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Female domestic help wanted at Guwahati for Manipuri working couple. Terms and conditions negotiable. Please contact 8134032414, 7086056852.

## The 76 th Independence Day - “One Nation, One Emotion, One Identity”

By Raju Vernekar  
Mumbai, August 10:

With a host of functions organized in India and abroad, the 76 th Independence Day being celebrated with the theme “One Nation, One Emotion, One Identity”, is expected to be a mega affair integrating people.

“Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” (75 years of Indian Independence), is expected to make the spirit of freedom alive. The campaigns including “Har Ghar Tiranga”, a selfie with the tricolor, and MyGov Quiz for school and college students have already set the ball rolling.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unfurl the national flag and will address the nation from the Ramparts of the Red Fort. The entire nation is expected to rejoice. However, Independence day will be celebrated in a subdued manner in Bihar due to a surge in Covid-19 surge.

### Future Prospects

The stock of various issues related to the nation should be taken on the occasion of this national festival to assess our progress. As per the RBI, overall economic activity in India remains strong, with upbeat consumer and business confidence and upticks in several incoming high-frequency indicators. The pick-up in manufacturing and services and strong buffers in the form of adequate international reserves, and a well-capitalized financial system strengthen the conditions for a sustainable high growth trajectory in the medium-term.

### Economy

The annual budget has reached up to Rs. 39.45 lakh crore as against the country's first budget of Rs 197.39 crore in 1947. The RBI has projected real GDP growth for the financial year 2022-23 at 7.2%. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has predicted the same figure. However, the World Bank has projected economic growth at 7.5 %, as rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions taper recovery.

### Rupee

The value of Indian rupees was 24.77 against US \$ in 1947. It recently scaled up to Rs 78.60 against the US dollar even as high crude oil prices amid tighter global supplies boosted demands for the American currency. But a devalued currency is expected to aid the domestic producers in boosting their exports, thereby leading to a trade surplus, say experts.

### FDI

According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into India from January to March 2022 stood at US\$ 22.03 billion, while the FDI equity inflow for the same period was US\$ 15.59 billion.

The major FDI inflow came from Singapore at US\$ 15.87 billion, followed by the US (US\$ 10.54 billion), Mauritius (US\$ 9.39 billion), and the Netherlands (US\$ 4.62 billion).

Karnataka received US\$ 22.07 billion, followed by Maharashtra (US\$ 15.43 billion), Delhi (US\$ 8.18 billion), Gujarat (US\$ 2.70 billion), and Haryana (US\$ 2.79 billion).

Over all India's FDI in-

flows increased 20 times from 2000-01 to 2021-22.

### Employment

According to the data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) India's job situation showed improvement in July 2022 after a major fall in the employment rate in June. In mid-July, the overall unemployment rate declined to 7.29%, although unemployment rate in urban India remained at 7.66%. In rural areas the unemployment rate recovered up to 7.12%. The unemployment in West Bengal was 5.2 per cent, with Haryana at the top at 30.6 per cent, the CMIE stated.

### Foodgrains

The Govt has projected 328 MT foodgrain output for 2022-23. It comprises the Kharif foodgrain production of 163.15 MT and the rabi foodgrain production of 164.85 MT.

In the current crop season, the Union Agriculture Ministry has predicted a bumper production of 307.33 MT of food grains. The targets for rice, wheat, coarse cereals, pulses, and oilseeds, are 121.10 MT, 110 MT, 51.21 MT, 25 MT, and 38.4 MT respectively.

### Population

The present population is around 138 crores (71 crore male, 67 crore female), equivalent to 17.7% of the world population. It was 53 crore at the time of Independence. The India's population comprise-male-51.96 %, female-48.04 %. The urban population is 35 %, while the rural population is 65 %. The Uttar Pradesh with 20 crores tops the list followed by Maharashtra (12 crores) and

Bihar (10 crores). Sikkim is the smallest state with a 6 crore population. As per World Population Prospect -2022, India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country next year. The global population is projected to reach eight billion.

### Literacy

According to the National Survey of India, the overall literacy rate is 77.7 percent, meaning nearly one in four Indians remains unable to read or write (compared to about one in eight people worldwide). As per UNESCO, India will achieve total literacy in 2060.

Literacy in urban and rural areas is 87.7 % and 73.5 % respectively. The male and female literacy is 84.7 % and 70.3 % respectively. Kerala with a 96.2% literacy rate remains at the top, followed by Mizoram with 91.33 %. The states with the lowest literacy rate include Bihar-61.80 %, Arunachal Pradesh-65.38 %, Rajasthan-66.11 %, Jharkhand-66.41 %, and Andhra Pradesh-67.02 %.

### Defence

With current Rs 5,25,166 crore Defence budget and efforts towards self-reliance, India is well-equipped with defence equipment. The indigenously made aircraft carrier Vikrant will be commissioned into the Indian Navy soon. The DRDO has been making strides in military research. Similarly with the recent successful launch of PSLV-C53, the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the ISRO has proved its mettle once again in the field of Space research.

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## Nitish Kumar set to be sworn in as Bihar CM for record eighth time; Tejashwi Yadav his deputy



Agency  
Patna, August 10:

Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar is scheduled to be sworn in as the chief minister of Bihar on Wednesday afternoon for a record eighth time.

Kumar will be administered the oath of office by Governor Phagu Chauhan at a simple ceremony inside the Raj Bhavan at 2 pm.

Tejashwi Yadav, whose RJD helms the Grand Alliance that elected Kumar as its leader on Tuesday, is also scheduled to be sworn in, with him returning as the deputy chief minister for the second time.

Earlier, it was understood that only Kumar and Yadav will be taking oath though sources in the multi-party Grand Alliance now hint at the possibility of “three to five”

ministers being sworn in.

Besides JD(U) and RJD, the Congress is expected to be represented in the new cabinet. Left parties CPIM(L), CPI and CPI(M) have expressed their intention to support the new government from outside.

Kumar had on Tuesday quit the BJP, stripping the party of power, before resigning and staking claim to form a new government, armed with the support of the ‘Mahagathabandhan’ (Grand Alliance).

