding the Congress ministries in the provinces, and Bose declared that 'when we have a national



government for the whole country, one of the first things we will have to do is appoint a National Planning Commission'. Bose complimented Science and Culture for publishing articles on problems directly related to industrialisation. He wanted India's industrial policy to focus on 'mother industries' like power, metal production, machine and tools manufacture, transport, and basic chemicals. Scientific industrial research, according to Bose, should be 'free from government control of every kind'. Bose's thoughts on promoting infrastructure industries and autonomy for scientific institutions remain relevant.

The working of NPC stands out as an example of a truly national venture in which leading scientists, technical experts, industrialists, officials of provincial governments all participated. It also included a representative of the All India Village Industries Association, to counter the view that NPC was advocating heavy industries at the cost of cottage industries. The NPC worked through 29 sub-committees on different sectors like energy, education, public finance, land policy, population, engineering industries, communications, transport, scientific instrumentation and so on. Another sub-panel was formed on 'census and statistics' to collate and provide data necessary for the

planning exercise. Each sub-committee was given a deadline to complete the task, and periodic reviews were held at the NPC secretariat in Bombay, despite the exigencies of the ongoing freedom movement. The NPC provided a broad outline as well as sector-specific strategies, identifying problem areas and possible solutions. For instance, it laid down that all 'key industries' such as defence must be state-owned, while public utilities could be owned by some organ of the state like a local board or public trust. The state ownership should be through an 'autonomous public trust' to ensure public ownership and control while avoiding inefficiencies associated with full state control.

Key problem areas were identified in different sectors, like the need for developing indigenous drug industry and nitrogen fertilisers were emphasised by the sub-committee on chemical industries. The panel recommended setting up a National Chemical Laboratory. To tackle under-nutrition and malnutrition, the sub-committee on population suggested the formation of a Central Nutrition Board and regional boards attached to it, and propagation of modern birth control methods. Such ideas, along with the guiding principles laid in the NPC report, formed the starting point of the Planning Commission in free India.

Better medical services should be provided in PSC

- ▶ Hanumakonda District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Appiah
- ▶ Uppal Primary Health Center Sudden Inspection Officer

Warangal, 16 December : Hanumakonda District Medical and Health Officer, Dr. Appiah, conducted a surprise inspection of the Uppal Primary Health Center (PHC) on Monday to evaluate the services provided to patients and ensure quality medical care. During the visit, Dr. Appiah inspected key areas, including the lab, pharmacy, operation theater, ward rooms,

and outpatient (OP) services. He also assessed the general upkeep and cleanliness of the premises. Following this, he visited the Bhimpalli AYUSH Health Center to review its structure, surroundings, and the medical services offered. Dr. Appiah focused on understanding the healthcare provisions related to hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and other chronic illnesses at the PHC and AYUSH centers. He emphasized the importance of delivering better medical services to meet community needs. Medical staff from the Primary Health Center in Uppal, as well as those from the Bhimpalli and Gundedu AYUSH Health Centers, participated in the program, underscoring their commitment to improving healthcare in the region.

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Efforts to Curb the Spread of TB Emphasized in Mulugu District

- ▶ Mulugu District Medical and Health Officer, Dr. Gopala Rao

Mulugu, 16 December : Mulugu District Medical and Health Officer, Dr. Gopala Rao, chaired a review meeting on the National TB Control Program at the District Medical and Health Department office on Monday. During the meeting, he stressed the need for well-structured action plans to combat tuberculosis (TB).

These plans should be communicated to Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in advance, ensuring continuous TB diagnostic testing is conducted. Dr. Gopala Rao called on the District TB Program Officer, Dr. Chandrakant and TB staff to focus on increasing the identification of TB patients. He highlighted the importance of preventing the disease's spread by ensuring timely supply of TB medicines and registering cases on the TB portal for effective tracking and treatment. The meeting was attended by key district health officials, including Dr. Vipin Kumar (District Deputy Medical Health Officer), Dr. Srikanth (District Maternal Health and Nutrition Program Officer), Dr. Chandrakant (District TB Control Program Officer), A.M.O. Durga Rao, DPP M. Pullur, and technicians including Sammayya,



officials, including Dr. Vipin Kumar (District Deputy Medical Health Officer), Dr. Srikanth (District Maternal Health and Nutrition Program Officer), Dr. Chandrakant (District TB Control Program Officer), A.M.O. Durga Rao, DPP M. Pullur, and technicians including Sammayya,

STS Raju, Chandramouli, Ravi Parusuram, and Sambayya. Dr. Gopala Rao emphasized that curbing TB requires a collaborative effort from all health teams to ensure effective diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring, which are critical in controlling the disease's spread.

