



# CHESS MATE

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Indian Youth Chess Olympiad team that took fourth place at Slovakia last month: (L-R) K S Raghunandan, GM R.B. Ramesh (coach-manager), P Iniyan, R Vaishali, Mitrabha Guha, Nitish Belurkar. Mitrabha won a gold medal for the best result on board five. See page 15 for details.

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## Photos From Kiit World Junior 2016



**Indians started well in the World Junior Chess Championship at Bhubaneswar. While National champion Karthikeyan Murali of Chennai moved into sole lead with 5/6, Priyanka K of Coimbatore was in joint lead with 5/6 in the World Junior for Girls. Photos: [www.aicf.in](http://www.aicf.in) and organisers of the world junior event.**



## CHESS MATE

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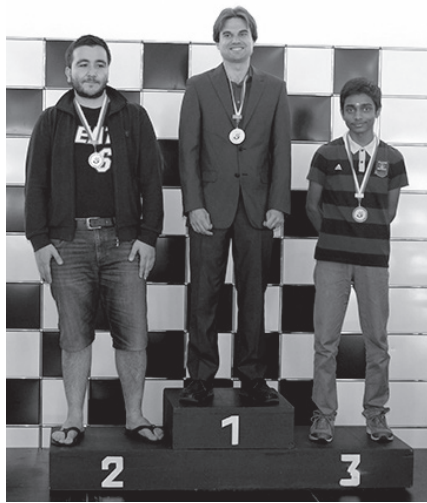
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↑ Winners in the National Under-13 Championship  
Erigaisi Arjun (TL) and D Jishitha (AP) at Ahmedabad.  
Picture source: www.westgodavarichess.in See page 20

At Biel 2016

## Aravindh Chithambaram Makes A Podium Performance



Grandmaster V.R. Aravindh Chithambaram, 17, achieved a podium performance at the Master group of the 49th Biel Chess Festival in Switzerland with a final round win against Kazakh GM Rinat Jumabayev. He tied for the third to eighth places and took third place on superior tie-break.

In the third round, Aravindh though only seed No.25, upset fellow Chennai star seed No.11 Krishnan Sasikiran. Sasikiran tied for third but finished sixth. Top seed Russian Nikita Vitiugov (Elo 2728) finished eleventh on six points.

The 50th edition of the Biel Tournament to be played next

year has been announced from July 22 to August 4, 2017. Announcing early has its advantages. It allows players to prepare early and give out their best. One more of Europe's traditional events is entering the golden jubilee edition.

**Final placings** (top and complete Indian placings): 1 GM Samuel Shankland (USA) 7½/9; 2 GM Eltaj Safarli (Aze) 7; 3-8. GM Vr Aravindh Chithambaram, GM Axel Bachmann (Par), GM Salem A.R. Saleh (UAE), GM Krishnan Sasikiran, GM Vladimir Baklan (Ukr), GM Ildar Khairullin (Rus) 6½ each; 25 GM Karthikeyan Murali 5½; 26 GM S.P.



Sethuraman 5½; 29 IM Swayams Mishra 5½; 33 IM Siva Mahadevan 5½; 35 IM George A Stany 5; 38 GM M Shyam Sundar 5; 42 IM Arghyadip Das 5; 52 IM V Saravanan 4½; 64 J Yohan 4½; 69 IM S Nitin 4; 70 CM Nikhil Magizhnan 4; 84 K Arjun 3½...112 players.

**Aravindh Chithambaram** 2543  
**Krishnan Sasikiran** 2639

Sicilian Keres Attack B81

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.g4 a6 7.g5 Nfd7 8.a4 Nc6 9.Bg2 Nde5 10.f4 [Karpov 2695 vs Anikaev 2435 Tbilisi, 1976 went: 10.Nb3 Qc7 11.f4 Nc4 12.Qe2 N4a5 13.Be3 h6 .... 1-0] 10...Nxd4 11.Qxd4 Nc6 12.Qf2 h6 13.h4 hxg5 14.hxg5 Rxh1+ 15.Bxh1± Rb8 16.Be3 b6 17.0-0-0 Qc7 18.e5 Nb4 [Black cannot block out white's attack with 18...d5? 19.Bxd5! exd5 20.Nxd5 Qb7 21.Bxb6+-] 19.exd6 Bxd6 20.Ne4 Bf8 21.Bd4 Nc6 22.Bc3 Bb7 23.g6! This move creates holes in black's king-side which become exploitable. 23...Rd8



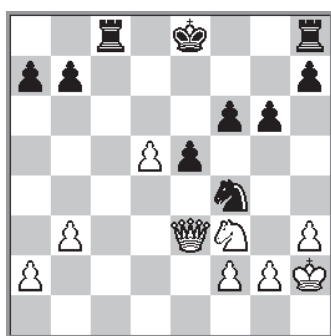
24.Re1! Nb4 [If 24...f6 25.Bxf6! gxf6 26.Nxf6+ Ke7 27.Qh4! Kd6 28.f5 e5 29.Rd1+ Kc5 (29...Nd4?? 30.Rxd4+ exd4 31.Qf4+ wins the queen.) 30.Nd5!! for if 30...Qb8 31.b4+] 25.gxf7+- Kxf7 26.Ng5+ Kg8 27.Qh4 Na2+ 28.Kb1 Nxc3+ 29.bxc3 g6 30.Bxb7 Qxb7 31.Rh1 [31.Rh1 Qg7 32.Nxe6 Qh6 33.Qxh6 Bxh6 34.Nxd8+-] 1-0.

**Vladimir Baklan** 2618

**George A Stany** 2476

Sicilian Rossolimo B31

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 Nf6 7.Bd2 c4 [7...Nd7 has been tried here.] 8.e5 Nd7 9.d4 c5 10.Bc3 Qc7 11.e6!² fxe6 12.dxc5 Bf6 13.Qe2 Nxc5 14.Qxc4 Bd7 15.0-0 Rc8 16.Qe2 Na4 17.Bxf6 exf6 18.c4! e5? [This breaks the principle that one should not change the pawn structure before completing development. ¹18...0-0 19.Rd1 e5 20.b3²] 19.b3 Nc5 [19...Nb6 controlling d5 and preventing a future Nc3-d5 was better.] 20.Nc3 Bc6 21.Qe3 Ne6 22.Nd5 Bxd5 23.cxd5 Nf4 24.Ra1 Qxc1 25.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 26.Kh2 Rc8±

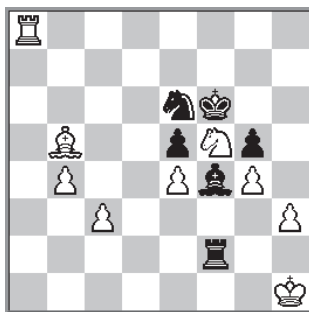


27.Nxe5! This would not have been possible had black castled on the 18th move. 27...Nxd5 28.Qe4 fxe5 29.Qxd5+- b6 30.Qe6+ Kd8 31.Qf7 Re8 32.Qxh7 Rc2 33.Qxa7 Re6 [33...Rxf2?? 34.Qxb6++-] 34.Qf7 Rd6 35.a4 Rb2 36.h4 Rdd2 37.Qxg6 Rxf2 38.Qxb6+ Kc8 39.Qc6+ [After 39.Qc6+ Kb8 40.h5 Rxb3 41.Qd6+- the disconnected black rooks have no chance against the queen.] 1-0.

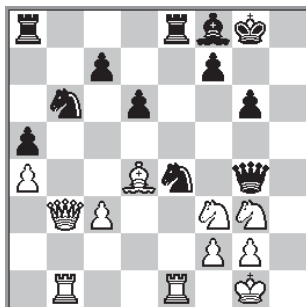
Aravindh Chithambaram 2543  
Alexander Kovchan 2576  
Sicilian Najdorf B90

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 Nbd7 8.g4 h6 9.a4 [9.Ng3 has been played by Kupreichik vs Ostojic in 1996, but white plans a different strategy.] 9...b6 10.Bg2 Bb7 11.0-0 g6 12.Be3 Rc8 13.Qd2 Rc4 14.b3 Rc8 15.f4 Qc7 16.Rf2 Bg7 17.Raf1 [If 17.Rd1 Nc5 (17...Bf8=) 18.Bxc5 dxc5 (18...Qxc5 19.Qxd6±) 19.fxe5 Nh7□ (19...Qxe5? 20.Rxf6? Bxf6 21.Qd7+ Kf8 22.Qxb7+-) 20.Qd7+! Qxd7 21.Rxd7 Kxd7 22.Rxf7+ Kc6 23.Rxg7 Rcg8 24.Rf7 Rf8 25.e6 Rxf7 26.exf7 Kd7 27.Nf4 g5 28.Ng6 Rd8 29.Nd5 Nf8 30.Nxb6+ Ke6 31.Nxf8+ Rxf8 32.Kf2 Rxf7+ 33.Ke3 Bc6 34.Nc4±] 17...Nh7 18.fxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxh6 0-0 20.Be3 Rfd8 21.Bd4 b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Nf4 Qe7 24.Nfd5 Qh4 25.Bxe5 dxe5 26.Rxf7 Bxd5 27.Nxd5 Ng5 28.R7f2 Kh8 [If 28...Nxb3+ 29.Bxh3 Qxh3 30.Ne7+ Kh8 31.Rh2+-] 29.Kh2 Ne6 30.Rf7

Bh6 31.Qf2 Qxf2 32.R1xf2 Bf4+ 33.Kh1 Rf8 34.Rxf8+ Rxf8 35.Bf1 Rb8 36.b4 g5 37.c3 Rb7 38.Ra2 Bg3 39.Ra5 Rf7 40.Bxb5+- Rf2 41.Ra8+ Kg7 42.Ne3 Bf4 43.Nf5+ Kf6



44.Ra6! Rc2 45.Rc6 [If 45.Bd7? Rc1+ 46.Kg2 Rc2+ 47.Kf1 Rc1+ 48.Ke2 Rc2+ should draw by repetition for if now 49.Kd3?? Rd2+ 50.Kc4 Rxd7 black wins.; similarly, if 45.Bc4 black would draw by continuously checking with the rook on c1 and c2.] 45...Kf7 46.Bc4 Rc1+ 47.Kg2 Rc2+ 48.Kf3 Rxc3+ 49.Ke2 Kf8 50.Rc8+! Nd8 [50...Kf7?? 51.Bxe6+ wins.] 51.Rxd8# 1-0.



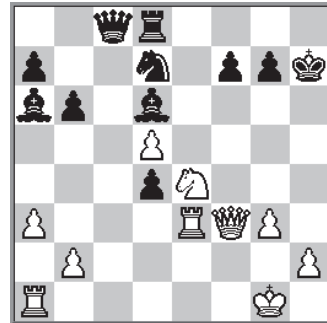
M Shyam Sundar 2526  
Rinat Jumabayev (Kaz) 2613

27.Nh2? [Sometimes, the simplest moves are the best.]

Unnatural, backward developments are usually not good. Probably white had some dreams or fears in this position. Best here was: 27.Nxe4! Rxe4 28.Rxe4 Qxe4 29.Bxb6 cxb6 30.Qxf7+ Kxf7 31.Ng5+ Ke7 32.Nxe4=] 27...Qf4? 28.Be3? [Better was: 28.Nxe4 Rxe4 29.Rxe4 Qxe4 30.Nf3 Re8] 28...Nc5? 29.Qd1 Qh4 30.Qf3? Bg7 [30...Ncxa4!-+] 31.Ng4 Nbd7 32.Bd4 Rab8 33.Rxb8 Rxb8 34.Ne4 Nxe4 35.Qxe4 Qg5 36.Bxg7 Kxg7 37.Qd4+ Nf6 38.f3 Qh4 39.Kf1 Rb2 40.Qxf6+ Qxf6 41.Nxf6 Kxf6 Now black wraps up the rook end-game with clever play. 42.Re4 Rc2 43.Re3 [43.Rc4 c5 44.g4 Ke6 45.Re4+ Kd5 46.Re7 f5-+] 43...Ra2 44.Re4 d5 45.Rf4+ Ke7 46.Rd4 c6 47.Rh4 Ra3 48.Rh8 Rxa4! 49.Ra8 Rc4 0-1.

