

## **Raahil Mullick – Media Mentions**

1. [IM Raahil Mullick's fantastic efforts in training Blind Chess Players – ChessBase India](#)
2. [Raahil makes all the right moves in Colombo – mid-day](#)
3. ['Chess Engines Have Helped Change the Culture of the Game', Feels IM Raahil Mullick – News18](#)
4. [IM Raahil Mullick wins the 1st ChessBase India Club Tournament – ChessBase India](#)
5. [India clinches Asian Under-14 Online Team Chess Championship title – AICF Headlines](#)
6. [Sukoon Resort 1st Indian Chess.com League Starts On Friday – Chess.Com News](#)
7. [Raahil Mullick wins MVP#2 in 1st Indian Chess.com League – DAIS News](#)
8. [Meet 12-Year-Old Raahil Mullick, An International Chess Master Who Is Looking To Rule The Board - Indiatimes](#)
9. [Raahil Mullick who has become India's latest International Master \(IM\) at the age of 12 – The Knowledge Review](#)
10. [Raahil Mullick becomes an IM at the age of 12 years and 5 months – ChessBase India](#)
11. [Meet Raahil Mullick, 10-Year-Old Chess Champion Gearing Up To Become India's Future Grandmaster - Indiatimes](#)
12. [My aim is to become a Grandmaster in the future: Chess player Raahil Mullick – SpagoNews](#)
13. [Meet Raahil Mullick, the 10-year-old chess champion with game-winning moves - YourStory](#)
14. [The youngest 2200 in the world right now is Raahil Mullick! – ChessBase India](#)
15. [Sunway Sitges Chess Media](#)
16. [Raahil Mullick shines at the 2017 Sharjah and Dubai International GM Open Tournaments - DAIS News](#)
17. [Lucena in Lockdown #3: IM Raahil Mullick – ChessBase India](#)
18. [Raahil Mullick stuck in Melbourne due to passport issues – Times Of India](#)
19. [Raahil Mullick betters his Chess Performance – DAIS News](#)
20. [IM Raahil Mullick held the legendary GM Michal Krasenkow \(POL\) to a draw – ChessBase India](#)
21. [Top 100 FIDE Rated Indian Male Chess Players January 2023 - ChessBox](#)
22. [Tactical Vision with IM Raahil Mullick - unacademy](#)
23. [Kramnik to coach 14 Indians at 10-day camp in Chennai – espn](#)
24. [Creating the next generation of Champions. Microsense Chess Camp with Legends Kramnik and Gelfand in Chennai – APN News](#)
25. [Kramnik and Gelfand to coach at camp for emerging talent in city – The New Indian Express](#)
26. [Chess camp in the city – DT Next](#)
27. [Seven year old, Candidate Master Raahil Mullick, bags Silver in Under 10 MSSA Chess - Sportskeeda](#)
28. [National under-seven chess: Three players share lead – The Hindu](#)
29. [Seven-year old Raahil Mullick wins medals at back-to-back Chess championships - Sportskeeda](#)
30. [Mumbai boy Mullick wins Asian schools U-7 chess title – Afternoon Voice](#)

# EXCLUSIVE: 'Chess Engines Have Helped Change the Culture of the Game', Feels IM Raahil Mullick

• Curated By: [Vivek Ganapathy](#)• [News18.com](#)

• Last Updated: DECEMBER 17, 2022, 14:30 IST

• [Mumbai, India](#)

Raahil Mullick

The advances in technology have altered the landscape of the game of chess according to 15-year-old Raahil Mullick from Mumbai, India's second youngest International Master (IM), the youngest from the state of Maharashtra and a testament to the promise India holds in the sport going forward

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15-year-old Raahil Mullick from Mumbai, India's second youngest International Master (IM) and the youngest from the state of Maharashtra, is certainly a testament to the promise [India](#) holds in the game of chess going forward.