Prakash IPS visited Telangana Minority Gurukul School, Kalashala Moinabad Girls-1

Pragati Express Chevella : Telangana State Tourism MD N. Prakash Reddy visited the IPS College as the Chief Guest for the Diet Men program at the Telangana State Minority Gurukul School College in the boundaries of Peddamangalam village under Moinabad mandal. In this program, the students inspected the kitchen, library, class rooms and dormitory of the college premises. Chandrasekhar IFS came as another unexpected guest in the diet menu program. Together, the two explained the 40 percent increase to the students and provided them with good nutritious food. Also, Prakash Reddy IPS said that the



use of cell phones should be reduced among the students, drugs should be banned and they should have the courage to call 100 in case of any danger and the children of

today are the citizens of tomorrow. Gurukula Minority College Principal Rajini Deepa, teachers, students and college staff participated in this program.

District Collector Vallur Kranti started the CM Cup competition as a bribe

Sangareddy District December 16 : TGIIC Chairman Nirmala Jaggarreddy participated in the inauguration ceremony. The district level Chief Minister's Cup games competition started in a festive atmosphere.

District Collector Valluri Kranti inaugurated the district level CM Cup games under the supervision of DYSO Kasim Baig, District Liaison Officer for State Level and TNGO'S District President Javid Ali at Dr. BR Ambedkar Stadium in Sangareddy Town Center.

After receiving the parade and salute of NCC students and athletes, the torch was lit and the games started. The pledge was taken with the athletes who came from all the mandals of the district.

TGIIC Chairman Nirmala Jaggarreddy started the Kabaddi competition with a toss and District Collector Vallur Kranti started the volleyball game with a toss. Collector



tor Vallur Kranti said that it is a good program undertaken by the government to encourage the youth. He said that the main purpose of this tournament is to bring out the talent of the youth in the rural areas, and the main purpose is to select talented athletes and participate in sports at the state

and national level and bring more schemes. District Trainee Collector Manoj, Library Corporation Chairman Anjaiah, School Games District Secretary Amulyamma, District Officers, Public Representatives, PDs, PETs, DSA Staff, Sports persons and others participated in this program.

Powerlifting district president who started district level powerlifting competitions at Bhadrachalam city style gym

- ▶ Bhadrachalam City Style Gym Coach GV Ramireddy

Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau 16 : As part of CM Cup 2024, district level powerlifting competitions were inaugurated at Bhadrachalam city center by Bhogala Srinivas Reddy, President of Bhadradi Kothagudem District Powerlifting Association. On this occasion, he said that district level power lifting athletes should participate in the CM 2024 cup organized by Telangana state government and show talent at district level and state level. It was informed on this occasion. Certificates were distributed to the winning athletes in this program by the dignitaries on the stage and from the hands of the association members. In this program, Telangana State Vice Presidents, V Mallesh, Bhadradi Kothagudem District President,



Bhogala Srinivas Reddy, District Vigilance Committee Member, Lakawat Venkateswarlu, Power Lifting District Secretary, GV Ramireddy, District Vice President, Dr. Shivaramakrishna Prasad, District Treasurer, Mahanti Venkatakrishnaji, Prominent

community workers of the town, Gade Madhavareddy, National Senior Powerlifter, SK Abdul Farooq, Caveti Ramesh Samimuddin, Bhogala Veera Reddy, and athletes of the district, and athletes of the city style gym participated in the event.

Congress govt will damage the existence of Telangana: Manthani ex-MLA Putta Madhukar

- ▶ CM Revanth Reddy's focus is on changing names and forms
- ▶ Telangana Veeravanita statue set up at Ramagiri Land
- ▶ Arrangements for Cone Laying by MLC Kavitha

Peddapalli / Ramagiri, Dec 16: Manthani's former MLA Putta madhukar said that the Congress government is damaging the existence of Telangana, which was achieved with the aspirations of four crore Telangana people. Speaking at a press conference held at Centenary Colony in Ramagiri mandal on Monday, he said that the soil that led the Malidasa movement was the soil of Ramagiri and Singareni workers started the movement from Telangana Chowk here. He criticized the Congress party government that came to power in Telangana state and CM Revanth Reddy is focusing on changing names and forms instead of focusing on public gov-



ernance. He said that Telangana Veeravanitha have damaged the self-esteem of Telangana by changing the form of Telangana's mother. He said that it is ironic to change the appearance of the mother of Telangana. He said that arrangements are being made to inaugurate the statue of Telangana VeeraVanitha on the Ramgiri soil, who led the

Malidasa movement. He said that the foundation stone will be laid soon for the inauguration of the statue by the hands of former MP and MLC Kalvakunta Kavitha. He said that the Congress party is acting the same way when it came to power and the same way after coming to power. He said that Singareni workers were also cheated. He

said that the Singareni organization has been completely weakened and is moving forward. He requested Telanganaists, Singareni workers and BRS activists to participate in large numbers in the cone-laying program of Telangana Veeravanita and Mother of Telangana by the hands of MLC Kavitha and made it a success.



