

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 13th December, 2024/22 Agrahayana, 1946 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I am pleased to extend greetings to hon. Member of Parliament, Dr. Sarfraz Ahmad, and these are advanced greetings as his birthday is on Sunday, the 15th of December. Dr. Ahmad, the floor leader of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, is a Member of this House since May, 2024. Dr. Ahmad served as Reader at Bhagalpur University for 12 years before he rose to become the Education Minister in Bihar State Government. His extensive legislative experiences include as a Member of Bihar and Jharkhand Legislative Assemblies, Bihar Legislative Council and Member of the Eighth Lok Sabha, that is, 1984 to 1989.

He is married to Shrimati Zainab Ahmed and the couple is blessed with a son, Saad Ahmed and a daughter, Zara Ahmed.

On behalf of this House, I wish him a long, healthy and happy life and extend greetings to his family members and friends.

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

23rd anniversary of the tragic terrorist attack on the Parliament Building

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today marks the 23rd anniversary of the tragic terrorist attack on the Parliament.

On this fateful day in 2001, as *Bharatiya Sansad*, the sacred temple of our democracy, came under attack by those who sought to destabilize our nation, resolute bravery of our security personnel stood firm in thwarting their malicious, sinister plans. Hon. Members, let us take a moment to remember and honor the brave souls who lost their lives on that tragic day.

This day should also serve as a stark reminder of the need for vigilance and unity in the face of challenges to our national security. We must remain steadfast in our resolve to protect the sovereignty of our nation and ensure that the ideals of peace, liberty, justice and democracy prevail and blossom.

I request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in that terror attack.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for a minute.)

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, with profound exhilaration, I share a magnificent milestone in Indian sporting history setting a global benchmark.

Our 18 year chess virtuoso, D. Gukesh, has blazed into immortality as the youngest World Chess Champion ever crowned vanquishing Ding Liren of China in a spectacular mind teaser in Singapore on December 12, 2024.

This stellar conquest reverberates beyond the Chessboard — it compliments India's meteoric rise in every field on the global horizon.

Gukesh's phenomenal triumph not only emblazons our sporting legacy, but also epitomizes resurgent India where young titans emerge to dominate world stages.

It strengthens our resolve to bid for hosting Olympic 2036.

On behalf of this august House and our illustrious nation, I convey our profound acclaim to D. Gukesh. As our magnificent Tricolour ascends in Singapore today, it carries skyward the indomitable spirit and soaring aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

- I. **Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**
- II. **Report and Accounts (2023-24) of NICDCL and NICDIT, New Delhi and related papers**
- III. **Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of Coffee Board, Bengluru; Tea Board of India, Kolkata and Rubber Board, Kottayam, Kerala; NPC and QCI, New Delhi and related papers**
- IV. **Reports and Accounts (2023-24) of NIELIT, New Delhi; SCL, SAS Nagar, Punjab; BISAG-N, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, and related papers**

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION