

November article :

The festival season from October kickstarted greetings from chess24x7 in the form of Dussehra wishes. And then the much awaited Diwali festival around mid-november changed the atmosphere for the good, for one and all.

Meanwhile, chess24x7 geared up for conducting another chess event in association with SFA. It was time for the School of India - International Chessathon 2020 It was a big event spread across 2 weeks spanning over 6 days; divided into 2 parts. Challengers and Champions League.

The participation was huge and more than 2000 students across 100+ schools from different countries and different states of India played this event. Players from US, Europe, UAE and other countries made this a multi-nation inter-school chess event.

Tournament format and story :

Initial 2000+ players played amongst themselves in a 9 Round Swiss League Format on Lichess. It was a Blitz event, time control being 5mins per player. The participants were divided into 6 categories :

U-9, U-11, U-13

U-15, U-17, U-19

All categories had separate tournaments for Boys and Girls (U-17 & U-19)

Top 50 from each category (Top 25 in U-19) advanced to the next stage; the Champions League . Between the 2 stages, chess24x7 assessed the games of top players for fair play and weeded out players who were found to have used computer assistance during their games.

In the next stage, top players from each category fought hard against each other in another 9 Round Swiss League Blitz Tournament. Eventually top 5 players from each category were awarded prizes.

In addition to this, there were prizes for :

- Top 10 Schools with maximum entries in the Challenger's Round.
- School with maximum girl participants
- Top 3 Schools with highest aggregate total points (sum of student's score)
- Best School in the city.

All players were given e-certificates and prizes winners were given Winner's e-certificate.

The total prize fund along with vouchers and merchandise was of Rs. 50,00,000/-

The Challengers took place from 5th to 8th November while the Champions League took place on 21st & 22nd November. The results were put on the SFA website.

It was a refreshing experience for all players and everyone looks forward to more such events in the future. chess24x7 also seeks to continue to help promote chess in society in every possible way ; be it through teaching, physical tournament or online events during COVID times ! :)