A gold medallist at the Asian Schools Chess Championship 2022 in the U15 category, the lad certainly seems and sounds like a boy-wise beyond his years. Clear in thought and respectful in behaviour, the lad ranked in the top 5 of the nation's FIDE's U-15 rankings, took an early shine to the game and the inspiration or push apparently came from within the confines of his home.

# Faces in the Crowd

## **RAAHIL MULLICK**

**MAHARASHTRA • CHESS**

Seven-year-old candidate master Mullick clinched the silver medal via a tie-breaker at the Under-10 Mumbai Schools Sports Association (MSSA) Chess Tournament, held over Nov. 19-21 in Mumbai. A student of Chirubhai Amibani International School, Mullick beat competitors older than him in the competition that saw 270 entries. In a tight finish that had three boys finishing on eight out of nine points, the result was decided on the Bucholtz tiebreak. In August, Mullick had won gold at the 10th Asian Schools Chess Championships in Taiwan followed by a bronze at the Indian National Under-7 Open Championship in Kolkata.





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**COMMERCE MINISTER SITHARAMAN MISSES G20 SUMMIT DINNER AFTER AIR INDIA MISPLACES HER BAGS 13**

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to wash off stains on the white and purple suburban rakes. In fact, MRVC had to paint the new rakes a darker shade of purple to camouflage the paan stains. Moreover, railways also have to deal with waterlogging as drains get clogged by plastic bags.

"A couple of years ago, we planned to ban food products in non-biodegradable products. But the order had to be rescinded after pressure from stall owners, led by activist Medha Patkar," said a CR official. THE

showed go to take... dia's human resources minister allegedly not having studied beyond Class XII saw his Twitter name change to Brunby12th Pass. The controversy over the imposition

inated the landscape.

A tweet about him says he "single-handedly turned the tide on SM (social media). It was a one-way street earlier." An-

in fostering communal tensions, that unlike the BJP, educated Congress supporters don't defend its transgressions, such as the 1984 riots. "So there is no fight."

## Checkmate! City boy makes the right moves in Under-7 Asian, national meets

Vinamrata Borwankar  
@timesgroup.com



Raahil Mullick won the gold at the 10th Asian Schools Chess Championship last month

Mumbai: Seven-year-old Raahil Mullick is making the city proud by winning back-to-back accolades in the world of chess.

A student of Dhirubhai Ambani International School, Raahil has got the FIDE Candidate Master title by winning the Under-7 open category at the 10th Asian Schools Chess Championship held in the last week of August in Taichung, Taiwan, and the bronze at the 28th National U-7 held in Kolkata in the first week of September.

"He spent two weeks on the chess trail travelling from Mumbai to Taiwan and onward to Kolkata in a hectic schedule. We thought it would not be possible for him to perform well in both the tournaments due to chess fatigue, but he surprised us.

rolled me in a chess coaching class," said Raahil. He has been coaching with Kuldeep Vhatwar for the last two years.

"Many people don't coach very young students, but we got him enrolled and there was no looking back after that. A few months into the training, his coach asked me if he could go for a tournament. We were surprised when we learnt that that was a national-level tournament in Delhi. Raahil hadn't played even a single local tournament but his coach was confident he would do well," said the mother.

After the two consecutive wins, the boy is returning to his books. "I don't know when the next tournament is scheduled so I am concentrating on studies, History, mathematics and Hindi are my favourite subjects. I will still continue to spend an hour playing chess every day," he said.

### WEATHER

Colaba	Santa Cruz
26.2°/ 24°	29.4°/ 24.5°

Sunrise: Sunday: 0627 hrs  
Sunset: Saturday: 1837 hrs

Forecast: A few spells of rain or showers will occur in parts of city and suburbs. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 30 deg C and 25 deg C respectively.

Relative humidity: Colaba 93%, Santa Cruz 79%.

