

SHAH MAAT CHESS COMMUNITY PRESENTS

IITM BS CHESS CHRONICLES

@shahmaatiitm

BY HARSH VARDHAN



Freestyle Chess G.O.A.T Challenge

The freestyle chess G.O.A.T challenge was an OTB Chess960 tournament held in Wangels, Germany February 9th to 16th. The 8 player tournament was single round robin rapid followed by knockout classical all in Chess960 variant. The event featured some of the biggest names in chess including former world champion GM Magnus Carlsen and current champion GM Ding Liren. The tournament was won by GM Magnus Carlsen from Norway who defeated American Fabiano Caruana in the finals.

Prague Chess Festival

The 10 player round robin classical tournament is being held from February 27th to March 7th in Prague, Czech Republic. The tournament is featuring many top players including Candidate Vudit Gujrathi and Candidate R. Praggnanandha.

12th National School Open Chess Championship

The 12th edition of National Schools Chess Championship was held from 6th to 10th February 2024. A total of 913 children registered in six different age groups - Under-7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17. The tournament was organized by All Bihar Chess Association in association with Bihar State Sports Authority at Gyan Bhavan in Patna, Bihar.

Olympiad moves to Hungary

In a symbolic gesture, the Chess Olympiad torch was handed off by India to the 2024 host Hungary at the National Stadium, New Delhi on February 14, 2024. In the presence of the five-time World champion Vishy Anand and Hungary's Judit Polgar, besides officials from several embassies, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur lit the torch and passed on the flame to FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich to light his torch. The tournament is scheduled in the month of September, 2024.

TRENDING IN IITM BS CHESS COMMUNITY

ALL WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

The 1st ever all women's chess tournament of IITM BS chess community was held on February 18, 2024. The event was organized on Lichess in a 3+0 arena format. Some of the best female chess players of IITM BS competed for the top spot. The tournament was won by **Shreetu Nandi** (Lichess rating- 1825) who scored 14 points with 7 wins.

HOUSE BILATERAL TOURNAMENTS



Following intense negotiations the chess community of IITM-BS was able to arrange bilateral tournaments between multiple houses in the month of February. While Gir house and Nallamala house competed in the battle of lions on February 27th, the Bisons of Nilgiri house challenged the tigers of Kanha house on February 28th. The tournaments were held in two stages i.e., team selection stage followed by Main event. **Gir house** and **Kanha house** won the respective tournaments.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR IITM BS IN MARCH

SHAH-MAAT X PARADOX CHESS BATTLE



The Shah-Maat Chess community of IITM BS and the Paradox sports team are organizing an event in collaboration on March 17, 2024. The team vs team battle will be something to watch out for as the students prepare for the Paradox Inter house chess championship.



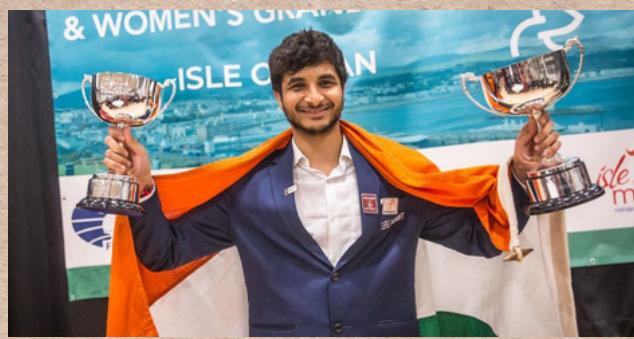
ASHWATH KAUSHIK, THE 8-YR OLD PRODIGY

BY JUHI PAREKH

On 18th of February 2024, the world of chess was shocked yet once again by an Indian. 8-yr old Ashwath Kaushik, who has been living in Singapore since the last 6 years, became the youngest ever player to defeat a grandmaster in classical chess. Kaushik, who is rated just 1892, beat Poland's GM Jacek Stopa (2351). The youngster has previously won a triple gold at the Eastern Asian Youth Championships and is a former World U-8 Rapid Champion. Ashwath dreams of becoming the World Champion one day and states that he won't stop playing until he fulfills this dream.