The 71-year-old JD(U) leader first took oath as chief minister in 2000, when he headed an NDA government that lasted only a week. He was back in 2005, this time with his coalition having won an absolute majority in the assembly polls.

The NDA won a landslide victory under his leadership in

the assembly polls five years later. Kumar stepped down in 2014, owning moral responsibility for the drubbing of JD(U) in the Lok Sabha polls, but returned less than a year later when he was sworn in for the fourth time.

In 2015, Kumar was back as CM, with the Grand Alliance then comprising the JD(U), RJD and Congress winning a comfortable majority. He resigned in July 2017, citing irreconcilable differences with the RJD, and got sworn in again less than 24 hours later, when he formed a new government with the BJP.

Kumar was sworn in for the seventh time in November 2020, when the NDA retained power, though his own party saw a major fall in its tally for which it blamed a “conspiracy” by the BJP.

## Heritage Walk from Ningthoukhong to Laimaton Hill



IT News  
Imphal, August 10:

As a part and program of the commemoration of Patriotic Day and 75th Independence Day, “Heritage Walk” has been flagged off from Mangolganbi College today.

Director Dr. Rangitabali Waikhom of University & Higher Education, Retired senior government officer Dr R K Nimai Singh, Principals Dr M Mangi Singh (C.I. College Bishnupur) and RK Birjit

Singh, Principal (Mangolganbi College Ningthoukhong) and Major Mayank Khosla of 31st Assam Rifles were present during the day's flagging off ceremony.

The Heritage walk which was jointly organised by Mangolganbi College and CI College supported by 31st Assam Rifles, neScholar and Manipur Mountaineering and Tracking Association, will conclude at Laimaton Hill Range Point 5846.

More than 100 students from Mangolganbi College

and C.I. College, Bishnupur participated in the walk. This year marks the seventy-eight anniversaries of the twin battles of Imphal and Kohima when, in 1944 the Indian Army stopped the Japanese advance into India in its tracks and wrote a chapter of military history in letters of gold.

It is a story which must be recounted repeatedly to generation after generation so that we may fittingly cherish the valour and sacrifice of those many, many

## Assam Rifles foils illegal immigration

IT News  
Imphal, August 10:

Tengnoupal Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(South) foiled an attempt of illegal immigration. On August 9, 2022, while

carrying out routine checking at Permanent Vehicle Check Post, Khudengthabi, a foreigner lady identified as Ms Mya Kyay Mon r/o Norway (51 Yrs age) reported at Foreigner Check Point at Khudengthabi from Moreh.

Following standard procedures, the troops on duty checked her documents and found that the lady was a Norwegian National, however, her Passport & Visa were both expired.

Upon enquiry, the lady re-

vealed that she had arrived in India on May 24, 2019 and has been staying at Moreh illegally post expiry of her visa and passport. The lady has been handed over to Moreh Police station for further legal proceedings.

## Rebel group ASUK calls total shut down on Indian Independence Day

IT News  
Imphal, August 10:

Armed rebel group Alliance for Socialist Unity, Kangleipak (ASUK) has called 12 hour total shut down in the state of Manipur against the celebration of Indian Independence Day on August 15.

“It may be an Independence Day for mainland India but August 15 was the day that Manipur lost its Independence and started Dark day,” a statement by S. Mangal, Convenor of the Publicity Committee ASUK.

The statement said that the total shutdown will start

at 6 am on August 15 and end at 6 pm on the same day. However, the ASUK said that movements related to medical treatment, essential services and religious-related events will be exempted, during the total shutdown.

The ASUK statement further said that the inclusion of a new programme “Har Ghar Tiranga” this year, celebrating the completion of 75 years of Indian Independence, may be the right celebration and pride for mainland India but as the day is the handoff day for the people of Manipur, there is no logic of hoisting Tri Colour Indian flags to houses of

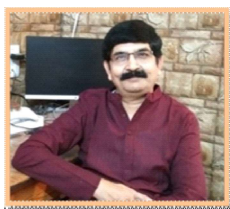
Manipur.

Giving reason on why Manipur should not join the Independence Day celebration of India, the ASUK statement said that present Manipur is plagued with various problems. It said the endangering of the existence of indigenous people in its own state due to the mass influx of outsiders and participation in the administration by the outsiders; the increase of drug users, conversion of the society into a beggar community due to the decline in the economic status; the instability in the society as corruption becomes a culture; trust deficit

as cheating becomes a common occurrence; failure to unite the people; nonexistence of people to follow the leaders in the effort to solve the issues of Manipur and this has resulted the society with people similar to scarecrow make by straw. The ASUK also mentioned about the failure to provide proper and quality education to the children who are the future of the nation.

The ASUK blames India for the present condition and said that had Manipur been an Independent country at least some measures to protect the people and the society if not all.

# Hats Off to Mumbai Dabbawalas



By: Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

It is rightly said that "Work is Worship & Customer First is their Mantra". Once I got an opportunity to attend an Interactive Session on "Mumbai Dabbawala Association" addressed by the Managing Guru Dr. Pawan Agarwal-CEO - Mumbai Dabbawala Association. Really I was shocked to hear & see over the Power Point Presentation how a simple man can manage his business much better than trained managers. I also felt that successful businesses in India and around the world are not necessarily run by managers passing out of IIMs as we think and for this the famous Dabbawala of Mumbai is an example. Popularly known as Mumbai's Dabbawalas, they show us how their establishment is managed to supply, without any hitches, 2,70,000 lunch boxes everyday in the busy metropolis of Mumbai.

In the words of Dr. Pawan Agarwal, I would say that "Consistency is the key to ensure a meticulous network with an error rate of just one in 16 million transactions. At the end of the day its just effective team work," and "Dabbawala organisation is the only one in India and the second in the world who had got six-sigma rating". Dabbawalas are synonymous for simplicity, most of the enterprises have complex system to understand which includes lot of paper work and loads of presentations and graphical representations to make the things work but Dabbawalas with their sheer idea of punctuality and color codes leaves a mark. The statistics show that the dabbawalas conduct around 270,000 transactions daily — 150,000 boxes are delivered to offices every morning and 150,000 are returned home every afternoon viz. six days a week, 51 weeks a year which comes to nearly 80 million annual deliveries.