Friday's Rainfall: Colaba: 1.4mm, Santa Cruz: 0.3mm. Season's Total: Colaba: 2120mm, Santa Cruz: 2279mm

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## Raahil, Tanisha sparkle in Under-11 National chess

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** No. 14 seed Raahil Mullick of Mumbai punished the over-enthusiasm of Delhi's No. 4 seed Sreeshwan Maralakshikari in the 10th round on the top board and took an important step to win the U-11 National chess title at Balewadi Complex on Wednesday.

Sole leader Raahil (8.5 points) will have to play with black pieces on the second successive day when he takes on top seed D Gukesh of Andhra Pradesh (8 points) in the last round on Thursday morning.

In girls' section of the championships, No. 4 seed Tanisha Boramanikar of Aurangabad is fifth (joint second with eight points). If



Tanisha Boramanikar and Raahil Mullick



she beats sole leader and No. 2 seed Savitha of Tamil Nadu (8.5 points) in the top board clash on Thursday, she may have an outside chance of clinching the title.

### Nandhidhaa in joint lead; Soumya, Swati lose

Black pieces continued to hold sway on the second consecutive day of the Women's National Premier chess meet in Surat on Wednesday. Four of the six deci-

sive games had went in Black's favour on Tuesday and all three decisive results in the fifth round went against white pieces on Wednesday.

On the receiving end were Saskhi Chitlange of Aurangabad and Pune's Swati Ghate and Soumya Swaminathan. Tamil Nadu's PV Nandhidhaa defeated Swati with white pieces on Tuesday beat Soumya with black pieces on Wednesday.

## Unforgettable You favourite

Shailendra Awasthi  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Trainer Malesh Narredu's Unforgettable You appeals most among five runners in the Astana Plate, feature of Thursday's evening races at Mahalaxmi.

First race starts at 4.30 pm.

**Selections:** 1. Astana Plate (1800m): Unforgettable For You 1, Timeless 2.

2. Proletarian Plate (1600m): Selfie Star 1, Bold March 2.

3. J V Shukla-Ashwamitra Trophy (1400m): Lady In Red 1, Celestial Light 2.

4. Mayor's Trophy (1200m): Summer Rays 1, Hedwig 2.

5. Sonalika Plate Div II (1200m): Alyaties 1, Royal Ace 2.

6. Kanthara Plate (1200m): Suma-aq 1, Divine Solitaire 2.

7. Sonalika Plate Div I (1200m): 4 3Wilshire 1, Jack Dan 2.

**Day's best:** Selfie Star.



# Afternoon

## DESPATCH & COURIER

Gold: ₹27,565 • Silver: ₹42,590 • US Dollar: ₹60.36  
Temperature: 31°C/26°C • Humidity: 94%

48 Hours Pg 13-20 Pg 24-25

### 30 | ADC | SPORTS

## Mumbai boy Mullick wins Asian schools U-7 chess title



**MUMBAI:** Mumbai boy Raahil Mullick clinched the FIDE Candidate Master title by winning the Under-7 open category at the 10th Asian Schools Chess Championships that concluded in Taichung, Taiwan last week. Raahil, with a rating of 1326, finished on top of a 20-strong bunch after upsetting top seed, Amir Amirul Faiz (rating

1472) of Malaysia, a media release said here today.

Both the boys finished with seven points with the Indian boy placed first and the Malaysian second. Another Indian boy -- Arjun Sidharth S (rating 1144) ended up fifth with 5.5 points, as per the Asian Chess Federation's website.

Raahil emerged on top of the group that saw battles for top position among players from India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka. He played nine rounds over seven days under the Swiss League system, employing an attacking style of play.

Among other Indian participants, Potluri Sreepatha clinched the under-13 girls crown as the top seed with seven points, while Gunjal Chopdekar grabbed the girls under-9 title and Chinnum Vyshnavi finished third, as per the website.