While most of us were collecting our favorite superhero cards when we were Ashwath's age, this prodigy is busy collecting achievements paving his own pathway to success. While he has already come a long way at such a young age, Ashwath still has a long way to go. It will definitely be interesting to follow the wunderkind's journey in the years to come.

EDITORIALS



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

With Candidates 2024 only a month away we look into the career of Candidate Vidit Gujrathi. Born in Nashik on October 24, 1994, Vidit is the 30th GM from India. He attained the GM title in January of 2013. Over his remarkable career Vidit has won many prestigious tournaments such as under 14 world championship, tata steel challengers, etc. He is the 4th Indian to cross the 2700 elo mark. After a string of uninspiring results Vidit reinvented himself and his playing style drastically. With this new style, famously referred to as VD 2.0, he was able to win the prestigious FIDE Grand Swiss 2023 and secured his spot in Candidates 2024. IITM BS chess community wishes VD2.0 best of luck for the candidates.

WOMEN – CHESS PLAYERS, NOT JUST WOMEN CHESS PLAYERS

BY SHAGUN DWIVEDI

Following the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament held in Wijk Aan Zee, the Netherlands, 18-year-old International Master Divya Deshmukh, through an Instagram post, spoke out against sexism in chess, discussing the disrespect women chess players receive from the audience.

Having scored a respectable 4.5 points, with 3 brilliant wins in the tournament, the player was disheartened to discover that she was being judged by the audience based on unrelated factors. She also stated that her male counterparts received much less personal judgement from the audience.

"With an increase in online tournaments and with games being livestreamed, women players have become disproportionately vulnerable to receiving misogynistic comments from the predominantly male audience online,"



says sports writer Susan Ninan, and further argues that such trolling reinforces sexist ideas toward chess and can undermine young female players' confidence.

Though comments from audience online, even for male players, usually tend to be related to unrelated aspects of their personality their height, voice, or mannerisms; but such remarks are more prevalent for female players, and have greater emphasis on their appearance, attractiveness, or likeability.

The post has spurred debates online that only give further substance to her argument. When all talks about making the sport more inclusive for women devolve into debates about whether women are intrinsically worse at chess, one begins to question, are some animals more equal than others?

IN THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



The legendary Kasparov vs Deep Blue series of matches kicked off on February 10, 1996. This game marked a turning point in chess history as this was the first time a reigning world champion ever lost against a computer with tournament conditions and slow time controls.

SHAH MAAT SPECIAL

STRATEGIC STAR AWARD

Shreetu Nandi, a prominent player in our Chess society, has displayed remarkable prowess in recent tournaments. In the Kanha vs. Nilgiri bilateral series, Shreetu's performance was outstanding, achieving a performance rating of 1635. Over 9 games, she maintained an impressive win rate of 89%, contributing significantly to her team's victory. Furthermore, in the first-ever all-women's chess tournament hosted by the IITM BS Chess Community, Shreetu secured first place with a performance rating of 1841. Despite facing tough opponents with an average rating of 1591, she won 75% of her games, showcasing her exceptional skill and determination. For her remarkable achievements, Shreetu Nandi rightfully earns the Strategic Star Award. Congratulations, Shreetu, on this well-deserved recognition! We look forward to witnessing your continued success in chess.



STRATEGIC NOVICE ACCOLADE



WFM Prachiti Chandratreya, an emerging talent from Shah Maat, boasts an impressive FIDE rating of 1998 in standard chess, placing her among the top players in India. With a current national ranking of 1535, Prachiti has steadily climbed the ranks, showcasing her dedication and skill on the chessboard. Her recent stellar performance in the Gir House vs. Nallamala House bilaterals, where she achieved a remarkable performance rating of 2132 and secured a flawless 100% win rate over 11 games, highlights her exceptional potential as a chess player. This remarkable feat has earned her the Strategic Novice Accolade, recognizing emerging players of the month. Congratulations, Prachiti, on this outstanding achievement!

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