I feel that Dabbawalas are indeed management gurus. They prove how no formal education but intuition and planning can help to achieve great results. The corporate ideals of teamwork, dedication and accuracy are reflected with a whole new perspective.

I would like to share that Mumbai Dabbawalas are a perfect example of an important principle of both business and management viz. The thirst to serve customers in a simple yet effective fashion without falling into the technology trap. I think this is an aspect which needs to be re-learned and implemented in any organisation today. There is a three-point formula behind their success - that is of discipline, code of conduct and hard work. The only thing that differentiates them from other organisations is the utmost importance which they give to customers' satisfaction.

Dr. Agarwal pointed out that "The Dabbawalas do not have any time to waste while on duty and the main objective is customer satisfaction when the delivery is made."

I conclude that the most enduring lesson that we learnt was to put the customer ahead of everything else. I would like to quote here an example that when Prince Charles expressed a desire to meet them during his Mumbai visit in 2003, the Dabbawalas requested him to schedule the meeting such that it did not interfere with their mid-day delivery timings. The most surprising thing is that without any technological backup and logistical support, they perform their duty with utmost precision.

In terms of employment or in terms of gaining new customer, recommendation plays an important part in the entire eco-system. The satisfied customers proudly refer their friends and relatives to these Dabbawalas.

Lastly, the most interesting thing to note is that there is no retirement age, because any person can work till he is fit enough to carry on the tasks required of him. One can't believe but Dabbawala's service in Mumbai proves that hard work, honesty and assiduousness is the only way to success.

I feel, we can learn lot about the time management and marketing from Dabbawalas... Don't we? Hats Off to Mumbai Dabbawalas.

# Why should River be rejuvenated?

By: Sanjenbam Jugeshwor Singh

During the dry months, several rivers of Manipur tend to dry up, resulting in water scarcity in the Northeast Indian state of Manipur, which is well known for its scenic wetlands and is a feast for photographers. Some of the water bodies are drying and vanishing owing to the erratic rainfall patterns witnessed over the past few years. The alarming state of the water bodies calls for rejuvenation of rivers in the state. Over a long time, a river forms generally smooth profiles. In terms of transporting waste and sediment it is the most efficient profile to have. Rivers that have this form of profile are in balance with the environment (equilibrium). Typically a river will always try to form a concave shaped profile. From time to time something can occur that changes and de-stabilizes this equilibrium. This causes the river to vertically erode its channel to re-establish its long smooth concave profile. This renewed period is known as rejuvenation. The river ecosystem is a complex mosaic of interaction and interrelationship of the biotic (flora and fauna) and abiotic (hydrological, geomorphic etc.) components in dynamic equilibrium. The ecological function of a river is linked to the hydrological variations in the river flow. Hence flow is the most important and significant variable of a river system/ecosystem. Besides sustaining the ecosystem, and performing its geomorphic functions (erosion, sediment transport, reworking etc.), the river flow under appropriate condition recharges groundwater in its flood plain. During floods the river adds nutrients to the soil. A River is the ultimate sink for surface runoff in its basin.

In the existing development paradigm, the natural freshwater flow in the rivers has been overexploited by diversion of river water for agricultural, industrial and domestic uses. The overexploitation of river resource is manifested mostly by lack of longitudinal, lateral and vertical connectivity in the river system and poor flow in the river. Further, contamination of the rivers by domestic and industrial liquid waste has led to the deterioration of river health. This coupled with encroachment on river space; obstruction of water ways in the drainage basin; excessive sand mining and deforestation in the catchment has further aggravated the problem. The poor health of rivers has adversely impacted the complex dynamic equilibrium in the river basin. It raises question about sustainable use of river resource.

The concept of environmental flow in river management is already being applied in some or other form in 72 countries around the world. During the monsoon season a typical effluent stream inundates and deposits sediment load charged with flood waters in the river bank (Bank storage). The monsoon season peak flow in the river also inundates adjacent flood plains and recharges groundwater under appropriate condition. This in the long run maintains the slope of groundwater table towards the river. During the post monsoon seasons the same river initially receives contribution from the bank storage. This continues till the groundwater table elevation in vicinity of the river diminishes to the regional groundwater table slope. Henceforth, the regional groundwater flow charges the river and sustains its flow. In the monsoon, if proper environmental flow in such rivers is not maintained then the river flow contribution from the bank storage may diminish. This will also reduce flood plain inundation and re-

charge to the aquifers. This in turn will reduce the regional groundwater table slope towards the river, leading to flow variability in the river. It is quite possible that river would lose longitudinal connectivity during the summer season. In case of such deterioration in river health; a proper environmental flow during the monsoon season would lead to the rejuvenation of the river. It is required that measures based on the understanding of river ecosystem coupled with environmental flow should be integrated in the river rejuvenation efforts.

The plight of urban rivers in India has been going from bad to worse courtesy, systematic neglect and unplanned development projects. On the one hand they are being increasingly deprived of freshwater flows by diverting water for domestic supplies and on the other have been turned into dumping place for mostly untreated solid and liquid waste in massive amounts from residential areas as well as industrial pockets. As a result, India is facing its worst water crisis in four decades. At least 54 percent of the sub-continent has turned into a water-stressed dust bowl with many rivers rapidly drying up. Experts opine that by 2025, the country will be facing an acute water crisis if no preventive measures are taken today. So India today is desperately in need of answers to resolve its water crisis. The country faces a critical challenge to improve the productivity of drinking fresh water. No socio-economic development or even political stability will ever be possible without ensuring uninterrupted supply of quality potable water. It is therefore clear that river rejuvenation will need to be distributed across the country. In other words, we will need to capture rain water,

where it falls, over vast parts of the country so that we can provide local water security and recharge every well.

River rejuvenation is an effort aimed at restoring poor health of overexploited and polluted rivers. It requires an understanding of the causes for the poor health and the restoration efforts from source to sink. Depending on the level of deterioration, river rejuvenation aims at a new sustainable healthy river ecosystem. This can also be achieved by restoring the river health back to an accepted historical state of the river. Avoiding direct entry of domestic sewage and industrial effluents into the river will certainly improve the river health. But flow of a river is its identity and the most significant variable of a river system. Besides performing various functions, it gives self-cleaning and healing powers to a river. Thus, the river rejuvenation broadly calls for optimal fresh water flow through the river system during different seasons. The rejuvenation of a river is best achieved by ensuring environmental flow in the river.