## HI Y

By Dann

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Vladimir Kramnik in action during last year's World Chess Tournament

# Kramnik to train Indians

Former world champion and Boris Gelfand will guide 14 young Indian chess players at a camp in Chennai

**F**ourteen young Indian chess players including D Gukesh, the world's second youngest Grand Master, and R Praggnanandhaa will be coached by former world champion Vladimir Kramnik at a 10-day camp from January 8. The camp, the second organised by Microsense, will also see Boris Gelfand, a former world title challenger, impart training to the Indian players.

Kramnik had conducted a camp for eight players in August in France.

Eight of the participants are Grand Masters while the rest are International Masters. Two girls would also be part of the residential camp.

Kramnik was quoted as saying that he was happy to be coaching the Indian youngsters again.

"After the first camp which we held in Chens-Sur-Leman, France, I am glad that we are having the second camp once again. This time it is even more exciting because it will be held in Chennai, and from six students, we will be having 14.

"I am also very excited that I will be joined by Boris Gelfand to train these youngsters. Incidentally, the last time I was in India was back in 90s for a match against Boris! Once again I will be in India working alongside him," said Kramnik. He said the focus will be on openings during the camp.

"We (Boris and I) will try our best to impart the opening knowledge we have gathered after years of practical experience of playing chess at the highest level," he added.

"Our vision and mission is to build India as a powerful chess playing nation. Five times World Champion Viswanathan Anand created waves of popularity for chess in India and we would like to take this to the next logical step," said S. Kailasanathan, Managing Director, Microsense Group, which is sponsoring the coaching camp. Interestingly, Kailasanathan was the Tamil Nadu chess champion in 1972 and has also played for West Bengal and Delhi in his younger days. "The right coaching at the right time

in a systematic manner is very important. The players have been selected out of a particular age group with existing ratings," Kailasanathan said.

On his part, Gelfand said he was excited to be part of the project to train Indian youngsters.

"India has a unique generation of talents and aspiring to become the superpower of chess world. I am sure that during our camp they'll learn a lot about the way to think to approach chess and would improve their work ethic," Gelfand, a contemporary of Indian legend Viswanathan Anand, said.

The players who would be taking part in the camp are: Praggnanandhaa, Gukesh, Raunak Sadhwani, Prithu Gupta, P Inliyan, Arjun Erigaisi (all Grand Masters), Leon Mendonca, Sreeshwan Maralakshikari, Aditya Mittal, Arjun Kalyan, Bharat Subramaniyam, Raahil Mullick (all International Masters), Rakshit Ravi and R Vaishali (Women International Masters).

## Battle in AICF continues

Meanwhile, the AICF has issued a release on the ongoing faction battle in the body. The release has accused AICF secretary Bharat Singh of feeding false stories in media.

The urgent general meeting had only one agenda and that was of the Bengal chess association and it was discussed in detail, the release said. "Dibyendu Barua, Atanu Lahiri and Bharat Singh were allowed to speak on that matter.

"Bharat Singh attempted to discuss other matters by snatching mike from president (Venketrama Raja). The president stood his ground softly but firmly and did not allow any other discussion.

"Lahiri accused Bharat Singh and Barua of defaming him in the meeting and has filed a criminal case against them. After the Bengal matter, the president concluded the proceedings. Any other claims by Bharat Singh or anyone are blatantly illegal," the release said.

AGENCIES



US President's eldest son Donald Trump Jr met a Kremlin-linked Russian lawyer in 2016 as he was reportedly promised damaging information on Hillary Clinton. P14

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MUMBAI | TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 | PAGES 32

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017

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## Mumbai lad Raahil wins gold in C'wealth chess

**Mumbai:** Raahil Mullick bagged the gold medal in the under-10 Commonwealth Chess Championships held in Delhi recently. This former Asian schools chess champion finished in first place upsetting National Champion, Shahil Dey of Assam.