Swayams Mishra 2457  
Salem A.R. Saleh 2608  
Nimzo-Indian E46

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Nge2 d5 6.a3 Be7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Nf4 c6 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.0-0 Re8 11.f3 b6 [K Volke 2395 - N Stajcic 2345, Kecskemet, 1991 went: 11...Bxf4 12.exf4 Qb6 13.Kh1 Nbd7 14.Bc2 Nf8= .... 63 1-0] 12.Bc2 Ba6 13.Re1 Qc7 14.g3 Nbd7 15.e4 dxe4 16.fxe4 Rad8 17.Be3 [17.Bd2] 17...Qc8= 18.Qf3 [Not 18.e5? Bxe5! 19.dxe5 Nxe5 20.Qb1 Nf3+ -+] 18...c5! 19.Nfd5 Nxd5 20.exd5 Rxe3! 21.Rxe3 [Or, if 21.Qxe3 cxd4 22.Qf3 dxc3 23.b4 Ne5 24.Qg2 Bb7!-+] 21...cxd4 22.Bxh7+ Kxh7 23.Ne4



23...Be7! [Not 23...dxe3?? 24.Nxd6 Qc2 25.Qh5+ Kg8 26.Qxf7+ Kh7 (26...Kh8 27.Qh5+ Qh7?? 28.Nf7+ Kg8 29.Qxh7+ Kxh7 30.Nxd8+-) 27.Qh5+ Kg8 28.Qf7+ Draw] 24.Qxf7 dxe3 25.Qf5+ Kh8 26.Qh3+ Bh4 [26...Kg8 27.Qe6+ Kf8 28.Nd6 Bxd6 29.Qxd6+ Kg8 30.Qe6+ Kh7 31.Qh3+ Kg6 32.Qg4+ Kf6 33.Qe6+ Kg5 34.Qxe3+ Kh5 35.Qf3+ Kh6 36.Qe3+ Kh7 37.Qe4+ Kh8 38.Qh4+ Kg8 White has no further checks.] 27.Nd6 [If 27.Qxh4+ Kg8 28.Nd6 Ne5! 29.Nxc8 Nf3+ 30.Kh1 Nxb4 31.gxh4 Rxc8 32.Re1 e2-+] 27...Qc2 28.Qxh4+ Kg8 29.Qxd8+ Nf8 30.Qe7 Qf2+! 31.Kh1 e2 32.Rg1 Qf3+ 33.Rg2 e1R+ 34.Qxe1 Bf1 35.Qf2 Bxg2+ 36.Kg1 Qd1+! 37.Kxg2 Qxd5+ 38.Qf3 Qxd6 39.b4 Qe5 40.h4 a5 41.bxa5 bxa5 42.Qb3+ Ne6 43.Qc4 Kf7 44.Qb3 Qe4+ 45.Kh2 a4 46.Qc3 Nd4 47.Qc4+ Kg6! 48.Kh3 Qf5+ 49.Kg2 Qc2+! 0-1

**L Shankland Samuel** 2661  
**Ivan Saric** 2660  
 Bogo-Indian E11

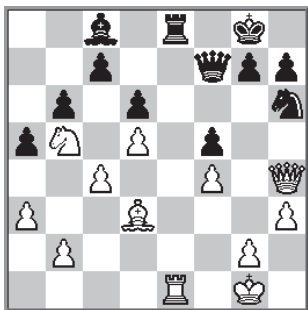
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3  
 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.Nc3 b6  
 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 a5  
 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Ne4  
 11.Be1 f5 12.Nd2 Ng5  
 [12...Qg5=] 13.f4 Nf7?!

[This gives white a free hand to develop his pieces harmoniously and efficiently. Better was: 13...Ne4 14.Qc2 Nf6=]

14.e4 Nh6 15.Qe2 d6  
 16.Nf3 Nd7 17.Bh4 Qe8  
 18.Rae1 Qh5 19.Bg5 Rae8  
 20.Bxh6 Qxh6± 21.Ng5

[△21.exf5 exf5 22.Qxe8 Rxe8 23.Rxe8+ Kf7 24.Re3 Bxf3 25.Bxf5±]

21...Qg6 [△21...Nf6 22.e5 dxe5 23.dxe5 Nd7±] 22.d5 Nf6  
 23.exf5 exf5 24.Ne6± Rf7  
 25.Qc2 Ng4 26.h3 Nh6  
 27.Nd4! Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Rf8  
 29.Qf2 Bc8 30.Nb5!+- Qf7  
 31.Qh4 Re8



32.Nxc7 Black's queen is overloaded! 32...Rxe1+ 33.Qxe1 Bd7 34.Qe3 g5 35.fxg5 f4 36.Qd4 Bf5 37.gxh6 Bxd3 38.Qxd3 [38.Nb5!] 38...Qxc7 39.Qd4 Qf7 40.Kf2! 1-0.

**Clovis Vernay (Fr)** 2507  
**Siva Mahadevan** 2352  
 Nimzo-Indian E20

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3  
 Bb4 4.Bd2 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Nf3  
 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.a3 a6  
 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Qc2 Ba7  
 11.Be2 Nc6 12.0-0 Bg4  
 13.Rfd1 Re8 14.Be1 Qd7 15.  
 h3 Bf5 16.Bd3 Bxh3! 17.Ng5

[The sacrifice is not acceptable: 17.gxh3 Qxh3 18.Nh2 Ng4 19.Nf1 Rxe3 20.fxe3 Nce5 21.Bxh7+ Kh8 22.Qg2 Nf3+—]

17...Bg4 18.Bxh7+ Kh8  
 19.e4

[Better was: 19.Be4 Bxd1 20.Rxd1 Re5 21.Nxd5 Nxe4 22.Nc3 Qf5 23.Ncxe4 Rae8 24.Qb3 R8e7±]

19...Bxd1 20.Qxd1 g6  
 21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.Bc3+ Ne5  
 23.Qf3 Kg7 [Stronger was:  
 23...f6!] 24.Rd1 f6 25.Qg3



25...Qg4! 26.Qxg4 [If  
 26.Bxe5 Qxd1+—] 26...Nxc4  
 27.Rxd5 Kh6! 28.Nf7+ Kxh7  
 29.Rd7 Kg8 30.Kf1 Rf8!  
 31.Ng5 Ne5 0-1.

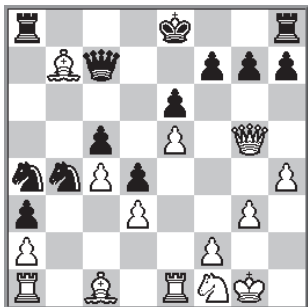
**Aravindh Chithambaram** 2543  
**Rinat Jumabayev (Kaz)** 2613  
 Reti Opening A05

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 e6  
 4. 0-0 Be7 5.d3 b5 6.Nbd2  
 Bb7 7.e4 c5 8.Re1 Nc6 9.e5  
 Nd7 10.h4 Qc7 11.Qe2 a5 12.  
 Nf1 a4



Though the game started as a Reti, it has assumed the contours of a Kings Indian Attack.

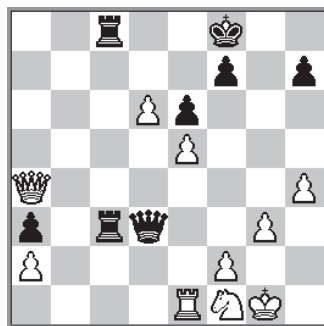
13.c3 a3 14.b3 d4 15.c4  
 bxc4 16.bxc4 Nb6 17.Ng5  
 Na4 18.Qh5 Bxg5 19.Qxg5  
 Nb4 20.Bxb7!?



We have been taught not to exchange off the fianchettoed bishop in our castled position. But here, white does exactly that as he has mapped his future strategy and it fits into his overall scheme of things.

20...Qxb7 21.Qxg7 0-0-0  
 22.Rb1! This manages to bring defence for his d3 in time.

22...Qc6 23.Rb3 Nc3 24.Bd2  
 Qf3 [124...Nxd3 25.Qxf7 Nxe1  
 26.Bxe1 Rd7 27.Qf6 Ne2+  
 28.Kh2 Rg8 29.Ba5=] 25.Nh2  
 Qf5 26.Bxc3 dxc3 27.Rxc3  
 Rhg8 28.Qf6 Rxd3 29.Qe7!  
 Rxc3 30.Qxc5+ Kd7 31.Qd4+  
 Nd5 32.cxd5 Qd3 33.Qa7+  
 Kd8 [If 33...Rc7 34.Qa4+ Kd8  
 35.Rd1!+-] 34.Qa5+! Kd7  
 35.Qa4+ Ke7 36.Qb4+ Kd8  
 37.Qb6+ Kd7 38.Qa7+ Kd8  
 39.Qa5+ Kd7 40.Nf1 This is  
 an important defensive move,  
 guarding against a check along  
 the first rank and preventing  
 any sacrifice on g3. Some-  
 times, the knight is a good de-  
 fender! 40...Rgc8 41.Qa4+  
 Ke7 42.d6+ Kf8



43.d7! A wonderful move that wins the game by deflecting the rook away from the c-file. 43...Rd8 44.Qa5! Rxd7 45.Re3! The black rook on c3 is skewered! 45...Rc1 46.Rxd3 Rxd3 47.Kg2 Ra1 48.Qa6! Rc3 49.Qd6+ Kg7 50.Qd2 [50.Qd2 Rcc1 51.Ne3 h5 52.Kf3 Rc8 53.Ng2 Rh8 54.Qg5+ Kf8 55.Nf4 Rxa2 56.Qf6 Kg8 57.Nxe6!+- White convincingly outplayed his opponent in the middle-game.] 1-0

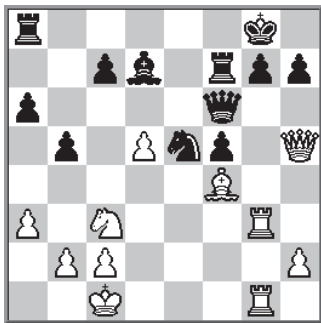


Some games of N Neelakantan (Obituary on page 26 of this issue) analysed by Manuel Aaron:

**Narayanan Neelakantan 2213  
Pentala Harikrishna 2354**  
French Defence C15

Goodricke Open, Calcutta

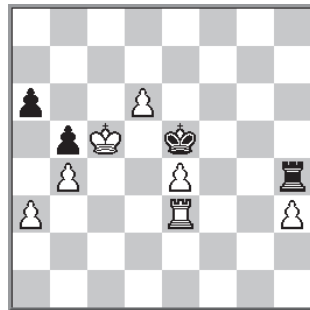
When this game was played Harikrishna, born 1986, was reckoned the brightest young rising star of Indian Chess. In fact, the next year, in 2001, he became India's youngest Grandmaster. Today he is ranked 16th in the World with a rating of 2752. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nge2 dxe4 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Nc6 7.Bb5 Nge7 8.Bg5 f6 9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2 f5 11.0-0-0 a6 12.Bxc6 Nxc6 13.f3 exf3 14.gxf3 e5 15.d5 Na5 16.Qe2 b5 17.f4 exf4 18.Bxf4 Bd7 19.Rhg1 Rf7 20.Rg3 Qf6 21.Rdg1 Nc4 22.Qh5 Ne5**



Now starts Neelakantan's magic! **23.Ne4!+- Nd3+ 24.cxd3 fxe4 25.Be5 Qf5 26.Qxf7+! Kxf7 27.Rxg7+ Ke8 28.Rg8+ Qf8** [If 28...Ke7 29.R1g7++-] **29.dxe4!** (taking advantage of the fact that the queen cannot run away!)

