

SHAH MAAT CHESS COMMUNITY PRESENTS



# IITM BS CHESS CHRONICLES

@shahmaatiitm



BY HARSH VARDHAN

## EVENTS IN MARCH IN INDIA AND WORLD



### World Championships Candidates 2024

After a lot of controversies and roadblocks, the candidates 2024 is scheduled to start on April 3rd, 2024 in Toronto, Canada. The tournament hosts total of 16 players (8 in open and 8 in women's division) with GM Fabiano Caruana being the highest rated player.

Due to visa issue faced by multiple players from different countries FIDE was planning to shift the tournament to a new location. But a rapid response from the Canadian authorities prevented any last minute change.

The 20 days long tournament will be finished on April 22nd with the winners qualifying to play for world championship against the reigning world champions.

### Shenzhen Longgang Chess Masters 2024

This annual chess tournament was scheduled from February 29th to March 7th, 2024. The 8 player round robin classical event was won by GM Xiangzhi who finished first along with GM Yu Yangyi and GM Arjun Erigaisi.



### Prague Chess Festival

Held from February 27th to March 7th, the 2024 edition of the Prague International chess festival brought together many top players in the city of Prague, Czech Republic. The masters section was won GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov who finished ahead of multiple candidates.



### Srihari L - The pride of Pondicherry

19 years old, Srihari L became the 1st player from the UT of Pondicherry to achieve the title of International Master on February 11, 2024. He did so by securing his final IM normal by getting a rating of 2400+.



# TRENDING IN IITM BS CHESS COMMUNITY



## TEAM SHAH-MAAT VS TEAM PARADOX

In a tournament held on March 17, 2024, the IIT Madras BS chess club "Shah-Maat" was challenged by the IITM BS students fest body "Paradox" in a 3+0 arena tournament. Both teams held a selection tournament to select the players on March 16th.

Following this in a club arena battle held on **chess.com**, Team Shah-Maat defeated team Paradox by a margin of 264 - 126.

## HOUSE BILATERAL TOURNAMENTS



The pre-paradox house chess battle continues with March edition of house bilaterals. Scheduled for March 31st, 2024, multiple houses go against each other.

Saranda is facing of Gir, Nilgiri will go against Pichavaram and Nallamala will face off Kaziranga.

The results of the tournament will be monitored closely by each house with the Inter house chess championship 2024 getting close.



## MEGA ANNOUNCEMENT

A huge announcement is scheduled for the month of April for all chess enthusiasts of IIT Madras BS degree program. This announcement will mark the start of a new phase for the chess community of IITM BS. So students are informed to regularly check out social media pages of Shah-maat chess society as well as of Paradox.



## INDIA'S CHESS NUMBER ONE: THE MUSICAL CHAIRS

In a whirlwind of talent and skill, India's chess scene has seen a carousel of champions vying for the coveted number one spot in recent months. From the seasoned expertise of Vishwanathan Anand to the rising stars like Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, and Gukesh, each player has taken their turn in the limelight. Now, the spotlight shifts once again as Arjun Erigaisi steps into the forefront, showcasing the depth and dynamism of India's chess prowess. The ever-changing landscape reflects the country's rich pool of chess prodigies, ensuring a captivating journey for fans worldwide.



# EDITORIALS



## KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

Humpy Koneru is the stalwart of Indian women's chess. She became the youngest female player to get the GM title in 2002 when she beat the previously held record of Judith Polgar by 3 months. With this she also became the 1st Indian female player to get the GM title. She is the 2nd female chess player to cross 2600 elo joining a very elite group in doing so.

Humpy qualified for candidates 2024 (women's section) through the ratings spot and is one of the favourites to win the tournament.

Gukesh D, the Indian prodigy, is the 3rd youngest player to qualify for the Candidates tournament in the history. He qualified through the FIDE circuit spot after a dominant performance and win in the Chennai Grandmasters tournament 2023. With his consistent performance in Tata Steel masters 2024 he has proved he is in his preparation and is ready to take on the rest of the Candidates.

Gukesh came into limelight after he surpassed Vishy Anand for in ratings to become India no. 1 for a small time period last year. He has a very unique playing style which is both safe and decisive. IIT Madras BS chess community wishes best of luck to both Humpy and Gukesh for Candidates 2024.

## IN THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Lasker vs Steinitz - story of 1894 world championship

In 1894, the defending champion Wilhelm Steinitz was challenged by a 25 years old up and coming Prussian talent Emanuel Lasker.



After negotiating the terms of the match, the tournament began on March 15, 1894, in New York. At the start the matchup seemed very even with scores being 2-2 after the first 6 games. But after this Lasker went on a rampage. After 19 rounds, Emanuel Lasker defeated Steinitz with the score of 10-5. While critics kept claiming that the win will not be of historical significance "for Steinitz had grown old and the old Steinitz was not the Steinitz of old", little did they know that Lasker had embarked upon the path to create the record for the longest reigning champion in the history.

## THE TWO SIDES OF ENGINES

S. Satwik :

Chess used to be pretentious testimony of the mind. As ecstatic as the history of the game suggests to be, its recent superlative present hasn't indeed been so exercising on the mind since the canon event of the legend Gary Kasparov having to bow down to the supercomputer two and a half decades ago. Ever since then chess has become more and more predictable and less dynamic and does injustice to the meticulous brains of the game with the presence of an entity always superior to the human mind that is infact unbeatable. This takes nothing away from the modern legends and prodigies of the game and though the intervention of computers in the game has expanded the game to newer potential audiences it can safely be said that chess is no longer a game that is testament to "How smart one was" as it used to be.

H.V. Rai :

Chess, like any other sport, is in the process of evolution. The development of modern engines that can calculate positions much faster than a human has only contributed to the popularity of the game. With engines at disposal chess enthusiasts can study positions and games of the top players without having to spend any extra resources than required. These engines have also helped in content creation with live commentary made easier and accessible due to wide availability of these engines. Additionally the human element is still intact in the games as after a few moves almost every game at the top level reached a new position from where players have to use their skills and memorization leaves the board. Additionally I disagree with the viewpoint of judging one's intellect based on chess skills. Chess is just like any other sport where skills can be learnt and crafted by resources available to our disposal.



# SHAH MAAT SPECIAL

## STRATEGIC STAR AWARD

Harshit Bihani's remarkable achievements in the recent chess tournaments have rightfully earned him the Strategic Star Award. Representing Kanha house in the Kanha vs. Nilgiri bilateral series, he displayed remarkable versatility, securing 3rd place with 19 points in the 3+0 category and achieving 2nd place with 13 points in the 1+1 format, also claiming 1st position in his house. Continuing his stellar performance, Harshit finished 4th with an impressive 34 points and 10 wins in the Shah-Maat Team vs Paradox Team tournament. His consistency and dedication to excellence make him a deserving recipient of this award. Congratulations, Harshit, on this well-deserved recognition! We eagerly anticipate your continued success in the world of chess.



## STRATEGIC NOVICE ACCOLADE

Dixit Sharma, an emerging talent from Shah Maat, showcased exceptional prowess in the Shah-Maat Team vs. Paradox Team tournament, earning him well-deserved recognition. Finishing 2nd with an impressive 42 points, which included 12 wins and just 1 loss, Dixit displayed remarkable skill and consistency on the chessboard. Notably, he emerged as the top performer from Team Shah-Maat, highlighting his invaluable contribution to the team's success. This remarkable feat has earned him the Strategic Novice Accolade, recognizing emerging players of the month. Congratulations, Dixit on this remarkable feat and well-deserved accomplishment!

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