To conclude the need of the hour is environmentally sustainable development of river resource. A process based understanding of the river ecosystem will facilitate sustainable exploitation of this resource. So that humanity can enjoy the river ecosystem benefits for several generations. In case of the river system in poor river health, river rejuvenation can also be achieved by broadly aiming at restoring assured environmental flow in the river system. The planners and policy makers should necessarily integrate the concept of environmental flow with water resources development strategy.

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# Bihar politics revolves around CM Nitish Kumar



By: Er. Prabhat Kishore

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, India created history with its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence "Amrit Mahotsava". Another history has been created in Bihar, where Chief Minister Nitish Kumar completed 5474 days in power surpassing the earlier record of Sri Krishna Singh, the first CM of Bihar. Since more than one and half decades, the politics in Bihar is revolving around Nitish Kumar. In the Vidhan Sabha election 2020, Bihar has once again decided to march forward under his leadership. The NDA, led by him, has returned to power securing 125 seats out of 243 and he became CM for the record 7<sup>th</sup> time.

Nitish Kumar, who hails from Kurmi Kisan family of Kalyanbigha in Harnaut (Nalanda), has started his political journey in 1974; when the student movement led by Jai Prakash Narayan was evolved. Then studying in Bihar College of Engineering (now NIT) at Patna, he fully devoted himself to the revolution. He was detained under MISA in 1974 and during emergency in 1975. In 1977, he contested the Vidhan Sabha election from Harnaut constituency against veteran Socialist Party leader Bhola Prasad Singh, but could not succeed. He again lost the 1980 election to Arun Singh, who had been wrongly acquitted in the Belchhi massacre. In the 8<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election 1984, Sri Dharamvir Singh, veteran Congress leader and ex-minister in the Indira Gandhi Government lost to an incumbent of Congress (I) in the sympathy

wave after the assassination of Indira Gandhi. There was great resentment in public due to the defeat of Dharamvir Babu in Harnaut & Chandi segments. Nitish has campaigned for him in the Lok Sabha election. This helped Nitish to get elected to the Vidhan Sabha in 1985 in his third attempt, after which his political graph boomed sharply.

He was appointed as the President of the Yuva Lok Dal in 1987 and the secretary general of the newly formed Janata Dal in 1989. In 1989, 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999 he was elected to Lok Sabha from Barh Constituency and in 2004 from Nalanda constituency. In the Central government, led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he served as Minister of State (Agriculture) in 1990, Cabinet minister (Railway) in 1998, surface transport minister in 1999, agriculture minister in 1999 and Railway minister in 2001.

Nitish was the man, who influenced legislatures to elect Laloo as the leader of the legislature party after the demise of Karpoori Thakur, ex-CM and as CM when he Janata Dal came to power in 1990. He was famous as "Chanakya" of Bihar politics. Nitish and Laloo both were termed as the right & left arms of Devi Lal in Bihar; but when the Mandal commission report was implemented, they supported V.P. Singh.

Janata Dal had come to power on certain promises to the people. Nitish presented various project works to State government for implementation, but now they were no longer Laloo's priority. He sidelined the suggestions and started making loose comment about him. Nitish Kumar was gradually cornered and it became unbearable to survive with Laloo. The aggressive rally of Kurmi Samaj and Lav-Kush Sammelan in 1994 was the sign of resentment among non-Yadav sections of the society against the regime. Nitish joined the rally in late hour and recognized that opportune time had come to fight. Voices were also raised from other small artisan & landless



communities for their upliftment and power sharing.

The Samata Party was formed in 1994 under the leadership of veteran socialist George Fernandes. Nitish Kumar was projected as CM candidate in the 1995 election, but the Party flopped. After due deliberations, the BJP-Samata Party alliance came into existence and its positive impact was seen in the coming Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections. In the 2000 election, no Party got an absolute majority and Nitish was appointed CM by the then Governor. But he did not succeed to gather majority support from the MLAs and resigned. After the fall of the NDA government led by Vajpayee in 2004, he fully devoted himself to Bihar and led several "Yatra" against the misrule of State govt. In the November 2005 election, the NDA got full majority under his leadership and he took oath as CM. Since then he is the CM, except 278 days of his nominee successor Jitan Ram Manjhi.

Nitish Kumar kept himself away from casteism and family coterie. He marched forward with balanced social engineering to keep the all community as against "MY" combination of RJD and "Upper caste" of Congress, BJP or Communists. He always preferred other castes in the Bureaucracy as well as in the Party, even at the cost of the genuine rights of his

own castemen. Earlier senior most IAS officers K.D. Sinha and presently Dharmendra Singh Gangwar have not been made Chief Secretary because they belong to his caste. IPS officer Ashish Ranjan Sinha stepped down from DGP due to same reason. Despite being the backbone of the Party, his castemen never got due share in candidature of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Vidhan Sabha or Vidhan Parishad and on ministerial berths. Extremely backward castes, comprising about 30% of the population, backward Pasmanda Muslims, Mahadalits and women have always been his top priority. In 2020 Bihar Election actually the political war was not "NDA vs MG" but was "Nitish vs All" and these depressed sections of the society, called "Silent Voters" stood firmly behind Nitish in the arena, even when BJP's core upper caste voters betrayed him.

Since the early days of his political life, Nitish has ambition to do welfare works, if got power. When he took the charge of CM, the situation in all sectors was alarming. He prioritized his works for good governance. To tackle law & order situation, fast track courts were set up and criminals had to go behind the bars. He gave impetus to the development and re-orient infrastructure sector activities in all corners of the State.

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# The knowledge keepers



By: Vijay GarG

There are an estimated 476 million indigenous peoples in the world living across 90 countries.