**29...Bh3 30.R1g7 h5 31.Kd2** He plans 32 Bxc7 and does not like to be pinned with ...Rc8. **31...Ra7 32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.Rxc7! Ra8** [The opposite colour bishop ending that results after 33...Rxc7 34.Bxc7 is easily won thanks to the connected passed pawn in the centre of the board.] **34.Rh7 Re8 35.Rxh5 Kf7 36.Rxh3 Rxe5 37.Ke3 Rg5 38.Rg3 Rh5 39.h3 Kf6 40.Kd4 Rh4 41.Re3 Rf4 42.b4 Rh4 43.Kc5 Ke5 44.d6!**

Flawless endgame! Neelakantan was a very good endgame player as well and knew a number of endgame tactics which he used in his tournament games.



**44...Rh6 45.Rd3 Kxe4 46.d7 Rh5+ 47.Kc6 Kxd3**

It was the time to give up. But our 14-year old prodigy cannot believe that he could lose to an unknown, lowly rated player from Bombay and carries. He hopes for a miracle, which does not happen. **48.d8Q+ Kc2 49.Qd7 Kb2 50.Qd3 Rh4 51.Kb7 a5 52.bxa5 b4 53.axb4 Rxb4+ 54.Kc6 Ka1 55.Qa3+ Kb1 56.Qxb4+ 1-0**

## Mohan Babur-N Neelakantan

Semi-Slav D44

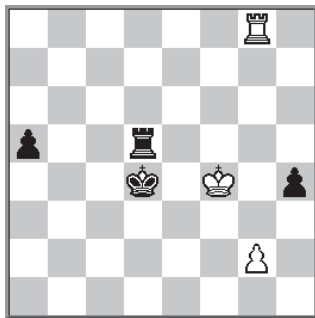
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Ahmednagar 28.12.1975

[Commentary: V.D.Pandit]

When this game was played, both players were unrated. While Babur was an established national player, and 29 years older than Neelakantan, Neelu was just finding his feet in Bombay's tournament chess. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e3 b5** Trying to hold on to the extra pawn. Slav Defence, Anti-Meran Gambit, Botvinnik System. **7.a4 Bb4 8.Qc2 a6 9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.b3 cxb3 11.Qxb3 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3 Bb7 13.Be2 0-0 14.Ne5 Qe7** Black plays cautiously trying to complete the development of his queen-side. **15.0-0 Rc8! 16.Rfc1 f6 17.Nd3 Nd7 18.Qb3 Kh8 19.Bg4 f5 20.Be2 e5 21.Qb2 exd4 22.exd4 c5 23.dxc5 Nxc5 24.Nxc5 Rxc5 25.Rxc5 Qxc5 26.Rc1 Qd5 27.Bf3 Qd7 28.Bxb7 Qxb7 29.Qe5 bxa4 30.h3 Rc8 31. Kh2 Qb8** [We have seen many games by Neelakantan where he sacrifices pawns in gambit variations for the attack. This game shows another side to his chess personality - he values pawns and would cling to them, if possible, just like all of us! Here, if **31...Rxc1?? 32.Qe8#**] **32.Rc5 Qxe5+ 33.Rxe5 g6 34.Ra5 Rc6 35.Rxa4 Kg7 36.Rb4 Kf6** Black has a pawn-up rook ending, but as we all know to our dismay,

these are not automatic wins. A lot of work and effort must still be put in or it could turn into a draw. **37.f4 h6 38.Rb8 g5 39.Rb4 Rd6 40.Kg3 Rd3+ 41.Kf2** (Adjourned) **41...Rd6** (the sealed move) **42.fg5+ hg5 43.Rb8?** [After this, white is lost. He should play **43.Ra4** in order to keep the black rook tied to the defence of his a-pawn.] **43...f4 44.Rf8 Ke5 45.Re8 Kd4 46. Rg8 Rd5! 47. Kf3 a5 48.h4 gxh4! 49.Kxf4**



[If **49.Rf8 Kc3! 50.Rxf4 Rd4 51.Rf8 a4-+**] **49...Kc3 50.g4 Rd4+ 51.Kf5 h3 52.Rh8 Rd3 53.g5 a4 54.g6 Rg3 55.g7 Rxg7 56.Rxh3+ Kc4 57.Rh4+ Kb5! 58.Ke4 Rg3!** Excellent end-game technique! He prevents the white king from getting close to his pawn. **59.Rh8 Kc4 60.Rc8+ Kb3 61.Rb8+ Kc2 62.Ra8 a3 63.Kd4 Rg4+ 64.Ke3 Kb3! 65.Kd2 a2 66.Ra7 Ra4! 0-1.**

**Pocket Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings** by Eduard Gufeld and Nikolai Kalinichenko. Covers all openings. Rs.215. Postage Rs.36. Total: Rs.251. SMS 9840053199

# Games Section

By Manuel Aaron

The following games are from the 54th National Challengers played at Amity University in Noida.

**Ravi S Teja** (2387)

**Pradip Ghosh** (2121)

Queen Pawn D05

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5  
4.Bd3 Nc6 5.0-0 Be7 6.c3 d5  
7.Nbd2 Qc7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4  
Bd7 10.Qe2 dxe4? [10...0-0=  
11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Bd6  
[If 12...0-0 13.Rd1 Rad8  
14.Be3±] 13.Be3 0-0-0? This  
presents white with excellent  
chances for a successful attack  
14.Nd4 Ne5 [If 14...Bxh2+  
15.Kh1 Bf4 16.Nb5 Qb8  
17.Rfd1 a6 18.a4!± with at-  
tack.] 15.c4! f5



16.c5 Be7 [If 16...Bxc5  
17.Bf3 f4! 18.Bxf4 Bxd4  
19.Rac1 Bc6 20.Bxc6 bxc6  
21.Rfd1 Qa5 22.Qe4±] 17.c6!  
bxc6 18.Bf3?! [18.f4±]  
18...Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Kb8?  
[○19...g5!+=; or 19...Kb7  
20.Rac1 e5=] 20.Rac1 c5?  
[Black appears to be com-  
pletely at sea and opens up his

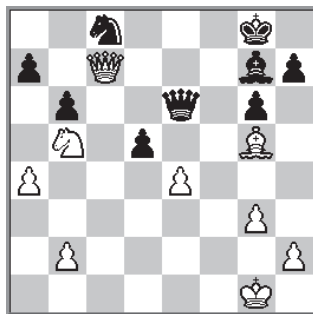
position with fatal conse-  
quences. He could still hope to  
survive with: 20...Kb7±]  
21.Rc3! c4 22.Bf4 [Also possi-  
ble was: 22.Rxc4! Qb7 (22...  
Qxc4 23.Bf4+ Kc8 24.Qa8#)  
23.Qg3+ Ka8 24.Nxf5 exf5  
25.Rc7+-] 22...Bd6 23.Rxc4!!  
Bxf4 [Or 23...Qxc4 24.Bxd6+  
Kc8 25.Qa8#] 24.Rb4+ 1-0.

**Pradip Ghosh** 2121

**N Srinath** 2477

Closed Sicilian B25, 10.07.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.g3 g6  
4.Bg2 Bg7 5.d3 Nc6 6.Nge2  
e5 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Be3 0-0 9.f4  
Nd4 10.Bf2 Be6 11.Nxd4  
cxd4 12.Ne2 f5 13.Qd2 Qd7  
14.c3 fxe4 15.dxe4 dxc3  
16.Nxc3 b6 17.Rad1 Rad8  
18.Be3 Bg4 19.Rc1 Rf7 20.a4  
exf4 21.Rxf4 Be6 22.Nb5 d5  
23.Rc7 Qe8 24.Rxf7 Bxf7  
25.Bg5 Rd7 26.Qf4 Nc8 27.  
Bh3 Rxc7 28.Qxc7 Be6 29.  
Bxe6+ Qxe6



30.Qd8+! Kf7 31.Qxc8  
Bd4+ 32.Kg2 Qxe4+ 33.Kh3  
Be5 34.Qd7+ Kg8 35.Qe6+  
Kg7 36.Nc3 1-0

Sumit Grover 2025

Ravi S Teja 2387

Slav Defence D15, 10.07.2016

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6  
4.Nf3 a6 5.a4 e6 6.Bf4 dxc4  
7.e3 Nd5 8.Bxc4 Nxf4 9.exf4  
Nd7 10.a5 Bb4 11.0-0 Bxa5  
12.f5 Nb6 13.Bb3 Nd5  
14.Bxd5 exd5 15.Re1+ Kf8  
16.f6 gxf6 17.Qd2 h5 18.Nh4  
Bc7 19.Ne2 Qd6 20.g3 f5  
21.Ra3 Bd8 22.Nf3 h4 23.Nf4  
hxf3 24.fxf3 Kg7 25.Rae3  
Bd7 26.Ne5 Bg5 27.R3e2 Bf6  
28.Nfd3 Rae8 29.Nc5 Bc8  
30.Qf4 Bxe5 31.Rxe5 Rxe5  
32.Rxe5



32...f6 33.Rxf5 Qe7 34.Qf2  
Bxf5 35.Qxf5 Qe1+ 36.Kg2  
Qe2+ 37.Qf2 Rxh2+ 0-1.

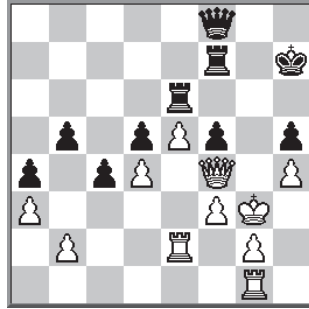
Aradhya Garg 2262

V Vishnu Prasanna 2512

QGD Ragozin D38, July 10

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5  
4.Nc3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 Qd6  
7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Qb3 Qb6 9.Rc1 c6  
10.a3 Ba5 11.Qc2 Bxc3+ 12.Qxc3  
0-0 13.e3 Bf5 14.Be2 Na6 15.0-0  
Nc7 16.Rfd1 a5 17.h3 h6 18.Bd3  
Bxd3 19.Qxd3 Nb5 20.Ne5 Qd8  
21.Rc2 a4 22.Qd2 Nd6 23.Qb4 Re8  
24.Rdc1 Re6 25.Nd3 Qa5 26.Rc5  
Qa7 27.Ne5 Ne4 28.R5c2 Rc8  
29.Nd7 b6 30.Ne5 c5 31.Qb5 Nd6  
32.Qe2 c4 33.Nd3 Qb7 34.Nf4

Ree8 35.Qh5 f5 36.Qg6 Rcd8  
37.Ne6 Rd7 38.Nxg7 Rxg7  
39.Qxd6 Kh7 40.Kh1 Rg6  
41.Qf4 Qd7 42.f3 Rf6 43.e4  
b5 44.e5 Rf7 45.Re2 Re6  
46.Rg1 Qe7 47.h4 h5 48.Kh2  
Qf8 49.Kg3



49...Qh6 50.Qxh6+ Kxh6  
51.Kf4 Kg6 52.g3 Rf8 53.Ke3  
Re7 54.g4 fxf4 55.fxf4 Ref7  
56.Kd2 Rf3 57.e6 Rd3+  
58.Kc2 Rxd4 59.gxh5+ Kxh5  
60.Rg5+ Kh6 61.e7 Re8 62.  
Re6+ Kh7 63.h5 Rd3 64.h6 d4  
65.Rg7+ Kh8 66.Rf6 1-0.

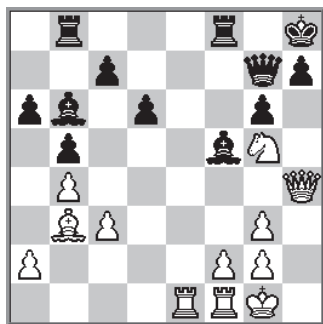
Mehar Chinna Reddy 2373

C.S. Gokhale (2212)

Ruy Lopez Berlin C65, July 10

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Bc5  
4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 Bb6 6.0-0 0-0  
7.dxe5 Nxe4 8.Qd5 Nc5 9.Bf4 Ne7  
10.Qd1 Ne6 11.Bg3 Nf5 12.Na3 a6  
13.Ba4 Ba7 14.Bc2 Nxg3 15.hxf3  
b5 16.Qd3 g6 17.Rad1 Rb8 18.Nb1  
Qe7 19.Nbd2 Nc5 20.Qe3 Bb6  
21.Qh6 f5 22.exf6 Qxf6 23.b4 Ne6  
24.Ne4 Qg7 25.Qh4 Kh8 26.Bb3  
d6 27.Rde1 Bd7 28.Neg5 Nxg5  
29.Nxg5 Bf5

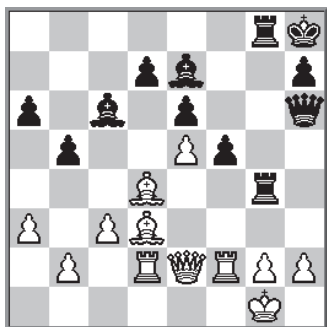
Chess Mate was founded on  
August 22, 1982 by Manuel  
Aaron. Today it is 34-year old  
chess magazine.



