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Prime Minister Manmohan Singh honours long-time friend Amartya Sen
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New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday honoured long-time friend and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on his 75th birthday at the "International...

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh honours long-time friend Amartya Sen
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We must find our own ways to deal with crises, Manmohan
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All human challenges have become global challenges: PM
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Manmohan Singh honours long-time friend Amartya Sen
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**India’s GDP to grow 6% Amartya Sen**
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In the wake of the global financial crisis, the country’s GDP growth rate is likely to drop to 6 percent during the current fiscal, Amartya Sen, Professor,...

**Developing countries to deal with challenges on their own: PM**
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New Delhi, Dec 19 (ANI): Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh today said that developing countries will find their own ways to deal with challenges like...

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‘Development and welfare are not the end-all and be-all of human endeavour. But freedom is and has many manifestations: economic, social, political,...

**‘Challenges global, responses national’**
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PM Manmohan Singh holds a newly released a book on Arguments for a Better World, as Amartya Sen applauds at a function in New Delhi on Friday. ...

**Problems are global, responses remain national: PM**
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**Problems are global, responses remain national: PM**
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Developing countries to deal with challenges on their own: PM
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‘Human challenges global, responses national’
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Human challenges have become global, responses remain national: PM
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Press Information Bureau (press release), India - 18 Dec 2008
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All human challenges have become global challenges: PM

Dr Manmohan Singh

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Dec. 19 The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, on Friday said that although all human challenges today have become global challenges, "the unfortunate fact is our responses remains national or at best regional."

Delivering the inaugural address at a two-day international conference on ‘Development, freedom and welfare’, Dr Singh said that one reason for this could be "inherent" weakness of global institutions. "Another could be enduring strength of national interests. I am often amazed by the jealousy with which nations guard their control over international institutions even as they speak of the virtues of globalisation and democracy," the Prime Minister said.

The conference, which has been jointly organised by Cornell University and Institute for Human Development also coincides with the 75th birthday celebrations of economist, Professor Amartya Sen.

Dr Singh was of the opinion that the debate on globalisation had been too "straight-jacketed" and "divided" between those who seek only global solutions and those seeking national ones. "It has become divided between those who remain obsessed with the ideologies of the market and those who adhere to the ideologies of Statism," Dr Singh said.

"In a world where intolerance is on the rise, in a world where bigotry is on the rise, in a world where narrow nationalisms challenges universal values, in a world where ideologies of exclusion challenge the inclusiveness of the human spirit, more voices must speak for freedom and democracy. Even if such freedoms are partial and such democracies are flawed," Dr Singh said.

In his address, Dr Sen thanked the Prime Minister. He said they had both been students together at Cambridge and that from the very start of their friendship he had realised that here was a special man. Little did I know, he said, that one day he would become Prime Minister.
Prof Kaushik Basu, Chairman of the Department of Economics Cornell University and one of the organisers of the felicitation and conference said that India being a democracy, they were not sure whether they should invite the Prime Minister to inaugurate the conference because “we didn’t know who the PM would be by the time the conference came around. In the end, we decided to call Dr Manmohan Singh.”
Manmohan Singh honours long-time friend Amartya Sen

New Delhi (IANS): Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Friday honoured long-time friend and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on his 75th birthday at the “International Conference on Development, Freedom and Welfare” in the capital.

The prime minister also released a book “Arguments for a Better World: Essays in Honour of Professor Amartya Sen” edited by Ravi Kanbur, professor at Cornell University, and Professor Kaushik Basu, chairman of the department of economics, also at Cornell University.

The conference is being organised jointly by the Institute of Human Development and Cornell University at Vigyan Bhavan in the capital.

Addressing the conference, Manmohan Singh recalled his association with Sen. “I am delighted to join the gathering to celebrate the intellectual achievements of my good friend and one-time fellow student, Professor Amartya Sen. I have known Amartya since the days when we were students together in Cambridge more than 50 years ago.

“Our paths diverged thereafter, but I have watched with admiration as he went on to climb the dizzying heights of economic theory, followed by forays into esoteric fields of moral philosophy, ethics and logic with occasional illuminating excursions into history,” the Prime Minister said.

Sen, on his part, thanked those who contributed to the volume of essays and the prime minister. “I am overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of my old friend and now our prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, who is launching this book,” the economist said.

“Samuel Johnson remarked, more than 200 years ago, in one of his unsolicited advices that he was willing to provide: If a man does not make new acquaintances as he advances through life, he will soon find himself left alone. A man must keep his friendship in constant repair. Johnson was too pessimistic in this. I am delighted that my friendships have remained quite intact without any need for great effort in repairing anything,” he said, in an indirect reference to his friendship with the prime minister.

About the two editors of the book, Kaushik Basu and Ravi Kanbur, Sen said they were also his students. “I also take this opportunity of saying how fortunate I have been in having such wonderful students. I have to share with you a secret. The quickest way of answering difficult questions that require hard work and great imagination is to get very bright students interested - indeed if possible excited - about the challenge of that question, and then these great minds produce remarkable research work to resolve all the issues,” he said.
He cited a letter to Paul Englemen, written in 1917, by Wittgenstein to make a point. “I work quite
diligently and wish that I were better and smarter. And these both are one and the same,”
Wittgenstein wrote.

But was it the same thing - being a smart human being and a better person, Sen asked.

“I am, of course, aware that modern trans-Atlantic usage has drowned the distinction between
‘being good’ as a moral quality and ‘being well’ as a comment on a person’s health (no aches
and pains, fine blood pressure and such), and I have long ceased worrying about the apparent
immodesty of those of my American friends who, when asked about how they are, reply with
manifest self-praise, ‘I am very good’,” he said.