Raahil emerged on top of the U-10 Open group that saw battles for top po-

power Milan Club to a convincing 5-2 win against Fire Dragons SC in a round-5 match of the 2nd Borivali Premier Football League.

Thakur, the energetic forward, wasted little time in getting on the scoresheet by netting the first goal in the seventh minute and then added the second in the 21st minute.

Despite those two setbacks Fire Dragons fought on gamely and managed to reduce the deficit through Lanster Fernandes in the 24th minute. But, five minutes later, Milan Club scored their third goal through Ankit Dalvi and went into the break with a healthy 3-1 cushion.

On resumption, Thakur scored two quick goals in the 31st minute and 35th minute to put Milan Club in a strong winning position. Fire Dragons continued to fight and managed to reduce the margin of defeat with Denny John scoring a late goal in the 70th minute.

### CITY SPORT

sition between 61 players from India, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Zambia and South Africa. Raahil scored a total of 6 points at the end of 7 rounds.

After losing his third round game to his good friend Praneeth Vuppala of Telangana, Raahil fought his way back to the top by winning the remaining 4 rounds.

### Sunny Thakur slams four goals

Striker Sunny Thakur was in great scoring form and struck four goals to



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# Afternoon

## DESPATCH & COURIER

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Temperature: 33°C/25°C • Humidity: 49%

Education & Career Pg13-20

### Shiv, Avril wins under-12 as Raahil, Shravani top under-8



Raahil Mullick who won Boys Under-8 title of SBI Life Mumbai Schools Chess Championship with a score of 9/9.

**M**UMBAI: The first stage of SBI Life Mumbai Schools Chess Championship for Under-08 and Under-12, which concluded here at Don Bosco High School, Borivali witnessed the crowning of Shiv Shome (Poddar International) in the boys while Avril David of SIES High School in girls segment bagged honours in the under-12 category respectively. Raahil Mullick of Dhirubhai Ambani International School and Shravani Patil of Vasant Vihar School

did their schools proud in the under-8 category respectively. In a thrilling last round finish, the joint leaders, Kushal Karelia (ELO 1373) and unrated player, Shiv Shome won their individual encounters to finish with an identical score of 7.5/9 however, a better tie-break allowed Shiv to win the title. Similar finish was witnessed as in girl's under-8 section where Alaina Vincent seems to be walking away with title with a score of 8/8 however, a costly blunder in her last round encounter with Shravani Patil allowed latter to finish with equal points and win the title on a better tie-break. The result in under-8 open section went along the expected lines as reigning Asian School Chess Champion & Candidate Master, Raahil Mullick (ELO 1349) of Dhirubhai Ambani International School steamrolled the field with a perfect score of 9/9.



## **Mullick wins Asian schools chess title**

Mumbai boy Raahil Mullick clinched the FIDE Candidate Master title by winning the Under-7 open category at the 10th Asian Schools Chess Championships that concluded in Taichung, Taiwan last week. Raahil finished on top of a 20-strong bunch after upsetting top seed, Amir Amirul Faiz of Malaysia.

## **Chowfin, Murdia snatch wins**

Armaan Chowfin and Tanay Murdia kicked off their campaigns with hard-fought

Churchgate, on Thursday.

Results: Super Division: Indian Navy 3 (Amrit Kiro 17th, Mohd. Fahim Khan 22nd, Ved Prakash 68th) beat Rhema Sports 1 (Sonu P. 16th).

## **Mumbai to host Asian juniors TT**

The 20th Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship would be held here at the NSCI Vallabhai Patel Indoor Stadium from September 12-16. The championship, being organised by the Mumbai City District Table Tennis Association (MCDTTA), is one of the most important events in the world junior circuit.



#### Chess championship

Seven-year-old Raahil Mullick, a student of Dhirubhai Ambani International School, BKC, won gold and the title of FIDE Candidate Master at the 10th Asian Schools Chess Championships 2014. The event was held in Taichung, Taiwan from August 23 to 29.

Life skills summit