30.g4! Bd3 31.Ne6 g5  
32.Qg3 Qxc3 33.Nxf8 Rxf8  
34.Rd1 1-0.

**Asem Indrajit Singh** 1753  
**Neeraj-Kumar Mishra** 2328  
Sicilian Kan B46, 10.07.2016

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4  
4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3  
Nge7 7.Bd3 Nxd4 8.Bxd4  
Nc6 9.Be3 b5 10.0-0 Be7  
11.Qg4 Kf8 12.f4 f6 13.Rad1  
Qe8 14.Ne2 Qf7 15.a3 Bb7  
16.Nd4 Rc8 17.c3 Nxd4  
18.Bxd4 g6 19.Bb1 Rg8  
20.Qe2 Kg7 21.Rd2 Kh8  
22.e5 f5 23.Be3 Bc6 24.Rf2 g5  
25.Bd3 gxf4 26.Bxf4 Rg4  
27.Be3 Rcg8 28.Qf1 Qg7  
29.Bd4 Qh6 30.Qe2



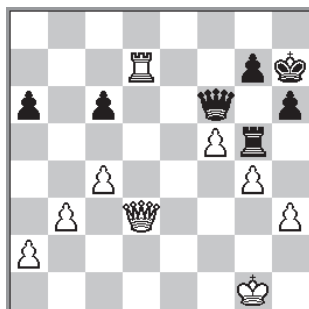
30...Bxg2! 31.Bxf5 Qxh2+  
32.Kxh2 Rh4+ 0-1.

**Tejas Bakre** 2453

**Aradhya Garg** 2262

Ruy Lopez C69, 11.07.2016

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5  
a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 f6 6.d4  
Bg4 7.c3 Bd6 8.Be3 Ne7 9.  
Nbd2 0-0 10.h3 Bh5 11.Nc4  
Bf7 12.Ncxe5 fxe5 13.dxe5  
Ng6 14.exd6 cxd6 15.Ng5  
Qe7 16.Qh5 h6 17.Nxf7 Qxf7  
18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Rd2 Kh7  
20.b3 Rfe8 21.Rfd1 Re5 22.  
Qg4 Qe7 23.Qg3 Nh4 24.f3  
Re6 25.Bf2 Ng6 26.c4 Ne5 27.  
f4 Nf7 28.e5 Re8 29.exd6 Nd6  
30.Qf3 Nf5 31.Rd7 Qf6 32.  
Rxb7 Rd8 33.Rxd8 Qxd8 34.  
g4 Nh4 35.Bh4 Qxh4 36. Qd3  
Rg6 37.Rd7 Qf6 38.f5 Rg5



39.Qd4 Qf8 40.h4 1-0.

**Sidhant Mohapatra** 2259

**S Nitin** 2398

Sicilian Moscow B51, July 11

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7  
4.0-0 Ngf6 5.Re1 a6 6.Bf1 b5 7.c3  
Bb7 8.d3 g6 9.Nbd2 Bg7 10.d4 cxd4  
11.cxd4 0-0 12.b3 Nh5 13.Bb2 e5  
14.a4 Qb6 15.axb5 axb5 16.Qe2 Ba6  
17.dxe5 dxe5 18.g3 Rfc8 19.Rec1  
Rxc1 20.Rxc1 b4 21.Nc4 Qe6  
22.Qd2 Rb8 23.Ng5 Qe7 24.Nxf7  
Qxf7 25.Nd6 Qxb3 26.Bxa6 Qf3  
27.Bc4+ Kf8 28.Qd5 Qf6 29.f4  
Nb6 30.Qg8+ 1-0



World Youth Olympiad

## Iran's Maiden Youth Olympiad Title Mitrabha Guha's Gold On Fifth Board

India was 7th seed, but finished fourth in the 15th World Youth Chess Olympiad that concluded at Poprad, a beautiful city of Slovakia, on July 29.

In these Olympiads, FIDE regulates that each team shall comprise 4 players and one reserve. Compulsorily, one of the players must be a girl and she shall play at least 1/3 of the rounds.

Iran, the top seed, won the title winning eight matches and drawing one. Russia, seeded second, got the silver and Armenia, the third seed, the bronze. Thus the top three places went exactly according to their seedings! Iran drew their second round match against 14th seed Austria and beat the rest. This is their first title. They had won the silver once and the bronze, three times. Their captain was IM Khosro Harandi who has been associated with Iranian youth chess for several decades.

The Iranian team in board order: Maghsoodloo Parham 2501, 7½/9 (Top board prize); Firouzja Alireza 2481, 7½/9; FM Gholami Aryan 2454, 4½/7; Tahbaz Arash 2406, 7½/8; WFM Zahedifar Anahita 2095, 1/3. Interestingly, Iran's three untitled players were their best performers!

The high point of Iran's performance was their beating Russia 3-1 in Round 6. Russia deserved their second place as

they defeated both India and China by massive 3½-½ margins.

India finished fourth winning five matches, losing two and drawing two in a 9-round Swiss for 54 teams. India did not face Iran but lost to both Russia and Armenia. We finished in a 5-way tie for 4th place, but edged out the other four on tie-break!

The best performers for India were K.S.Raghubandan on top board and Mitrabha Guha on fifth board. At 15, Raghubandan is the 2016 Karnataka State Champion (for men!) and has rich international experience. His father Mr K.Srihari says that Raghubandan has been almost going from tournament to tournament in the last two years without much needed rest as the Indian chess calendar is packed with top quality tournaments.

Despite this Raghubandan does not have a single National title to his credit! It has been eluding him very, very narrowly for the last four years starting with the U-11. Often he ties for first but gets silver or bronze on tie-break. For the last one year, he has been travelling to tournaments both within and outside the country without an accompanying person. When he is abroad, he has food problems as he is a vegetarian who does not even consume eggs. K.Visweswaran of

Chennai is his trainer. The IM title is expected to be awarded to him by FIDE at their Baku Congress next month.

Mitrabha Guha remained undefeated and won a gold medal for the best showing on Board 5. Both Raghunandan and Guha gain rating points, Guha gaining the most, 60.4. The other three players lose some points, the worst sufferer being National U-15 Champion P.Iniyan who drops 32.

Though four-time World Youth Champion India missed a team medal, Guha from Kolkata (who was National U-9 Champ in 2010) brought some cheer by winning the gold medal on Board five with an extraordinary performance. It was of some solace to India for being pushed out of the top three. India has won this championship a record four times - in 2007, 2008, 2013 and 2014. Next best, Russia, has won it three times. India had also won the silver medal in 2009, 2010 and 2014 plus a bronze in 2011.

Indian scores in Board order: FM K S Raghunandan (2403, 5½/9); P Iniyan (2346, 3½/8); WIM R Vaishali (2288, 3/6); FM Nitish Belurkar (2275, 2½/4); FM Mitrabha Guha (2227, 7½/9).

Naturally, Slovakia, the hosts, fielded eight (!) teams to give their youth, valuable international exposure. Germany and South Africa had three teams each while Hungary, Poland and China had two teams each. Countries that negatively surprised us by their absence were England, USA and Norway. Closer to home, none of our neighbours participated! The record for the most teams in this event is held by Chongqing, China, in 2013, when 72 teams participated.

**Top standings:** 1 Iran 17/18; 2 Russia 15; 3 Armenia 14; 4-8. India, Hungary-1, Belarus, China-1, Germany-1 12 each; 9-16 Moldova, Denmark, Azerbaijan, Romania, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Israel, Serbia 11 each...54 teams.

## SOLUTIONS TO CHESS MAGIC - August 2016

Source: National Challengers (Women), Chennai 2016

1. 30. Nxe6+! fxe6 31. Rc7+ Kh8 32. Qxf8 Qd1+ 33. Kh2 1-0. K Sai Nirupama 1944-Pracheta Agarwal 1488. 2. 8. Nd5! Qd8 9. Nxf6+ gxf6 10. Bxh6 Re8 11. Nxe5! fxe5 12. Qg4+ Kh8 13. Qg7# 1-0 Narayani Adane 1524-Pallishree Biswal. 3. 43. Qxf5+! Qxf5 (43... Rxf5 44. exf5+ Kxf5 45. Rxe5+ Nxe5 46. Rxb7) 44. exf5+ Kxf5 45. Re3 Nc5 1-0. M Mahalakshmi 2251-K Sai Nirupama 1944. 4. 24. Rxh7+! (24. Rxh7+ Kxh7 [24...Kg8 25. Be6+ Kf8 26. Qh2] 25. Qh2+ Kg8 26.Be6+ Kf8 27.Qh7 Nf6 28.gxf6 Qxf6 29.Qg8+ Ke7 30.Qxa8+-) 1-0. Mary Ann Gomes 2304-Aparajita Gochhikar 1808. 5. 47. Rf8+ (48.Qh8# next) 1-0. P Michelle Catherina 2135-Neha Singh 1968. 6. 40...Nxc3 41.Kxc3 e4 42.Qe2 Be5+ 43.Kf2 Qxh4+ 44.Ke3 Qf4+ 45.Kf2 Rg2+ 46.Kxc3 Qh2# 0-1. Pracheta Agarwal 1488-J Janani 1857.

Chess For The Physically Disabled

## Jennitha's Fourth World Title

Woman International Master K Jennitha Anto won the IPCA World Chess Championship for women at Novi Sad on July 29. This is the Tiruchy girl's fourth title in a row.

The International Physically Disabled Chess Association, affiliated to FIDE, organised the 16th edition of the IPCA Individual World Chess Championship at Novi Sad, Serbia, in July. IM Igor Yarmonov of Ukraine became the 'Open' champion with 7½ points in a 9-round Swiss.

All four Indians who participated in Novi Sad impressed and gained Elo ratings. Apart from Jennitha, Shashikant Kutwal, 37, who was 31st in the 2008 National A, won the silver medal in the Open section finishing second with 6½/9. He started as sixth seed and played four International Masters. He tied for second with IM Andrei Obodchuk of Russia but he was second on tie-break. He played 5 Russians, beat three of them including an IM and lost to two to gain 17 Elo.

Jennitha from Tiruchy in Tamil Nadu scored 5/9 and won the gold among women. She has to be physically carried everywhere by her father, Kanickai Irudayaraj. This is her fourth title as she has won this championship every year from 2013! She had won the sil-



**Jennitha Anto** with her father Kanickai Irudayaraj during the National Challenger (Women) at Chennai this June 2016. Pic: Arvind Aaron

ver in 2007. Starting as 13th seed in Novi Sad, she finished 12th gaining 10.2 Elo. She has regularly represented the IPCA team at the normal Olympiads in 2008, 2010 and 2014.

Thanks to the All India Chess Federation the Government of India has already paid in advance for her participation at the Novi Sad IPCA World Championship as well as at the forthcoming Chess Olympiad in Baku, Azerbaijan, from Sep 1 to 14. This is

a great and welcome change from the way sports has been handled by the Government in the past.



In appreciation of Jennitha's achievements, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Ms J. Jayalalithaa (left) presented her with Rs 25 lakhs on 5th August. Pic: DIPR Release.

On listening to a live radio interview on the Vatican Radio, Father Ronald Adaicakalam of Frankfurt, Germany, collected funds from his parish and donated Jennitha with a 'smart', electronically powered wheel chair which she herself can operate and be mobile. Life is looking up for Jennitha!