So what was this pronouncement about, he wondered aloud. Underlying the point may be the
recognition, in some form, that many acts of nastiness are committed by people who are
deluded, in one way or another, on the subject.

“Lack of smartness can certainly be one source of moral or political failing in good behavior.
Reflecting on what would really be a smart thing to do can sometimes help one act better even
towards the others. Among the prudential reasons for good behaviour may well be one’s own
gain from such behaviour,” he said.

The conference, attended by three Nobel laureates for economics - Amartya Sen, Columbia
University professor Joseph Stigliz, and Edmund Phelps, also professor of Columbia University, will
see several policy panel discussions on global development issues.
India’s GDP to grow 6%: Amartya Sen

In the wake of the global financial crisis, the country’s GDP growth rate is likely to drop to 6 per cent during the current fiscal, Amartya Sen, Professor, Harvard University and Nobel Laureate, said on Friday. This decline is “not very sharp,” he added.

Speaking at a function organised by Cornell University and Institute for Human Development, Sen added that it is still difficult to predict what the exact impact of the global slowdown on India would be. Sen said that India must define a clear role for itself and should refrain from unilateral functioning like the US action after the 9/11 attacks.

“We must ask ourselves what our role would be in the global economy,” he said, adding that India failed to gain substantially at the Doha round of WTO talks. Sen felt India should use the G20 platform to voice the concerns about the region.
Problems are global, responses remain national: PM

I am often amazed by the jealousy with which nations guard their control over international institutions, said PM Mamohan Singh.

PTI

New Delhi: India on Friday questioned the efficacy of the developed world’s response to tackle global financial crisis as well as the threat of terror and asked the developing world to find own ways to address these challenges.

“The response of the developed countries to the challenges of our times, be it financial crisis or climate change or terrorism, shows that they have no monopoly on good ideas. We in the developing world wish to work with the developed, but we have to find our own ways to deal with these challenges,” Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said in New Delhi.

“The imperatives of development, of the well-being of our people, and the logic of democratic politics dictate this. We are after all answerable to our people,” Singh said at a function to mark the 75th birthday of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

The Prime Minister expressed wonder over the manner in which “some nations” control international institutions. “I am often amazed by the jealousy with which nations guard their control over international institutions even as they speak of the virtues of globalization and democracy.”

The time has come for the global polity to catch up with the times and address the challenges posed by the global economy, he added.

He also said while problems have become global, responses remain national or regional. “One reason for this could be the inherent weakness of global institutions,” he said.
STATING that the impact of the global economic downturn was more severe than anticipated, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has said India could emerge as a key architect in the global financial structure.

Speaking at a conference organised to commemorate his 75th birthday, Sen pointed out: “The world is yet to see the extent of the problem. An intelligent response is needed to the problem that we have ourselves created. But the measures to tackle the problems should not lead to more trouble. It’s in our hands to change things in a way that we don’t ever get into the kind of mess we have got ourselves into now.” Sen’s comments provided a cue to Indian economic policy makers to use the global crisis to India’s best advantage.


Sen’s comments found an echo in the Prime Minister’s remarks that, “I am often amazed by the jealousy with which nations guard their international institutions even as they speak of the virtues of globalization and democracy. The time has come, I believe, for the global polity to catch up with the times and address the challenges posed by the evolving global economy.”

Even as we urge the global community to recognize the global nature of the challenges we face, and ask them to work with us, we assure the world and our people that we will not be found wanting as a nation in addressing the challenges at hand. Good governance, development and security are the least we can deliver to our people,” said Singh.

It was opined at the event that the cost of reconstructing the economy would be much lower for countries like India than that for developed economies like the US. This fact is likely to be at the centre of the country’s economic strategy in the days to come.
Global problems but responses are national: PM

New Delhi, PTI:

The response of the developed countries to the challenges of our times, be it financial crisis or climate change or terrorism, shows that they have no monopoly on good ideas..." Dr Manmohan Singh said at a function to mark the 75th birthday of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.

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"The response of the developed countries to the challenges of our times, be it financial crisis or climate change or terrorism, shows that they have no monopoly on good ideas. We in the developing world wish to work with the developed, but we have to find our own ways to deal with these challenges," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said here.

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The time has come for the global polity to catch up with the times and address the challenges posed by the global economy, he added. Singh said while problems have become global, responses remain national or regional. "One reason for this could be the inherent weakness of global institutions," he said.

The PM also released a book on the occasion titled "Arguments for a Better World: Essays in Honour of Amartya Sen", a collection of writings by leading economists and social scientists. On the debate of globalisation, he said, "It has become divided between those who remain obsessed with the ideologies of the market and those who adhere to the ideologies of Statism."

He said India has long rejected such stereotypes and such ideological straight-jacketing of policies. "We have walked the pragmatic middle path, and will continue to do so. We must walk on two legs," the Prime Minister said. He said pursuing development and seeking welfare with the framework of a liberal democracy is not an easy journey for a poor country like India.

"Many nations started this journey with us and drifted away. Some chose not to walk this path, others were denied that opportunity," the Prime Minister said. He said India's achievement in this dimension has global relevance even today.
"In a world where intolerance is on the rise, in a world where bigotry is on the rise...in a world where ideologies of exclusion challenge the inclusiveness of the human spirit, more voices must speak for freedom and democracy, even if such freedoms are partial and such democracies are flawed," he said.

Singh said he does not deny that Indian democracy has its faults too. "Amartya values its argumentative aspect, others more impatient to see movement at times deplore it. Personally, I feel what is important about our democracy is not so much the argumentativeness, but its ability to build consensus," he added.