They make up less than 5 per cent of the world's population, but account for 15 per cent of the poorest. They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures. Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. Indigenous peoples' conceptualization of health and well-being

is generally broader and more holistic, with health frequently viewed as both an individual and a collective right, strongly determined by community, land and the natural environment. The important role of indigenous communities in preserving, reviving, retaining, and transmitting the traditional ancestral knowledge in various fields of communal activities, including but not limited to effective and sustainable climate solutions, use of natural resources, protection of biodiversity, ensuring food security, promoting native languages and culture, and managing indigenous science and medicine is of utmost importance in this day and age. Article 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to their traditional medicines, to maintain their health practices and to access social and health services without discrimination. In order to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, including their health needs, every 9 August commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva in 1982.

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Letters, Feedback and Suggestions to 'Imphal Times'

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# India records more than 16,000 new Covid cases, 54 deaths in last 24 hours

Agency  
New Delhi, August 10:

India on Wednesday recorded 16,047 new coronavirus cases and 54 fatalities, including six reconciled by Kerala, according to the latest Union Health Ministry data.

With these additions, the country's overall Covid figures rose to 4,41,90,697 cases and 5,26,826 deaths.

The data updated at 8 am showed active cases came down by 3,546 in a span of 24 hours to 1,28,261, now constituting 0.29 per cent of the total infections.

The COVID-19 recovery rate stood at 98.52 per cent, the health ministry said, adding the case fatality rate was 1.19 per cent.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.94 per cent, while the weekly positivity was 4.90 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of recoveries stands at 4,35,35,610.

According to the ministry, 207.03 crore doses of Covid vaccine have been adminis-



tered in the country so far under the nationwide drive.

The 48 new fatalities include seven each from Delhi, Maharashtra and Punjab, five from West Bengal, three each from Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram, two each from Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and one each from Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand and Nagaland.

Assam logged 261 fresh COVID-19 infections, a decrease of 43 cases compared to the previous day, as the tally mounted to 7,42,106, a National Health Mission (NHM) bulletin said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 6,673, as no Covid fatalities were reported in the state for the fifth consecutive day.

Mizoram reported 135 new

COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, 108 less than the previous day, with the tally increasing to 2,34,522, a health official said.

The state reported 243 cases on Tuesday.

The death toll rose to 715 as three more people from Aizawl, Lunglei and Lawngtlai districts succumbed to the infection during the last 24 hours, he said.

# Second phase of Assam-Meghalaya border talks after Independence Day: Conrad Sangma

Agency  
Shillong, August 10:

The second phase of border talks between Assam and Meghalaya would be held after the Independence Day celebrations.

This was informed by Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma on Tuesday.

"On August 7 Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and I had a meeting and we decided to hold the first meeting of second phase of border talks after

Independence Day," Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma said.

However, the Meghalaya chief minister informed that an exact date for the meeting is yet to be decided.

The second phase of the border discussions between Assam and Meghalaya would be held to sort out disputes in the remaining six areas of differences.

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma, on Tuesday, "met with the representatives of Raid Nongtung under which

18 villages will be taken up in Phase 2 of the Assam-Meghalaya Border Talks."

On March 29, Assam and Meghalaya signed a historic agreement to resolve border disputes in at least six out of 12 areas of difference.

The agreement was signed between the chief minister of Assam and Meghalaya - Himanta Biswa Sarma and Conrad Sangma respectively to resolve the 50-year-old pending boundary dispute between the two states.

# Sri Sri Tattva gets approval for NAOQ19 as a supportive drug for mild to moderate COVID-19 by Ministry of AYUSH

IT Correspondent  
Bangalore, August 10:

The Interdisciplinary Technical Review Committee (ITRC) of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, has approved Sri Sri Tattva's NAOQ19 as an add-on therapy for mild to moderate COVID-19 infection after carefully reviewing the double-blind, randomized controlled trials conducted at some of the prestigious institutes like AIIMS Jodhpur, AIIMS Rishikesh and GIMS Noida.

Sri Sri Tattva comes with decades of experience in the field of research and development of Ayurvedic medicines. Since the pandemic began in 2020, their team of expert doctors had begun work to research on the efficacy of herbal formulations on COVID-19 infection. This led to the development of NAOQ19. NAOQ19 is a

polyherbal formulation with a blend of 19 powerful herbs and their extracts which helps to enhance and strengthen the immune system. It also helps in conditions like fever, cold & cough, respiratory disorders and inflammatory conditions.

Sri Sri Tattva had partnered with Sri Sri Institute of Advanced Research (SSIAR) to conduct pilot trials on the efficacy of NAOQ19, along with standard of care, in treating mild to moderate COVID-19 infection. In vitro and In vivo studies were also conducted at Foundation of Neglected Diseases (FNDR), Bengaluru. The results were very encouraging which prompted them to conduct clinical trials on a larger scale with some of the most renowned institutes of the country. These findings were then presented to The Interdisciplinary Technical Review Com-

mittee (ITRC), which is setup by Ministry of AYUSH to review and approve the data of the COVID-19 related trials.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Arvind Varchaswi, Managing Director, Sri Sri Tattva said "At Sri Sri Tattva we use advanced science and research methodologies to innovate and develop herbal, safe and effective medicines which makes a difference to people's lives and contribute to their well-being. Our products are manufactured in state-of-the-art WHO GMP certified facilities and have been studied and tested nationally and internationally to establish their efficacy and safety. I am extremely proud of our team for their unwavering commitment towards the well-being of the humanity. NAOQ19 is a result of this commitment and I am sure it is going to benefit thousands of people across the globe."

# Corbevax approved as precaution dose for adults vaccinated with Covaxin, Covishield

Agency  
New Delhi, August 10:

In a significant step towards the fight against COVID-19, the Government of India has approved Biological E's Corbevax vaccine as the precautionary dose for people aged above 18 years who have taken both doses of either Covishield or Covaxin as primary vaccines, official sources said on Wednesday. This is for the first time that a COVID booster dose that is different from the one used for primary vaccination against coronavirus has been al-

lowed in India.

The Union Health Ministry approved Corbevax vaccine booster dose based on the recommendations made recently by the COVID-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI).

"Corbevax will be considered as a precaution dose after completion of six months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose of either Covaxin or Covishield vaccines for those aged above 18 years enabling use of Corbevax as a heterologous COVID-19

vaccine for precaution dose administration in this age group," the sources said.