AFM Samarth J Rao, 17, took bronze for the third best score among juniors on 4/9. With a low start rating of 1248, he was the 25th seed. But he finished 16th scoring 4 points

to gain a massive 123.2 Elo from this one event.

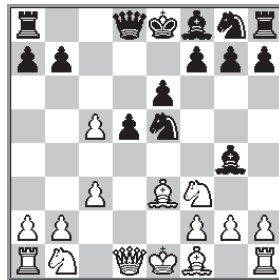
Sanjeev G Hammannavar finished second from last but gained 68.4 Elo rating points (!) for his 2½/9.

India's four players and two attendants had a very successful tournament from July 21 to 29 winning one gold, one silver, one bronze and lots of Elo points.

The tournament with categories for Juniors and Women worked into it, was a 9-round Swiss for 26 players, 13 of whom (!) were from Russia. The hosts, Serbia, had just one entrant. The participants included 5 IMs, 3 WIMs, 1 FM, 1 WFM and one AFM. The players were only from Eastern Europe, Israel and India.

Two games by our players:  
**Shashikant Kutwal 2241**  
**Mikhail Alekseev (Rus) (1743)**  
 Caro-Kann B12

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5  
 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.dxc5 Bg4 6.c3 e6  
 7.Be3± Nxe5?+-



[The lure of a pawn is universal! This pawn grab costs him the game in a shocking dozen moves! Praneeth S (2347) vs M.Thejkumar (2479) 53rd National

Challenger, Nagpur, 2015, went:  
 7...Nge7 8.Nbd2 Nf5 9.Bd4 Be7  
 10.Bb5 0-0 .... 77 1-0] 8.Qa4+!  
**Qd7 9.Bb5 Nc6 10.Qxg4 Nf6**  
**11.Qa4 Qc7?** [11...Qc8] 12.Bf4  
 1-0

**Sanjeev Hammannavar 1089**

**Jennitha Anto K (1943)**

Sicilian Defence B50

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d3 Nc6  
 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Be2 e6 6.0-0 Be7  
 7.Bf4 0-0 8.a3 a6 9.Re1 e5  
 10.Bg5 Be6 11.Bf1 h6 12.Be3  
 Nd4 13.Bxd4 cxd4 14.Nb1  
 White's colourless opening  
 play has left black with a com-  
 fortable game. 14...Rc8  
 15.Nbd2 [15.c3 was needed to  
 have some fighting chance in  
 the game.] 15...Qb6 16.b3 Qc5  
 17.Nc4? [17.Ra2 would have  
 put up a semblance of a fight.  
 Now c2 is lost without any ef-

fort from black!] 17...b5 18.b4  
**Qc7 19.Ncd2 Qc2 20.Qc2 Rc2**  
**21.h3 Rfc8 22.Rad1 Nd7 0-1**

Igor Yarmonov (Ukr) 2380

Andrey Tersinsev (Rus) 2091

Dutch Defence A83

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fe4 3.Nc3 Nf6  
 4.Bg5 c6 5.f3 e3 6.Be3 d5  
 7.Bd3 e6 8.Qd2 Bd6 9.Bf4  
 Bf4 [F.Khatenever 2090 vs D  
 Melnikov 2233 St Petersburg,  
 White Knights, 2004 went: 9...  
 0-0 10.Bd6 Qd6 11.0-0-0  
 Nbd7 12.g4 e5 13.de5 Ne5  
 ....68th move, drawn] 10.Qxf4  
 0-0 11.Nge2 Qe7 12.0-0-0 c5  
 13.dc5± Qc5 14.Qh4 Nc6  
 15.Rde1 Bd7 16.Nf4 Rac8 17.  
 g4 d4 18.g5 dc3 19.gf6 Rf6  
 [19...g6 20.Nxg6! hg6 21. Bg6  
 cb2 22.Kb1 Rf6 23.Rhg1+-]  
 20.Bh7 Kf8 21.Ng6 Rg6 22. Bg6  
 1-0

## Solutions To Chess Magic Of July 2016

Page 27 of July 2016. Selection/Analysis: Manuel Aaron.

1. 31...Qg4! (Threat 32...Qe2#) 32. Rf2 (White resigns as he sees mate coming after 32...Qd1+!! 33 Kxd1 Rg1+ mates.) 0-1. Rahul Sangma-Himal Gusain, Kiit Open, Bhubaneswar 2016.

2. 32...Rf7! (If 33 Rxf7 Rg1#) 0-1. Rajendra Kumar Sahu-Diptayan Ghosh, Kiit Open Bhubaneswar 2016.

3. 40...f1=Q+! 41.Bxf1 Rxf1+! (41...Rxf1+ 42.Qxf1 Qe4+ 43.Qg2 Qxd3 44. h4 gxh3 -+) 0-1. Raset Zlatdinov (USA)-Ivan Popov (Rus), Kiit Open, Bhubaneswar 2016.

4. 37.Bf6! Qf7 (If 37...Qd7 38.e6 Bxf6 39.Qxf6 Qg7 40.Qd8+ Qf8 41.Rh8+ +-, 37...Bxf6 38. exf6 +-) 38.Qh8+! 1-0. Mikhail Mozharov-Jayakumar Shete Sammed, Kiit Open, Bhubaneswar 2016.

5. 32.Qe8! h5 (There is nothing much black can do about white's threat of Ne6!) 33.Ne6 1-0. Shardul Gagare-Vinayak Kulkarni, Kiit Open, Bhubaneswar 2016.

6. 48...Rc5! (48...Rc5! 49.Qe4 [The only move to protect his rook on f5.] Rc4 wins the queen) 0-1. Neelash Saha-Himal Gusain, Kiit Open, Bhubaneswar 2016.



## Erigaisi Arjun, Jishitha Win Under-13 Titles

Top seed Arjun Erigaisi of Telangana and second seed D Jishitha of Andhra won the 30th National Under-13 Boys & Girls Chess Championships played at Ahmedabad in July.

Arjun won nine games and drew two to comfortably win the title by a one point margin. Sixth seed Koustav Chatterjee of West Bengal took the second place despite suffering a defeat in the penultimate round at the hands of Sreeshwan Maralakshikari (AP). Chatterjee finished one point below Arjun for clear second place.

Seed 36 (!) Anuj Shrivatri of Madhya Pradesh took the third place with 8½ points. He started with two wins and finished strongly with three wins on the trot to gain 141.60 ELO from this event. Shrivatri (MP) grabbing one of the six podium slots (three in Open, three in Girls) ensured that no State dominated this contest and win a second podium place.

In the girls' section, top seed Saina Salonika, National U-7 Girls Champion of 2010, was on 7/8 and second seed Jishitha half a point behind on 6½. The ninth round defeat of Saina by Jishitha decided the title as both won their remaining two games. Jishitha remained undefeated and won the title with 9½/11. She was held to draws by Manya Bagla (DL), Vysetty Sahithi (TL) and L Jyotsna (TN). Jyotsna did well for third place despite her lone defeat to team-mate C Lakshmi.

International Arbiter S Paul Arokia Raj of Chennai was the chief arbiter. His deputies were IA Madhav Vitthal and veteran IA Indubhai Parmar. The venue was Rajpath Club, Ahmedabad. The Gujarat State Chess Association organised this championship with Bhavesh Patel as tournament director.

The top finishers here will represent India at the Under-14 categories of the Asian and World Youth Championships next year. The World Youth event is scheduled to be held at Montevideo, Uruguay from Sep 16-26, 2017.

**Final placings: Open:** 1 Erigaisi Arjun (TL) 10/11; 2 Koustav Chatterjee (WB) 9; 3 Anuj Shrivatri (MP) 8½; 4-10. G.B.Harshavardhan (TN), Aronyak Ghosh (WB), Sreeshwan Maralakshikari (TL), Benjamin Varghees Issac (KE), B.J.S.K. Ranadheer (AP), Aditya Basu (WB), Sankalp Gupta (MH) 8 each...170 players.

**Girls:** 1 D Jishitha (AP) 9½/11; 2 Saina Salonika (OD) 9; 3 L Jyotsna (TN) 8½; 4-5. C Lakshmi (TN), Madabishi Abhirami (AP) 8 each; 6-8. Dhyana Patel (GJ), Garima Gaurav (BH), Mrudul Dehankar (MH) 7½ each; 9-15. Shilpee Madhani (GJ), B.M. Akshaya (AP), M.K. Poorna Sri (TN), M Sai Divya (AP), Riddhi Upase (MH), Bristy Mukherjee (WB), Bhagyashree Patil (MH) 7 each...81 players.

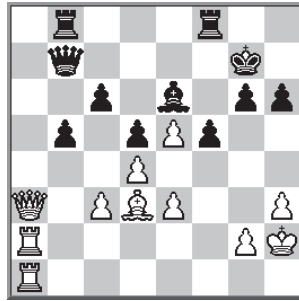
Now some games:

**Arjun Erigaisi 2337 Akavaram**  
**Aashish Reddy 1335**  
 Queen's Gambit D35

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6  
 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 c6 6.e3  
 Be7 7.Bd3 Ne4 8.Bf4 Nxc3  
 [8...Bf5!] 9.bxc3 Nd7 10.Ne2  
 0-0 11.0-0 Nf6 12.h3 Nh5  
 13.Bh2 Bd6 14.Qc2 Bxh2+  
 15.Kxh2 f5 [As his knight has  
 no future at h5, better was to  
 bring it back to f6J: 15...Nf6=]  
 16.Rae1 g6 17.f4 White aims  
 to play strategically, getting  
 black's pawns on light squares  
 so that his light square  
 bishop's range and activity are  
 restricted. 17...Nf6 18.Ng1  
 Kg7 19.Nf3 h6 20.Ne5 Nd7  
 21.Rf3 Nxe5 22.fxe5 Be6  
 23.Ref1 Qd7 24.Qf2 Rf7 The  
 players attack and defend f5  
 with all they have with g2-g4  
 being a possible weapon.  
 25.Rb1 [White switches his at-  
 tentions to the queen-side. He  
 could still consider king-side  
 play with: 25.h4 (threat  
 h4-h5!) 25...h5 26.Rg3 Kh7  
 27.Be2 b6 28.Rg5 Re7 29.Qf4  
 with a huge attack in the off-  
 ing!] 25...b5 26.Qc2 a6 27.a4  
 Qc7 28.Rf2 [28.h4! and the  
 fight for f5 is still on.] 28...Qd7  
 29.Qc1 Qe7 30.Ra2 Qb7  
 31.Rba1 Rff8 32.Qa3 The  
 weak dark squares along the  
 a3-f8 diagonal are now under  
 white's control. White has a  
 realisable advantage. 32...  
 Rab8 33.axb5 axb5

See diagram

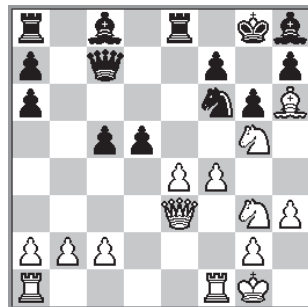
34.Qd6 (The threat is 35  
 Ra7 winning the queen)  
 34...Bf7 35.Ra7 Qb6 [If  
 35...Qc8 36.e6 wins.] 36.Qf6+  
 Kg8 37.e6! Rb7 38.exf7+



Rfxf7 39.Qxg6+ Rg7 40.Qe8+  
 Kh7 41.Bxf5+ Rg6 42.Qxg6+  
 Kh8 43.Ra8+ Rb8 44.Qh7#  
 1-0.

