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Article For Reading - Triumph squared: On India's chess double win in Budapest.

India's double gold at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest is an extraordinary **feat**: only two other countries could do it in history. It came as no surprise to the serious followers of the game, though. The Indian women began as the first seed and the men as the second in the mind sport's most **prestigious team** event, for which most of the world's countries flew down to the Hungarian capital. While the women's campaign suffered a **couple of setbacks** towards the end, the men were absolutely dominant right through. The men were so good that they scored four points more than their nearest rivals, the **top-seeded** United States. What stood out is the fact that India's twin triumph was **fashioned** by a bunch of youngsters belonging to the golden generation of Indian chess. That should be a worrying thought for India's opponents on the chessboard as these champions can only get better and will be playing at the Olympiad and other global competitions for another decade or two. Besides the team golds, India also won the individual golds through **D. Gukesh** (aged 18), Arjun Erigaisi (21), Divya Deshmukh (18) and Vantika Agrawal (21). The Indian teams also included Chennai's Grandmaster siblings R. Praggnanandhaa (19) and R. Vaishali (23).

It is also worth mentioning that the Indian women's team did not have Koneru Humpy, one of the strongest female players in chess history.

Having stressed that, India's depth in the women's game is nowhere near that of the men's. While there are several promising male players outside the Olympiad teams, such as Nihal Sarin and Raunak Sadhwani, it is not quite so in Indian women's chess. India's chess administration should try to use the great success of its women at Budapest to promote the game more aggressively among girls. The women's bench needs to get stronger. The administrators also have to organise **elite** tournaments in India. The big stars of Indian chess hardly ever play in the country, for there are no events good enough for them. Viswanathan Anand, the man who single-handedly revolutionised chess in India, never had an opportunity to play in a tournament other than a World championship or World Cup at home after he became one of the superstars of world chess. There is the Tata Steel Chess India tournament in Kolkata, but its format is rapid and **blitz**, and not the classical variety of the Olympiad. Players like Arjun and Divya have shown in the eastern metropolis how much a top-quality event like that helps Indian players. Indian chess surely could **soar** higher with more support from the government and corporates.

Summary -

India's remarkable achievement of winning double gold at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest highlights its emerging dominance in the sport. The Indian women's team entered as the top seed, while the men's team was second, ultimately showcasing strong performances, particularly from the men's team, which outscored their closest rivals by four points. This success came from a talented group of young players, signaling a bright future for Indian chess. Notably, individual golds were also won by young players, including D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi. However, the women's team lacks depth compared to the men, and efforts are needed to promote women's chess in India, including the organization of elite tournaments to attract top players. The passage emphasizes the potential for growth in Indian chess with increased support from the government and corporate sponsors.

Vocabulary –

1. **Triumph (Noun)** विजय –

Meaning- A great victory or achievement.

Synonyms – Success, Conquest, Achievement.

Antonyms – Failure, Defeat, Setbacks.

E.g.- Her Triumph in the international tournament earned her widespread acclaim.

2. Prestigious (Adj) प्रतिष्ठित -

Meaning – Inspiring respect & admiration, having high status.

Synonyms – Esteemed, Respect, Distinguished.

Antonyms – Inferior, Insignificant, disruptable.

Eg- Winning the prestigious award was the highlight of her career.

3. Feat(Noun) करतब-

Meaning – N achivement that requires great courage, skill, or strength.

Synonyms – Triumph, Exploit, Deed.

Antonyms – Inability, Misstep, Shortcomings.

Eg – Cimbing Mount Everest is considered as a remarkable feat of endurance and determination.

4. Elite (Noun) अभिजात वर्ग –

Meaning – group of people who hold a superior states, power or influence within a society or organization.

Synonyms – Afficionado, Privilege Exclusive .

Antonyms – Common, Proletariat, Subordinate.

Eg- The University is known for its elite programme in Engineering.

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5. Blitz (Noun) आक्रमण –

Meaning – A sudden energetic and concerted effort, typically in a specific task.

Synonyms – Assault, Charge.

Antonyms – Retreat, Withdrawal.

Eg- The team organised a marketing blitz to boost sales before holiday season.

6. Soar(Verb) उड़ना, बढ़ना –

Meaning – To fly or rise high in.

Synonyms – Ascend, Climb, Surge.

Antonyms – Descend, Fall, Drop.

7. Fashioned (verb) निर्मित –

Meaning – Something that is created or formed.

Synonyms- Formed, Created, Shaped.

Antonyms – Unformed, Unfashioned, Rough.

Eg- The Artist fashioned a beautiful sculpture from recycled material.

- **Seed-** Extraordinary Player.
- **Squared-** doubled, multiply, increase.
- **Rivals-** Opponents.