In February 2022, Corbevax, developed by Biological E Limited received DCGI approval for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for 12-18 years age group.

On June 4, 2022, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) approved Corbevax as a precaution dose for those aged 18 and above.

Corbevax is India's first indigenously developed Receptor Binding Domain (RBD) protein sub-unit vaccine for COVID-19.

The Union Health Ministry on August 10, 2022 stated that India's COVID-19 vaccination coverage has exceeded 207.03 crore (2,07,03,71,204) as per provisional reports till 7 am today. This has been achieved through 2,74,83,097 sessions.

COVID-19 vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on March 16, 2022. So far, more than 3.96 crore (3,96,04,796) adolescents have been administered with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, the COVID-19 precaution dose administration for age group 18-59 years also started from April 10, 2022 onwards.

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# Bihar politics revolves around CM....

Roads, bridges, bypasses, schools/colleges/hospitals/polic stations/panchayat buildings were built and maintained. In education sector, the Dropout rate in schools, particularly of girls, was very high. Various schemes such as Mukhyamantri Cycle Yojana/Poshak Yojana/Kishori Swasthya Karyakram were launched to attract the boys & girls. Primary school within 1 KM radius, upper primary school in 3 KM radius of the village and high school in every panchayats have been opened. In the higher secondary sector, inter classes were detached from colleges and attached to high schools, for the convenience of the rural masses. Engineering/Medical/ITI institutions have been opened in backwards areas. To meet financial crisis for higher education, Student Credit Card scheme for soft loan upto Rs 4 lakh have been launched. Before 2005, uninterrupted power supply to people, even in urban areas, was a dream. Its production as well as distribution were planned and now there is sufficient electricity available to the people.

Gender empowerment and

strengthening have been an ambitious goal of Nitish. Apart from Poshak & Cycle Yojana in schools, 50 % reservation in Panchayats and Local bodies and 35% reservation in government jobs for women, Mukhyamantri Kanya Uthyan Yojana for phase wise development of girls, Jeevika programme for rural women have been implemented.

On the tune of "Sapt Kranti" vision during JP movement, he planned 7-point programme, called "Saat-Nischay" for the all-round development of the State. The Saat-Nischay includes (1) Aarthik Hal YuvaonKo Bal for financially helping students & youths to become self-reliant, (2) Aarakshit Rojgar Mahilaon Ka Adhikar through reservation for female in jobs as well as Panchayat & local bodies, (3) Har Ghar Bijli, (4) Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal, (5) Har Ghar Tak Pakki Gali-Naliyan, (6) Gharon Mein Shauchalay Nirman, (7) Aawsar Badhe Aage Padhe by opening Technical/Medical/Nursing/Polytechnic/ITI/Para Medical institutes in every districts.

The positive face of Nitish is that his priority is not only

government welfare schemes. His start-ups in the social sectors are more praise-worthy. The public campaign against age-old social evils such as Child marriage, Dowry System and Alcoholism is unique, as these issues are not said to be vote pulling agenda for politicians. Jal-Jiwan-Hariyali scheme for water conservation is also an ambitious mission. The ban on alcoholism has reduced domestic violence to a great extent. The Sharab Mafias are campaigning aggressively against Nitish and under their pressure a lobby comprising of opposition as well as some BJP leaders are opposing the ban in the name of revenue collection.

Although a lot of works have been done or are in progress, there is still a lot to be done. A generation has changed in past 20-30 years and they have not faced the worst prevailing situations. Naturally, they will judge and act on the basis of the present scenario. The opening of Engineering and Medical colleges does not come under the ambit of development until its graduates are absorbed into jobs. Presently unemployment

is a big problem, not only in Bihar but in all the states. All the vacant seats in government as well as private sectors have to be filled up. Small scale and agriculture based industries should be established. Various defunct factories should be revived. The Central government will have to make a policy to set up new heavy industry factories in backward regions like Bihar. The rivers should be connected to tackle the problem of seasonal drought & flood. The shortcomings prevailing in schools, colleges, hospitals, transport and other sectors should be carefully rectified. Criminals and Corrupt persons should be crushed. Officers belonging to depressed class should also be positioned on strategic posts. The government should make time bound programme in all works sector for its timely implementation.

Nitish Kumar has always been criticized by his so-called secular political opposition parties for his alignment with the BJP, although previously all non-Congress governments in Bihar have been formed with direct or indirect

support from BJP or the erstwhile Jansangh. In 1990, Laloo Prasad had become CM with the support of BJP. In 2014, Nitish also tried to part away from the BJP when its leadership was transferred to Narendra Modi; but in the election, his works were not converted in to votes and as earlier castes & religion remain the major poll issue. Despite being in alliance with BJP, he never compromised with 3 "C" i.e. Crime, Corruption and Caste. Unlike the Con-

gress regime, his whole tenure remained riot-free.

Nitish Kumar has always been a struggler since the inception of his political career. In the political war of 2020, it was his struggle that despite being the target of all powerful groups comprising of opposition alliances, Liquor Mafia, biased electronic media as well as his own ally BJP's core upper caste voters, he won the battle, with some bruises in terms of less number of seats. As per pre-Poll strategy,

Nitish has become 34<sup>th</sup> CM of Bihar despite having less number of lawmakers of his Party and seeing the history of BJP's "Chaal, Charitra, Chehara", it is obvious that his struggle would still continue. Due to deceit in election, day to day criticism by BJP leaders and a conspiracy to break up JDU on the tune of Maharashtra, Nitish came out of NDA and formed government with the support of UPA.

(Author is a technocrat & academician.)

# The knowledge....

Indigenous traditional knowledge can offer solutions to many of our common challenges. More than 28% of the global land area is owned, used or managed by indigenous peoples, including more than 40% of terrestrial protected areas and 37% of "all remaining natural lands. The importance of indigenous peoples for conservation is only slowly being recognized. Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, benefit sharing and institutions is essential to meeting local and

global conservation goals.