**Prince Upadhyay 1319**  
**Aditya Basu 2080**  
 Pirc B08

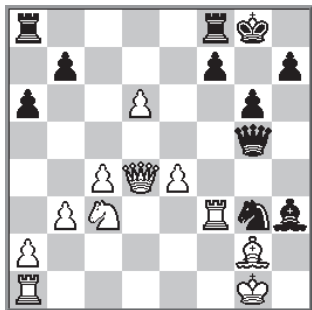
1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6  
 4.Bd3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 Na6  
 7.Bxa6 bxa6 8.0-0 c6 9.Be3  
 Qc7 10.Qc1 Re8 11.Bh6 Bh8  
 12.Qe3 Nd7 13.Ne2 e5 14.  
 Ng5 exd4 15.Nxd4 c5 16.Nf5?  
 d5 [After 16...gxf5 17.Qg3  
 (white, as well as black, think  
 that white's discovered check  
 with Ne6 would win, but both  
 players overlooked one pawn  
 push!) 17...f4! 18.Qg4 Ne5 19.  
 Ne6+ Nxg4 20.Nxc7 Nxb6 21.  
 Nxe8 Bxb2 22.Rab1 Be6 23.  
 Nxd6 Be5-+] 17.f4 Nf6 18.Ng3



18...Ng4! 19.hg4 Bd4  
 20.Qd4 cd4 21.f5 Qg3 0-1

**D Jishitha 1866**  
**Saina Salonika 2131**  
 King's Indian E63

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7  
 4.Bg2 d6 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nf3 Nc6  
 7.0-0 a6 8.h3 Bd7 9.e4 e5  
 10.Be3 Nh5 [T.Florian vs  
 J.Lokvenc, Dresden 1959,  
 went: 10...Rb8 11.Rb1 b5  
 12.cxb5 axb5 13.b4 Re8 14.Re1  
 exd4 15.Nxd4 Ne5 16.f4 Nc4  
 17.Bf2 50.1-0] 11.dxe5 Nxe5  
 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Bd4± Be6  
 14.b3 c6 15.f4 c5?! [This loses  
 a pawn for no compensation.  
 Better was: 15...Bxd4+ 16.  
 Qxd4 Nxc3 17.Rf3 Nh5 18.f5  
 Bc8 19.Rd1 Qg5 20.Qxd6 gxf5  
 21.Kh2 Re8 22.Qc7±] 16.fxe5  
 cxd4 17.Qxd4 Qg5 [A bold  
 counter-attack. But better was  
 to maintain equality of material  
 with: 17...dxe5 18.Qxe5  
 Re8 19.Rad1 Qb6+ 20.Qd4  
 Qxd4+ 21.Rxd4 Nxc3 22.Rfd1  
 Rab8±] 18.exd6 Nxc3 19.Rf3  
 Bxh3?



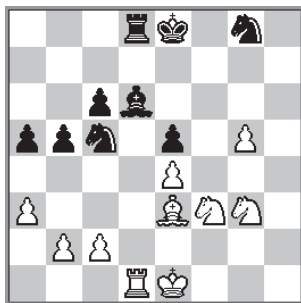
**20.Qe3!**

A deep and clever move that  
 wins the game. 20...Qxe3+  
 21.Rxe3 Bxc2 22.Rxc3!!

Now the bishop is trapped.  
 22...Bxe4 23.Nxe4 f5 24.Nc5  
 f4 25.Rd3 f3 26.Kf2 Rf5  
 27.Nxb7 Rh5? 28.d7 1-0

**Saina Salonika 2131**  
**Shilpee Madhani 1281**  
 Pirc Defence B07

1.e4 d6 2.d4 c6 3.Bd3 Nf6  
 4.Nc3 Qc7 5.h3 Nbd7 6.f4 e5  
 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.f5± h6 9.Be3  
 b6 10.a3 a5 11.Nf3 Ba6  
 12.Bxa6 Rxa6 13.Qe2 Ra8=  
 14.g4 Be7 15.Nd2 b5 16.Nd1  
 Qb7 17.Nf2 Bd6 18.h4 Nc5  
 19.g5 hxg5 20.hxg5 Rxh1+  
 21.Nxh1 Ng8 [If 21...Nfxe4  
 22.Nxe4 Nxe4 23.Qg2 Nc5  
 24.0-0-0±] 22.Qh5 Qe7  
 23.Qh7 Qf8 24.Ng3 Ne7  
 25.Nf3 Qg8 26.Qh3 f6 27.Rd1  
 [27.0-0-0!] 27...Rd8 28.Qh5+  
 g6 29.fxc6 Qxc6 30.Qh8+  
 Qg8 [If 30...Ng8 31.Rxd6 Rxd6  
 32.Bxc5+-] 31.Qxf6 Qg6  
 32.Qh8+ Qg8 33.Qxc6+ Nxc6



34.Rxd6! Rxd6 35.Bxc5  
 Rg6 36.Nf5 a4 37.Kf2 Kd8  
 38.Nxe5 Re6 39.Nf7+ Kc7  
 40.Kf3 Kc8 41.Kf4 Kc7 42.e5  
 1-0.

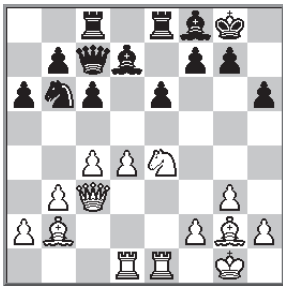
**S Jishitha 1866**  
**Mrudul Dehankar 1701**  
 Bogo-Indian E11

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+  
 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Nf3  
 Bxd2+ 7.Nbx2 d6 8.a3 a5  
 9.b3 0-0 10.0-0 e5 11.d5 Nb8  
 12.e4 g6 13.Ne1 Nh5 14.Nd3  
 f5 15.f4 fxe4 16.Nxe4 exf4

17.Nxf4 Nxf4 18.gxf4 Nd7  
 19.Qd2 Nf6 20.Ng5 Bf5  
 21.Rae1 Qd7 22.Qc3 Rae8?  
 [22...a4=] 23.Qxa5 h6 24.Ne6  
 Bxe6 25.dxe6 Rxe6 26.Bh3!  
 Rfe8 27.Bxe6+ Rxe6 28.Qa8+  
 Qe8 29.Qxe8+ Rxe8 30.  
 Rxe8+ Nxe8 31.b4 Kf7 32.a4  
 c6 33.b5 Nc7 34.bxc6 bxc6  
 35.Re1! Kf6 36.a5 Na6  
 37.Rb1 1-0.

D Jishitha 1866  
 Riddhi Upase 1371  
 Catalan E01

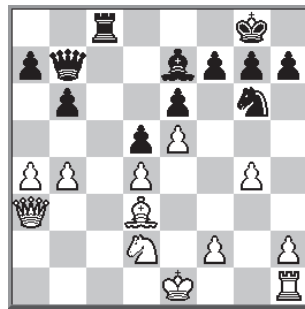
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6  
 4.g3 c6 5.Bg2 Bd6 6.Nfd2  
 Nbd7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 Re8  
 9.e4 dxe4 10.Ndxe4 Nxe4  
 11.Nxe4 Bf8 12.Re1 Nb6  
 13.b3 Bd7 14.Qc2 h6 15.Bb2  
 Rc8 16.Rad1 Qc7 17.Qc3 a6



18.d5!! cxd5 [If black fore-  
 saw white's clever tactic she  
 would have played: 18...Qd8  
 which also loses.] 19.Nf6+!!  
 gxf6 20.Qxf6 e5 21.Rxe5  
 Qxe5 22.Bxe5 Rxe5 23.Qxe5  
 White now has the easy task of  
 mopping up the stray black  
 forces scattered here and  
 there. 23...dxc4 24.Bxb7 Re8  
 25.Qc7 Bh3 26.Qxb6 c3  
 27.Bg2 1-0.

Mahitosh Dey 1789  
 Anuj Shrivatri 1691  
 French Defence C02

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5  
 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 Nh6  
 7.b4 cxb4 8.cxb4 Nf5 9.Bb2  
 Bd7 10.g4 Nfe7 11.Nc3 Na6  
 12.Nd2 Rc8 13.Na4 Qc6  
 14.Nc5 Nc4 15.Rb1 [15.Bxc4?  
 dxc4 16.0-0 b5=] 15...b6  
 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 17.Qb3 Ng6  
 18.a4 Qb7 19.Rc1 Be7 20.Rc3  
 0-0 21.Bd3 [White has not an-  
 ticipated the plot that black  
 has prepared. Better was:  
 21.b5+ ] 21...Nxb2 22.Qxb2  
 Rxc3 23.Qxc3 Rc8 24.Qa3



24...Bxb4!! 25.Qb2 [25.  
 Qxb4? Rc1+ 26.Ke2 Rxh1-+]  
 25...Nf4 26.Bb5 a6 27.0-0 [If  
 27.Be2 Qc6! 28.Qxb4 Qc1+ 29.  
 Bd1 Nd3+] 27...Bc3! 28.Qc2  
 axb5 29.axb5 Ne2+ 0-1.

Sankarsha Shelke 2165  
 Kansal Darsh 1323  
 Petroff Defence C42

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5  
 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3  
 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 Nb4 9.Be2  
 Be6 10.a3 Nc6 11.c5 0-0 12.  
 b4 a6 13.Bb2 b6 14.cxb6 cxb6  
 15.Ne5 Qd6 16.f3 Nf6 17.Bd3  
 Nd7 18.f4 f5 19.Qe2 b5 20.  
 Re1 Rac8 21.Nd2 Nb6 22.  
 Nb3 Nc4 23.Nxc4! dxc4  
 24.Qxe6+ Qxe6 25.Rxe6 Rf7  
 26.Rc1 Na7 27.Rxa6 Bf8 28.  
 Bc2 1-0

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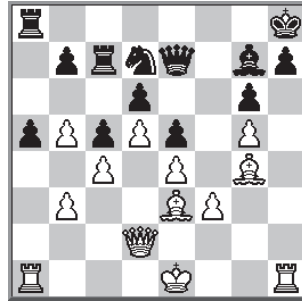
**Pollachi, Udumalpet, Erode,  
Mettupalayam, Salem, Aralvaimozhi,  
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# CHESS MAGIC



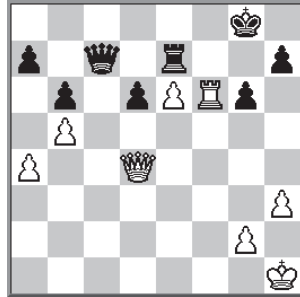
1. White to play and win



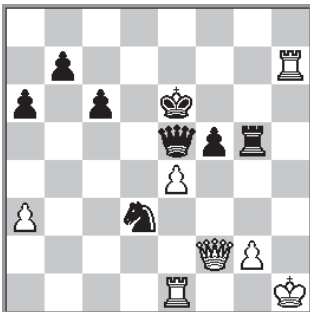
4. White to play and win



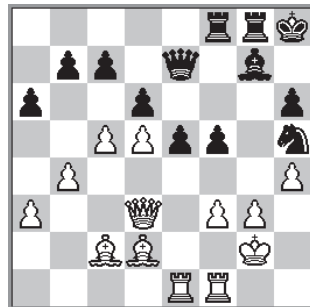
2. White to play and win



5. White to play and mate in two



3. White to play and win



6. Black to play and win

**Source:** National Challenger (w) Chennai, 2016.

**Selections:** Arvind Aaron  
**Solutions:** page 16

## Obituary

# “A Thorough Gentleman”

**Neelakantan Narayanan (1953-2016)**

Vijay D. Pandit, Mumbai

Sajandas Joshi gave me the shock of my life when he informed me of Neelu's unexpected and sudden demise on 23rd July at the age of 63. Then, I visited the site “Chessbase.in”, devoted to Indian chess news and operated by IM Sagar Shah. This site confirmed this news with an article dated 3rd August 2016 by Sagar. Neelakantan died in his sleep.

Neelu, as his friends called him, was a bachelor. In fact, he preferred to remain so to play chess! He has one married sister. As his parents had predeceased him Neelu was living alone.

Neelu did not smoke or drink, so it is really unusual for such a ‘virtuous’ person to suffer a massive heart attack at such an early age of 63. Details of his death are only on hearsay, the Mumbai chess community coming to know of it only after a week. It is said that on the fateful morning, when the milkman came, he found the newspapers of the day still lying outside the door and Neelu did not answer the bell. The milkman had cautioned a neighbour about the situation and eventually when the door was opened with a duplicate key Neelu was found asleep in eternal peace.

Neelakantan, son of A.N.Narayanan, was born on 3rd May 1953 in Nagercoil (TN). He had been brought up in Mumbai and for all practical purposes was a Maharashtrian. He retired from the Central Bank of India in 2013 which he joined after doing his B.Sc.

