

Vidit Gujrathi (born 24 October 1994) is an Indian chess Grandmaster. He attained the title of Grandmaster in January 2013, aged 18 years and 3 months. He is the fourth Indian ever to have crossed the rating threshold of 2700. As of May 2020, his rating of 2726 makes him the 23rd highest rated chess player in the world, and the second highest rated chess player in India, after Viswanathan Anand.

He was born in Nashik on 24 October 1994 to Dr Santosh Gujrathi and Dr Niketa Santhosh Gujrathi. He did his early schooling at Pravash Academy and was coached in chess from an early age. In 2006, he finished second in the Asian Youth Championship in the U12 category, thus becoming a FIDE Master.

Gujrathi became an International Master when he secured 7 points out of 13 in the Velammal 45th National Chess Championship in Chennai in 2008. In 2008, he won the World Youth Chess Championship in the Open U14 section, the first Indian to do so. He scored 9 points out of a possible 11, gaining his final norm to become an International Master.

He finished 2nd in the U16 category of the World Youth Chess Championship in the year 2009, tying at 9 points to the eventual winner S.P. Sethuraman, also from India. In the World Junior Chess Championship in Chennai in 2011, held for U20 players, Vidit finished with 8 points out of 11, thus gaining his first GM norm. [8]

In the Nagpur International Open in 2011, Vidit finished with

8 points out of 11, one point behind the eventual winner Ziya Rahman. He gained his second GM norm in the tournament. [9] Vidit achieved his final GM norm in the eighth round of the Rose Valley Kolkata Open Grandmasters' chess tournament in 2012, where he finished third. [10]

In 2013, Vidit won a bronze medal in the World Junior Chess Championship in Turkey in the Junior (U-20) category. [11][12] Vidit finished third in the Hyderabad International Grandmasters chess tournament in 2013, winning ₹ 1.5 lakh. [13]

Vidit has been also performing in the top 10 of other tournaments, including the Commonwealth Championship in 2008. Throughout the years, Vidit was also coached by IM Anup Deshmukh, IM Raktim Bandopadhyay and GM Alon Greenfeld of Israel. [14] Grandmaster Abhijit Kunte, who also coached Vidit earlier, said in 2013 that Vidit could reach an ELO rating of 2100 in two-three years. Kunte also considered Vidit's positional sense excellent, comparing him to the Indian chess player P Harikrishna. [11]

From 22 November 2019 to 25 November, he competed in the Tata Steel Rapid and Blitz, as a wildcard. He finished in a tie for eighth with fellow wildcard Pentala Harikrishna.

Notable results

First Place in 2019 Biel Chess Festival Grand Master tournament.

Runner-up at the 2020 Prague Chess Festival masters

to Varnant,