Sangareddy District December 16: Chief Justice of Sangareddy District Court for distribution program of lawyers' daily (diaries) held under the leadership of President of Bar Association Vishnuvardhan Reddy. Bhavani Chandra attended and distributed diaries to the advocates. Bar association

president A. Members of Vishnuvardhan Reddy's working group Sur Reddy, Ambarish, Ramesh, Ashok, Anjaneyu, Lalitha, Madhavi, Veera Mahender, Nizamuddin, Gyanoba, Pentaiah, Ramadevi, Vinod Kumar, Vijay Kumar and senior advocates, members of the Bar Association participated.



Today giving representation to DY Commissioner of GHMC. R/JNR in Prajaa Wani. By Congress leaders Syed Muzammil Ahmed, Sameer Khan, Abbu Zair Bhai. Regard Street Lights. Patch works. Tree cuttings. Staff increase. DY Commissioner good response.

3rd Test : Australia's quicks rattle India on stop-start day in Brisbane

► India 51 for 4 (Rahul 33*, Starc 2-25) trail Australia 445 (Head 152, Smith 101, Carey 70, Bumrah 6-76) by 394 runs

Brisbane, Dec 16 (GNS) Only 33.1 overs were possible on what may have been the stop-startiest day in the history of Test cricket, featuring as many as eight stoppages for rain, but Australia kept alive their hopes of going 2-1 up with two days remaining at the Gabba. They stretched their first-innings total to 445 on the morning of day three before Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins ripped out India's top order over the remainder of the day's play, in between the many rain breaks. India went to stumps at 51 for 4, 394 runs adrift of Australia, and their first target when the Test match resumes will be to get to 246 to avoid the follow-on. If they get there, they dramatically improve their chances of getting to Melbourne with the series still level. Rain is expected on days

four and five as well, so Australia may be battling time if they're forced to bat again. Australia's last three wickets added 40 runs to their overnight 405 for 7.

There were brief spells of rain either side of the 17.1 overs they took to do so as well as one in between, after Jasprit Bumrah removed Pat Cummins to pick up his sixth wicket of the innings and his 50th in Tests in Australia. Alex Carey, who had raced to 45 on the evening of day two to keep Australia's advantage intact after a three-wicket burst from Bumrah, brought up his half-century and played some resplendent strokes - including an effortless six over wide long-off off Akash Deep - before he was last out for 70. He was out to Akash Deep, who finally got a wicket with the 53rd false shot he had induced in the innings.



Junior team defends Asia Cup title with win over China

► India's goalkeeper Nidhi stole the limelight in the penalty shootout, making three sensational saves to help India overcome three-time champions China 3-2 (1-1) and clinch their second consecutive Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey title.

Muscat, Dec 16 (GNS) India's goalkeeper Nidhi stole the limelight in the penalty shootout, making three sensational saves to help India overcome three-time champions China 3-2 (1-1) and clinch their second consecutive Women's Junior Asia Cup hockey title.

Nidhi's heroics capped off a stellar performance, having already stood tall during regulation time by thwarting multiple attempts from the Chinese forwards as the four quarters ended in a nerve-wracking 1-1 stalemate. While skipper Jinzhuang Tan scored for China in the 30th minute, Kanika Siwach's strike early in the second half (41st minute) brought India back into the game in an



intense battle for supremacy. Sakshi Rana gave India a perfect start in the shootout by converting the first attempt, while Nidhi denied China's opener. China fought back as Hao Guoting equalised, and af-

ter misses from Mumtaz Khan and Kanika, it was Ishika's top-corner strike that kept India level at 2-2. Nidhi's heroics in the final two attempts, blocking shots from Li Jingyi and Zuo Dandan, set the stage for

Sunelita Toppo, who sealed the win with a composed finish to seal a memorable victory for India. Hockey India announced a reward of Rs 2 lakh for every player and Rs 1 lakh for each support staff member.