Now, the world has started to recognise the fact that Indigenous women are the backbone of indigenous peoples' communities and play a crucial role in the preservation and transmission of traditional ancestral knowledge around the environment, traditional medicines, food systems, preservation of language and cultural heritage. This is also the theme and UN Secretary-General António Guterres' message for this year's International Day of the World's In-

igenous Peoples. The world must highlight the role of indigenous women in preserving and passing on traditional knowledge. Indigenous women are knowledge keepers of traditional food systems and medicines. They are champions of indigenous languages and cultures. They defend the environment and indigenous peoples' human rights. To build an equitable and sustainable future that leaves no one behind, we must amplify the voices of indigenous women.

# BJP and Sangh Parivar had never any faith in an integrated inclusive India

People of Bharat have always sprung surprises on the authoritarians

By Amulya Ganguli  
New Delhi, August 10:

It might not be churlish to say that the celebration of the 75th year of Indian independence is more an official event associated with the BJP than a national occasion. The fact that the BJP was ousted from Bihar while facing an angry opponent in Telangana showed that the festivities on August 15 would be held against the backdrop of political unrest undermining the BJP's position.

In addition, the letter written by a number of former bureaucrats, judges and army officers against the disturbed conditions in Kashmir means that the BJP's much trumpeted abrogation of the state's (which is now a Union territory) special rights has not paid the dividends that it expected.

Evidently, the hope in the Hindutva camp that the curtailment of Muslim-majority Kashmir's autonomy will bring it closer to the Hindu-dominated mainland hasn't been fulfilled. Instead, this "achievement" which was expected to be the centrepiece of the celebrations on Independence Day is unlikely to be seen as such.

What is clear, therefore, is that the 75th year of independence is being observed in a tentative, uncertain manner because the BJP is more or less alone in its celebratory mood. Only a few loyal allies outside the National Democratic Alliance led by it, notably the Biju Janata Dal of Odisha and the YSR Congress of Andhra Pradesh, are keeping it company.

This is not how it should have been. The 75th year of

independence should have been a time for the BJP to bring together its friends and foes by forgetting the political differences of the past and heralding a united future. Unfortunately, the BJP made no attempt to underline its faith in federalism although it claimed at a recent Niti Aayog meeting that such togetherness marked the nation's fight against the Covid pandemic.

That this assertion about the proximity between the centre and the states is less than true is evident from the hounding of the Congress's Nehru-Gandhi family by the enforcement directorate as well as the needling of the Arvind Kejriwal government by the Lt. Governor of Delhi, who is a BJP appointee.

As a result, the political atmosphere has become bitter enough to induce Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to call for another "do or die" agitation against a dictatorial regime. However, the reference to Mahatma Gandhi's "quit India" ultimatum of 1942 to the British may act as a reminder of how the wheel has turned full circle where the freedom struggle is concerned.

It can seem odd that those who played little or no part in the independence movement and were of killing the Mahatma proudly claim to be patriots today while dubbing their opponents as anti-nationals. In no other country has there been such a dramatic reversal of fortunes in the post-colonial period.

To ensure that this upside down interpretation of the events of the recent past replaces the existing version, history is being rewritten by

the standard-bearers of the present ruling dispensation. They also believe that the BJP has ended one thousand years of "slavery" under the Muslims and the British and has ushered in a new India which is rooted in its Hindu past.

This outlook of the RSS-BJP group is not unique. The Islamists, too, believe that history began with the birth of Prophet Mohammed and that the pagan past of the countries which the Muslims overran in West Asia and elsewhere need to be obliterated.

Hence, the blasting of the giant statues of the Bamyas Buddhas which acted as the guardian angels of the ancient silk route in Afghanistan. It is a miracle that Mohenjo Daro dating back to Pakistan's pre-Islamic past has survived. However, there have been occasional calls by the saffron groups in India to make Taj Mahal suffer the fate of the Babri masjid which was brought down in 1992.

It is understandable, therefore, why India is observing the 75th year of independence in a sullen mood. It is only the RSS-BJP which sees it as "amrit mahotsav".

To the rest, it is a confirmation of a time when reckless iconoclasts are bent on moulding India in their own divisive saffron image which rubbishes the concept of a plural society based on a composite culture highlighting India's multi-religious, multicultural, multi-lingual and even multi-culinary heritage.

What we see, therefore, are two groups comprising people who have diametrically opposite views of

India's past and future claiming to represent the country on Independence Day. It is as if two Indians are vying with each other to claim the people's attention.

The identities of the leading lights of the two Indians are not unknown. On the side of those extolling India's diversity are the Mahatma and Jawaharlal Nehru while their ideological adversaries are V.D. Savarkar and M.S. Golwalkar.

The former argued that the Muslims and Christians are outsiders since their holy lands are in Saudi Arabia and Rome while the latter described the Muslims as "internal enemies No 1" and the Christians as "internal enemies No 2".

It is evident that neither of these votaries of Hindutva saw India as an integral whole comprising all the communities living in it. To them, India is a land of, by and for Hindus.

The BJP's electoral success may persuade it to believe that its assertion of what the country was and should be in the future has wider support than that of its opponents whose parties are derided by the BJP as family enterprises.

But India has the curious habit of springing surprises, especially on the arrogant. Hence, the fall of a would-be dictator in 1977 and the rise of the unfancied like Kejriwal. It is anybody's guess how the BJP fares in this roller-coaster ride of Indian politics despite its claim to be able to rule for half a century. But a party which secured 31 per cent votes in the last national election cannot be too certain of its prospects. (IPA Service)

# AR organises Bike Rally



IT News  
Imphal, August 10:

Somsai Battalion Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR(S), organised bike rally for Ex-Servicemen & youths aspiring to join Indian Armed Forces as part of "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" initiative at Ukhrul, Manipur today.

The initiative is aimed at invoking the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of locals. As part of the programme the Assam

Rifles troops also felicitated the Veer Nari (War Widow), who have made supreme sacrifice for the Nation. 18 bikers drove from Ukhrul to Shanshak spreading the message of unity & patriotism. The local populace applauded the efforts made by Assam Rifles for undertaking such initiatives as part of Independence Week Celebrations.