He started playing chess tournaments in 1971 and had been at it for 45 years without a break - an enviable record. His last tournament appearance was at the 9th Mumbai Mayors International that concluded on 9th June, six weeks before he breathed his last.

He was a prolific prize winner in Open tournaments. He was the 1973 ‘Bombay College Chess Champion’ by virtue of winning the Inter-Collegiate Chess Tournament, held for Bombay colleges.

He played in two prestigious National “A” Chess Championships - at Calcutta, 1976 and at Vijayawada, 1979. He was a 5-time winner of the Maharashtra State Selection Tournament.

Neelakantan won the inaugural Mulund College Gymkhana Open in September 1973 among 84 players with a score of 8/9, and the 2nd PJ Hindu Gymkhana Open for the



**N Neelakantan.** Pic from AICF.

HR Gopaldaswamy Trophy in Bombay, 1985.

Neelu entered the FIDE Rating List of July 1989 with Elo 2230. At that time there were only a total of 107 Indians in the FRL (100 Men + 7 Women). It must however be noted that the Rating floor during those days was 2200 Elo for Men and 2000 for Women.

He convincingly won the Raheja Trophy FIDE Rated Invitation Tournament (co-ordinated by Raghunandan Gokhale) in Mumbai in Sept 1989 with a round to spare and with a lead of 2 points over his closest rivals - Sharad Tilak, Ravi Hegde and Ravi Bhave!

He participated regularly in the Goodricke International Open Tournament in Kolkata and it seemed somehow his talent bloomed in this particular event as he produced many scintillating games there, the most prominent among them being his victory over GM Daniel King in the first round of its 4th edition in 1993 with King

rated 250 Elo points above him.

Neelu was interested in playing Correspondence Chess too. He played CC tournaments in both the CCAI till 1992 and in AICCF since 1993. He was present at the very first meeting held on 27 Feb 1993 at Mehli B Mulla's residence to form the AICCF.

Neelu was a sincere lover of the game. He did not attach much importance to FIDE Rating - whether it went up, or down. He played chess just for the sake of the challenge and the mysterious satisfaction it offered!

One more star of yester-years who played chess for the fun of it, will no longer be seen creating beautiful combinations in tournament chess. May his soul rest in peace!

## **Thipsay on Neelakantan**

Veteran Mumbai GM Pravin Thipsay has stated in ChessBase.in that Neelu, a thorough gentleman, was essentially a Chess Player and Chess lover who would never turn away an offer to play a friendly game with anyone at any time of the day. Thipsay goes on to say further that Neelu won the first tournament that he (Thipsay) had played (YMCA, Grant Road, June 1971) by winning all 8 rounds. Neelu's selfless nature and willingness to share his Chess knowledge made him one of the most popular players in Mumbai.

### **Manuel Aaron adds:**

Though Neelakantan was a specialist in select Gambit Openings with which he stunned many a champion, his endgame prowess and knowledge of special positions in rook endings tend to be overlooked. This, I learned during post-mortem analysis of games when we were both playing in the 1976 National "A" at Calcutta. I remember an endgame which we all dismissed as drawn when Neelakantan sprang forward and showed how it could be won. He was basing it on some obscure theory which none of us had come across! He had diligently studied both Opening and Endgame theory from chess books and applied such knowledge to tournament chess.

During the 1976 National "A" which was a long 20-player all-play-all event, I was in the lead but running neck to neck with IM Ravi Sekhar. In the 18th round I had to play Abdul Jabbar, a natural player from Nagpur. Not knowing what opening Jabbar played as black, I asked Neelakantan whom I had beaten in the 5th round (he lost on time on the 39th move), as to what Jabbar plays against 1 e4. Neelakantan shamed me by asking, "How can you ask me this? We are both from Maharashtra!" Though Neelakantan and I spoke the same language (Tamil) his loyalty was to Maharashtra and Maharashtrians. This proves

Thipsay right when he describes him as "a thorough gentleman"!

In my game with Jabbar, referred to above, Jabbar played the French and I had a great advantage in the opening thanks to his shabby treatment of the Opening. But he beat me in the middle-game and I lost! I drew the last round too and should not have been National Champion, but a fortuitous turn of events in the last two rounds saw me tied for first with Ravi Sekhar and the tie-break favoured me!

Neelakantan was the Bombay correspondent for Chess Mate in the 1980s and 90s. Arvind Aaron remarks that he did not have to edit Neelakantan's reports as they were factual, neat and crisp. But some problems developed when Arvind was unable to use some of the reports as he was himself busy with many other things. This led to some of the Bombay players thinking (mistakenly) that Neelakantan had deliberately not sent reports to Chess Mate when they had won. Incidentally, Arvind Aaron always spoke to him in Tamil and Neelakantan always replied to him in English!

Neelakantan had stated in his bio-data given to Chess Mate in 1995 that his hobby was 'reading'. He was a Chess Mate subscriber, right from the inaugural issue in January 1983. At the time of his death, his subscription was valid till 2030 !!

After viewing many games of Neelakantan for publication, I get the impression that Neelakantan's talent went unrecognised, just like a few other talented players from other States. If it had been appreciated and encouraged at the right time with expert coaching camps as is happening nowadays, he would have been a shining star of Indian Chess. He happened to be at the wrong place and at the wrong time.

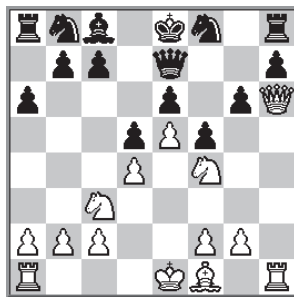
View the quality of the games that are presented in this issue and you will agree that Neelakantan was, by any standard, an extraordinary talent!

**N.Neelakantan - K.Farooq Ali**  
French Defence C14  
National B Ch, Calcutta, 1976

Farooq Ali, born 1939, was National Champion in 1963. He represented India at the 1962 and 1964 Olympiads. His forte was his middle-game, but here, Neelakantan rips off his game with violent play in the middle-game. **1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4** One can trust Neelakantan to play a gambit anytime! **6...Bxg5 7.hxg5 Qxg5 8.Nh3 Qe7 9.Qg4 f5 10.Qh5+ g6 11.Qh6 a6 12.Nf4 Nf8**

*See diagram*

**13.Ncxd5! exd5 14.Nxd5 Qf7 15.Bc4 Be6 16.Nf6+! Kd8 17.d5! Bd7 18.0-0-0 Kc8 19.d6! Be6 [19...Qxc4? 20.Qg7+-] 20.dxc7! Bxc4**



**[020...Nc6!; If 20...Kxc7 21.Bxe6 Nxe6 22.Nd5+ Kc6 23.Qe3! Nd7 24.Qc3+ Ndc5 25.Qa5!+-] 21.Rd8+! Kxc7 22.Qd2!+-** Two pieces down, white is threatening Qd6 check mate while his rook on d8 is pinning two black knights against two black rooks! **22...b6** [More stubborn would have been 22...Bd5 requiring white to find 23.Re8! Bc6 24.Qd8#] **23.Ne8+!** [After 23.Ne8+ Kb7 24.Nd6+ forks king and queen.; or 23.Ne8+ Kc6 24.Rc8+ Kb5 25.Nd6+] **1-0**

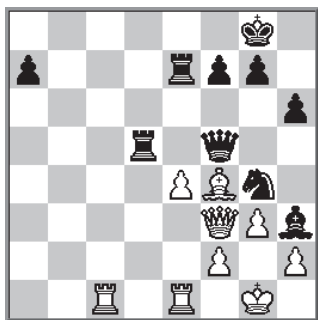
**B Arun Vaidya**  
**N Neelakantan**

Queen's Gambit D34

Raheja Trophy, Bombay 1989  
Analysis: V.D.Pandit

Arun Vaidya, born 1949, was among the second crop of Maharashtra masters after the group of Sapre, Sakhalkar and Shaligram. He became an IM in 1985 through the Asian Zonal Tournament. His best in the National Championships was a tie for first with Manuel Aaron and Mohamed Hassan at Simla, 1972. **1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.c4 e6 QGD Tarrasch Defence.** Neelakantan always

liked sharp attacking play in the openings. **4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Bg5 cxd4 10.Nxd4 h6 11.Bf4?!** [Correct is 11.Be3] **11...Re8 12.Ndb5?! d4!** Tempting white to win a pawn at the cost of his important fianchettoed bishop. **13.Bxc6?** [13.Nc7 dxc3 14.Nxa8 Bf5 15.Nc7 cxb2 16.Rb1 Qxd1 17.Rbxd1 (17. Rfxd1 Bxb1 18.Rxb1 Rd8 19.Rxb2 Rd1+ 20.Bf1) 17...Rd8 looks favourable for Black.] **13...bxc6 14.Nxd4 Bh3! 15.Nxc6?** [Better to desist from the second Pawn. e.g. 15.Re1 Qb6 16.Na4±] **15...Qb6 16.Nxe7+ Rxe7 17.Re1?** [White should rather think in terms of giving up the exchange, e.g. 17.Qd6 Qb7 18.f3 Bxf1±] **17...Ng4 18.e3 Qxb2 19.Qf3 Rd8 20.Nd5??** [White's B is also under threat 20...g5 and if 20.e4 Rd3 wins.] **20...Rxd5! 21.Rab1 Qxa2 22.Ra1 Qc2 23.Rac1 Qf5!!** At first sight this seems to be careless, as it invites an apparently deadly pawn fork. **24.e4**



**24...Rde5!! 25.Qd3 Rxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Qd8+ Kh7 28.f3** The second, apparently

deadly pawn fork in the game. Now black terminates the game brilliantly. **28...Qc5+!! 29.Rxc5** [If 29.Kh1 Qxc1+ (29...Nf2+ 30.Kg1 Nd1+ 31.Kh1 Re1#) 30.Bxc1 Re1#] **29...Re1# 0-1**

### R.M.Dongre - N Neelakantan

Larsen Opening A01

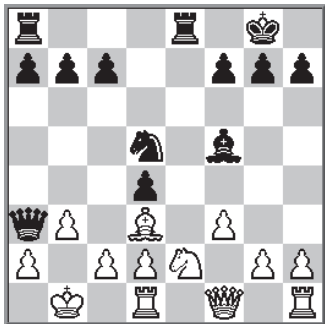
Raheja Trophy, Bombay,  
21.09.1989

Analysis: Vijay Pandit

The idea of resorting to irregular and unorthodox play in the opening to take the better prepared opponent out of the book is often counter productive. In this game White soon gets into a mess. The interest of the game, however, lies in Neelakantan's delightful tactical strokes achieving a speedy finish. **1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.e4** [3.c4/e3/d3. The text is inconsistent with the Reti theme.] **3...Nf6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bd3** White is already on the backfoot trying to necessary to defend his 'e4'-Pawn with this awkward move **5...d5 6.exd5?** [Better 6.Nxd5 Nxd5 7.exd5 Qxd5 8.Qf3] **6...Bxc3 7.Bxc3 Qxd5 8.f3** [Another sad necessity] **8...0-0 9.Bc4?** [9.Ne2] **9...Qc5 10.Qe2 Bf5 11.0-0-0? Rfe8 12.Bd3?** [This bishop returns to d3 again. It seems to have a strange affinity to this square. Better was: 12.g4 Nd4! 13.Qf1 Bg6 though black is still better.] **12...Nd4! 13.Bxd4 exd4 14.Qf1 Qa3+ 15.Kb1 Nd5!! 16.Ne2**

See diagram

**16...Rxe2!** [16...Rxe2 17. Bxe2 (17.Qxe2 Nc3+ or Nb4



mates in three.) 17...Nb4 mates in two.] 0-1.