'We are in transition' - Bumrah defends India's bowling show



Brisbane, Dec 16 (GNS) Jasprit Bumrah has defended the rest of the Indian bowling attack who have come under some criticism for the way they have struggled to provide support to him over the course of this Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

"See, we don't as a team point fingers at each other and we don't want to get into that mindset where we are pointing fingers at each other [and say] that 'you should do this, you should do that'."

"Obviously, we, as a team, are going through a transition where new players are coming here and it's not the easiest place to play cricket."

Over here, it's a different atmosphere with this wicket being a different challenge. So yeah, we're not looking at that. "Obviously, as a bowling unit, as I said, we are in transition, so it's my job to help the others. I have played a little more

than them, so I am trying to help them. But again, everyone will learn through it, will get better and eventually will find different ways. So this is the journey that you'll have to go through."

"We have had conversations but this was the conversation he had with me before we came [to Australia]," Bumrah said of Siraj. "I think when we came here in Perth, as well as the last game, he looked in very good spirits."

He was bowling well and he has picked up a fair few of the wickets. In this game, I think I'll give him credit that he had a little bit of a niggler but he still kept on bowling and still helped the team because he knew if he goes inside and he doesn't bowl, then that team will go under pressure. So I think he has got a great attitude and he has got a fighter spirit that the team loves."

Simran costliest player in WPL mini-auction

Bengaluru, Dec 16 (GNS) Mumbai cricketer Simran Shaikh became the costliest player of the Women's Premier League mini-auction after being bought by Gujarat Giants for Rs 1.90 crore even as veteran India player Sneha Rana went unsold. On a day when five teams competed to fill 19 slots from a pool of 120 players to finalise their squads for next year's WPL, the other top money earners were West Indies stal-

wart Deandra Dottin (Gujarat Giants — Rs 1.70 crore), 16-year-old U19 wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini (Mumbai Indians — Rs 1.60 crore), Prema Rawat (Royal Challengers Bengaluru — Rs 1.20 crore) and N Charani (Delhi Capitals — Rs 55 lakh).

Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Giants were involved in a bidding war for Simran before the latter raised the bar to net her. Simran, 22, is a middle-order batter. She

played a few matches for UP Warriorz during the 2023 WPL season. She made 176 runs in 11 matches for Mumbai in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy in October-November.

All-rounder Dottin, who is currently in India with the West Indies team for the white-ball series, was the costliest among overseas players and was bought by the Giants for the second time in the auction.

World chess champ Gukesh arrives in Chennai to rousing welcome

Chennai, Dec 16 (GNS) World chess champion D Gukesh arrived home on Monday to a rousing reception at the airport here, days after he became the youngest player to win the coveted honour. A large number of fans thronged the airport to receive the young chess champion, even as the state government officials, led by Additional Chief Secretary Dr Atulya Misra, welcomed Gukesh. Gukesh arrived from Singapore. The 18-year-old champion expressed joy over his achievement and thanked for the all-round support. The Indian Grandmaster last week became the youngest world chess champion at 18 years after beating title-holder



Ding Liren in the last game of a nerve-wracking showdown in Singapore to herald a new era of dominance for the country's chess players. The Tamil Nadu government had announced a cash reward of Rs 5 crore to Gukesh. The "multi-million-

aire" tag does "mean a lot" to new world champion D Gukesh but he doesn't play the game for material gains but for that unbridled joy, which he has been able to retain since the time a chess board used to be the "coolest toy" for him.

Kane Williamson ton has England staring down prospect of heavy defeat

► England 143 and 18 for 2 (Bethell 9*, Root 0*, Southee 1-4, Henry 1-14) need another 640 runs to beat New Zealand 347 and 453 (Williamson 156, Young 60, Mitchell 60, Bethell 3-72)

Hamilton, Dec 16 (GNS) Kane Williamson's superb century led New Zealand to a gigantic lead over England on a third day which swung from potential tragedy for the tourists to bizarre comedy for all concerned. "Tragedy" is often misused to describe events which are far from it and probably over-states the hamstring injury which forced Ben Stokes from the field mid-over and kept him out of action for the rest of New Zealand's imposing innings. But "comedy" perhaps understates the scenes which followed as England, with Ollie Pope standing in for Stokes as captain, resisted taking the second new ball until 13.4 overs after it was due, 1.4 of those bowled by Harry Brook by the time it was delivered to the middle. Brook had bowled 14 overs in Tests prior to this game, eight on England's previous tour of New Zealand at the start of last year when he claimed his only wicket - Williamson caught behind, no less - and six overs during the 2023 Ashes. The first delivery of this short



spell had Mitchell Santner seeing the funny side as he jabbed it away from his face, then

grinning some more after he launched a six over long-off four balls later.