Meanwhile, SajikTampak battalion under the aegis of IGAR (S) Flags off motorcycle rally to the youths of vill - Twilelon, Haika, Khullen, Paldai, Palem and members of

KSO at Chandel district as a part of HAR GHAR TIRANGA campaign.

A Total of 20 bikes and 35 youth participated in the event showing the spirit of national integrity and their patriotism towards the national flag.

Rally was flagged off from SajikTampak with national flag. The motorcycle rally moved crossing the villages spreading the spirit of Har Ghar Tiranga till Gelangaivill and back. This event also marked the spirit of bond between the locals and the Assam Rifles.

# Assam Rifles organised lecture on war stories of Indian Armed Forces

IT News  
Imphal, August 10:

Khoupum Battalion under the aegis of IGAR (South) organised lecture on War sto-

ries of Indian Armed Forces at Lamdangmei, Upper Ngaryan and Radhanagar (Tripura) today.

Lecture was organised as part of AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV and to promote

the campaign "HAR GHAR TIRANGA", envisaged to enhance and instill pride and honour of our National Flag among the general population of the country.

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# The 76 th Independence Day....

Rewind

How the situation changed in the last 75 years: 1947- No of Banks-(major banks around 06), 2022-(12 public sector banks and 21 private banks). 1947-No of telephones-(84000), 2022-(116 crore including cell phones and landlines), 1947-Tele Communication-(post, telegram, and money orders), 2022-(e-mail, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp,

Teleshopping and G pay), 1947-Audio Visual Communication-(06 radio stations), 2022-(850 TV channels, 10 OTT platforms), 1947-Feature Film Production (178 annually), 2022-(1800).

1947-Newspapers-(30)-2022-(1.17 periodicals including 17573 daily newspaper.

1947-No of Political parties-(around 06), 2022-(2858 parties including 8 national, 54

regional, and 2796 unrecognized parties), 1947- No of States-(12 states and 6 Union Territories), 2022-(28 states and 8 Union Territories) and 1947- Strength of armed forces-(lakh), 2022-(14 lakh).

India is expected to become one of the most powerful countries and emerge as a "World Guru", in the time to come. Let us hope that we become a superpower soon.

# Sports

# Chhetri, Manisha named men's and women's AIFF Footballer of Year

Agency  
Kolkata, August 10:

National captain Sunil Chhetri was on Tuesday named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for the seventh time while Manisha Kalyan was picked for her maiden honour in the women's category for the 2021-22 season.

Chhetri and Kalyan were nominated as the winners by their respective national team coaches Igor Stimac and Thomas Dennerby.

Chhetri, the third highest goal scorer among active international players, was first named for the award in 2007. He then went on to win it in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018-19 seasons.

"Sunil was our highest goal-scorer, scoring 5 goals, and also the Player of the Tournament in the SAFF Cup," Stimac said.

"Furthermore, he led from the front scoring 4 goals in 3 games in the 3rd round of AFC Asian Cup qualifiers in Kolkata. His commitment, leadership, discipline and hard work were impressive through-



out bad, and good times." For Kalyan, it was her first Women's Footballer of the Year award. She won the Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year in the 2020-21 season.

"Manisha has come up with some outstanding performances for the National Team, and also her club. She has scored goals, and also assisted on a regular basis," Dennerby said.

"Blessed with excellent speed and being a good drib-

bler, she has the potential to play in bigger leagues in the future.

She's young, and still developing but has been our best player," Kalyan recently signed a multi-year contract with Cypriot top division winners Apollon Ladies, which has earned a place in the qualifying rounds of the 2022-23 UEFA Women's Champions League.

In other awards, Martina Thokchom was named the 2021-22 Women's Emerging

Footballer of the Year, and Vikram Partap Singh was picked as the 2021-22 Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year by the two national team coaches.

AIFF Awards (2021-22): Women's Footballer of the Year: Manisha Kalyan Men's Footballer of the Year: Sunil Chhetri Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year: Martina Thokchom Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year: Vikram Partap Singh Best Referee of the Year: Crystal John.

# Indian women clinch historic first-ever medal at 44th Chess Olympiad; bronze in open section

Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu), August 10:

Indian women's team scripted history at the 44th Chess Olympiad by winning the country's first-ever medal in the women's section while men claimed their second bronze medal of the prestigious event in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu on Tuesday.

India A team, comprising Koneru Humpy, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni, secured bronze medal in the women's section after a 1-3 loss to USA in the final round match.

Humpy and Vaishali drew their games while Tania Sachdev and Bhakti Kulkarni ended up losing their games.

Abhijit Kunte, the India A coach, was all praise for the team saying: "The team has worked really hard in the last three or four months and this is India's first-ever medal in the history of the Olympics, this should be the beginning of much better days for women's chess in India."

The first women's Olympiad was held in 1957. Since 1976, women and open sections have been held together.

In the open section, on the other hand, the young India B team, which impressed everyone with their brilliant performances throughout the event, handed the country its second bronze medal after thrashing Germany 3-1.

India B had D Gukesh leading from the top and the start, scoring a fantastic 9/11, Nihal Sarin chipped in with a superb 7.5/10, Praggnanandhaa scoring well with 6.5/9 and Raunak Sadhwani also scoring a valuable 5.5/8.

"Overall, it has been a very enjoyable event. I didn't expect us to perform so well but it could have been better. We could have had a great chance at a gold medal if I had won or drawn my game yesterday (on Monday). But these things happen. Immediately after the game I was devastated and our mentor [Viswanathan] Anand put me in a better frame of mind by saying that these things

happen in sport and he too was at the receiving end himself," said Gukesh, who played all 11 games and tallied 9 points.

It was India's second bronze medal in the open section at the Olympiad after winning it before in 2014.

Besides medals in the team events, it rained medals for India on individual performances with as many as seven Indians winning medals, including two gold, one silver and four bronze. Gukesh and Sarin on top and second board respectively while Arjun Erigaisi secured silver medal on third board. R Praggnanandhaa (third board), R Vaishali (third board), Tania Sachdev (third board) and Divya Deshmukh (reserve board) claimed individual bronze medals.

India also won the prestigious Gopichand Hills Cup. It is given to the nation for their collective performance in both open and women's sections. It was also for the first time India hosted the world's biggest chess tournament.