### N Neelakantan 2250

#### Daniel J King 2500

Sicilian B87

4th Goodricke op, Calcutta 1993

Daniel King, born 1963, is a famous English Grandmaster who is also a Trainer, an author of several books, a chess columnist, and more importantly, a celebrated TV broadcaster. 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qf3 Qb6 10.Be3 Qb7 11.Qg3 b4 12.Na4 Nbd7 13.f3 0-0 14.Rfd1 Kh8 15.Rac1 Ne5 16.c3 [After having played Rac1, this move is logical. A later, 1997 game, Zapata 2515 vs Morovic Fernandez 2580 went: 16.Ne2 a5 17.c4 bxc3 18.Nex3 Ra6 19.f4 Ng6 20.Bc4 Rc6 21.Bd3 Qb8 22.Qf3 .....42 Drawn] 16...Bd7 17.Nb6!

*See diagram*

Neelakantan's fertile mind conjures up a dangerous plan which confounds black. 17...Nh5? [This leads to a clear advantage for white. Neelakantan's Nb6! must have jolted

the grandmaster. White can get only a slight advantage after: 17...Qxb6 18.Nf5! Nh5 19.Bxb6 Nxc3 20.Nxc3 a5 21.cxb4 axb4±] 18.Qh3 Qxb6 19.Qxh5 Qb7 20.Bg5 Bxg5 21.Qxg5 bxc3 22.Rxc3 Rfc8 23.f4 Rxc3 24.bxc3 Ng6 [24...Nc6 was safer.] 25.f5! exf5? [□25...Ne5 26.fxe6 fxe6 27.Bxe6 Bxe6 28.Nxe6±] 26.Bd5+- Qa7 27.Bxa8 Qxa8 28.exf5 f6 29.Qg3 Ne5 30.Ne6 Bxe6 31.fxe6 Qb8 32.Qf4 The threat is 33 Qd4! 1-0.

### N Neelakantan 2240

#### Csaba Horvath (Hun) 2535

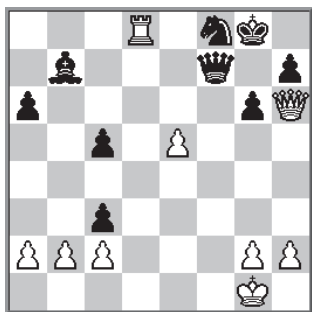
Modern Defence B06

9th Goodricke Op, Calcutta, 1998

Born in 1968 this Hungarian Grandmaster has represented Hungary in the Olympiads and European Team Championships. He became a Grandmaster in 1993 and an International Arbiter in 1998 1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Nd7 7.Nh3 Bb7 8.Be2 c5 9.d5 Ngf6 10.Bh6 0-0 11.0-0 Bxh6 12.Qxh6 e6 13.dxe6 fxe6 14.Rad1 Qe7 15.Ng5 Rae8 16.f4 b4 17.Bc4?! Neelakantan plays like Tal, meeting attack by coun-



ter-attack, not defence. One day after the game the opponent might win in home analysis, but on the score board, it is marked for posterity that the attacking player won! **17...bxc3** 18.**Bxe6+ Kh8** 19.**e5 dxe5** 20.**Bxd7 Rd8** [020...Nxd7 21.Nxh7! Qxh7 22.Qxh7+ Kxh7 23.Rxd7+ Kh6 24.Rxb7 Rxf4 25.bxc3 with a very slight advantage to black.] 21.**fxe5 Nxd7?** 22.**Rxf8+ Nxf8** 23.**Nf7+** [Not 23.Rxd8? Qxd8 24.Nf7+ Kg8 25.Nxd8 cxb2 26.Qf4 b1Q+ 27.Kf2 (27.Qf1 Qxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Bd5-+) 27...Qxc2+ and it is black who wins!] 23...**Qxf7** 24.**Rxd8 Kg8**



**25.e6! Qe7** 26.**Qxf8+!**  
**Qxf8** 27.**e7!** 1-0.

**Antoaneta Stefanova** 2480

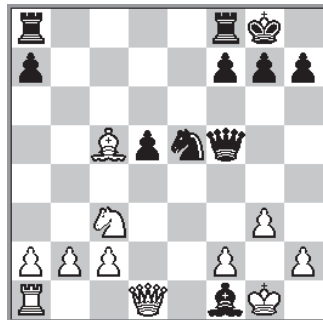
**N Neelakantan** 2240

Queen Pawn D02

9th Goodricke Op, Calcutta 1998

Stefanova, born 1979, was World Women's Chess Champion from 2004 to 2006. She is a very famous Grandmaster from Bulgaria as she has represented Bulgaria in 12 Olympiads from 1992 to 2014. **1.d4 d5** 2.**Nf3 c5** This was Neelakantan's favourite move. He

had a penchant for attack. **3.dxc5 e6** 4.**e4 Bxc5** 5.**exd5 exd5** 6.**Bb5+ Nc6** 7.**0-0 Nf6** 8.**Nd4 0-0** Neelakantan's zest for attack was so great that he did not bother defending pawns! **9.Bxc6 bxc6** 10.**Nxc6 Qd6** 11.**Nd4 Ng4** 12.**g3 Ne5** 13.**Be3 Bh3** 14.**Nc3 Bxf1** 15.**Nf5 Qf6** 16.**Bxc5 Qxf5!**



We said Neelakantan did not care for pawns. He didn't care for rooks either, especially when they are sitting at home doing nothing. **17.Bxf8 Bh3** 18.**f4 Bg4!** 19.**Nxd5 Qe4!** [19...Qe4! 20.Qf1 Qd4+ 21.Qf2 Nf3+ 22.Kf1 Qxd5-+] **0-1.**

**N Narayanan** (2213)

**Anup Deshmukh** 2335

Vienna Game C28

11th Goodricke, Calcutta 2000

Born in 1967, Anup Deshmukh became an IM in 1999. He has a sharp attacking style and is now reckoned as one of Maharashtra's most successful chess trainers. **1.e4 e5** 2.**Nc3 Nc6** 3.**Bc4 Nf6** 4.**d3 Bb4** 5.**Nge2 d5** 6.**exd5 Nxd5** 7.**0-0 Nb6** 8.**Bb3 Bg4** 9.**f3 Bd7** 10.**a3 Be7** 11.**f4 0-0** 12.**f5=Nd4?** [This poor move gifts

white with a big positional advantage. Better was: 12...Qc8 13.Ng3 (13.g4 Na5 14.Ba2 c5=) 13...Nd4 14.Ba2 Nxf5=] 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Ne4± Ba4?

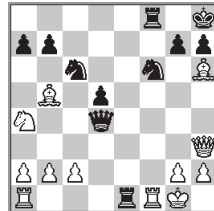


15.f6 gxf6 16.Bh6!+- Kh8 [16...Re8?? 17.Qg4+] 17.Bxf8 Qxf8 18.Nxf6 Bxb3 19.cxb3 Bxf6 20.Rxf6 Nd5 21.Rf2 f6 22.Qg4 c5 23.b4! Re8 24.Qd7 Re5 25.bxc5 Qxc5 26.Rf5! Instead of pawn picking (b7) white activates his rooks as they would be more dangerous for black. 26...Qc6 27.Qd8+ Kg7 28.Rxe5 fxe5 29.Qg5+ Kf7 30.Qf5+ Kg8 31.Qxe5 Ne3 32.Qg3+ Kh8 33.Qf3! The main threat is 34 Qf8# 1-0

**Raja Ravi Sekhar 2380**  
**Narayanan Neelakantan**  
Queen Pawn D02

3rd Goodricke, Calcutta, 1992  
IM and IA Ravi Sekhar, born 1954, was National Champion in 1976 and 1979. He had a very great understanding of chess. An extremely talented person, he could have achieved anything had he set his mind to it. 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.dxc5 e6 4.e4 Bxc5 5.exd5 exd5 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.Ng5 0-0 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.

**Qxe6+ Kh8 12.0-0 Qc7 13. Qh3** [Generally it is held that if your opponent sacrifices two pawns, accept both and when under great pressure, return one of them and win with the other extra pawn. Therefore in the variation given below, white could obtain a very clear advantage. However, given Neelakantan's fearsome reputation of sharp incisive attack, very few players would accept a second pawn from Neelakantan. 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Bxf2+ 15.Rxf2 Qb6 16.Be3! Qxe3 17.Qd2!±] 13... **Rae8 14.Na4 Bxf2+ 15.Rxf2 Re1+ 16.Rf1 Qe5 17.Bh6?** [In their calculations after 17.Qh4 Rxf1+ 18.Kxf1?? (Probably both players had forgotten the bishop on b5 and that it could recapture on f1 and win the game!) 18...Ng4+ 19.Kg1 Qd4+-+] 17...Qd4+



Diagram

**18.Be3**  
? [In all likelihood, this blunder happened

because of Neelakantan's reputation as a great tactician. Sometimes in the heat of battle we assume that the opponent cannot make a mistake and he is 100% correct! White could save the game by: 18.Kh1! Rxa1 19.Rxa1 Ng4 20.Bxg7+! Qxg7 21.Qg3 Nd4 22.Bd3=] 18...Rxe3 If 19 Qf5 Rf3+ wins the queen. 0-1

# Tournament Calendar

FIDE/World/Asian Events [www.fide.com](http://www.fide.com):

**Sep 01-06 Sep** South Asian Amateur Chp. (U-2000 Elo) Jammu  
PF: 10L. 9906010563. E-mail: [alljkchessasso@rediffmail.com](mailto:alljkchessasso@rediffmail.com)

**Sep 01-14 Sep** 42nd Chess Olympiad, Baku, Azerbaijan  
**Sep 20-04 Oct** World Youth U-14, 16, 18 Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia  
**Oct 18-31 Oct** World Cadet U-8, 10, 12 Batumi, Georgia  
**Nov 11-30 Nov** World Chp, Carlsen v Karjakin, New York, NY

**AICF/NATIONAL/Regional Championships [www.aicf.in](http://www.aicf.in):**

**Sep 09-18 Sep** National U-17, West Bengal  
**Sep 19-27 Sep** National U-7, Muthialpet, Puducherry  
**Nov 02-14 Nov** National Women Premier, New Delhi  
**Nov 20-28 Nov** National U-15 Boys/Girls, New Delhi

**OPEN/Rating Tournaments:**

**Aug 27-31 Aug** Fomento Rating, Panaji, Goa PF: 2L. 9370719188  
**Sep 09-11 Sep** TCA Rating, Theru Bazar, Dharmavaram, AP  
**Sep 09-14 Sep** 5th K Das Mem, Bhubaneswar PF 5L. E-mail:  
[khordhachess@gmail.com](mailto:khordhachess@gmail.com)  
**Sep 10-15 Sep** NL Pandiyar Open, Udaipur PF: 6L.  
**Sep 29-02 Oct** KCM Open FIDE Rated, Krishna Kounder Kalyana  
Mandapam, Coimbatore PF: 3L. 9894665600  
**Oct 01-03 Oct** DCA (U-1600) Rating Delhi, PF: 11L. 9891468906  
**Oct 08-11 Oct** CA Kottayam Open Rating, Kerala PF 2.1L.  
Tel 9447100071; 8943857644.  
**Oct 08-12 Oct** Rail Wheel Factory Rated Open, Bengaluru  
PF: 5L. Tel: 9845226786 / 9972097048  
**Oct 21-24 Oct** Chess For Youth, Kolkata Tel: 9830194623  
**Nov 12-17 Nov** Morphy Rating, Nashik, MH PF: 3L Tel 9689143925  
**Dec 19-24 Dec** Bhopal FIDE Rating Open, Bhopal. Tel 9425016455.

## ONE LINE HEADLINES

**Bhubaneswar:** World Junior in progress at KIIT University  
**Novi Sad:** Jennitha Anto Wins World IPCA Title For Fourth Time  
**Chennai:** TN Govt Honours WIM Jennitha Anto With 25 Lakhs  
**Biel:** Aravindh Chithambaram Finishes Third In Masters Open  
**Ahmedabad:** Erigaisi Arjun (TL), D Jishitha (AP) Win U-13 Titles  
**Slovakia:** Mitrabha Guha Gets Gold Medal In Youth Olympiad  
**Slovakia:** India Finish Fourth, Miss Out Podium; Iran Wins!  
**Mumbai:** N Neelakantan Passed Away On July 23, 2016

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