

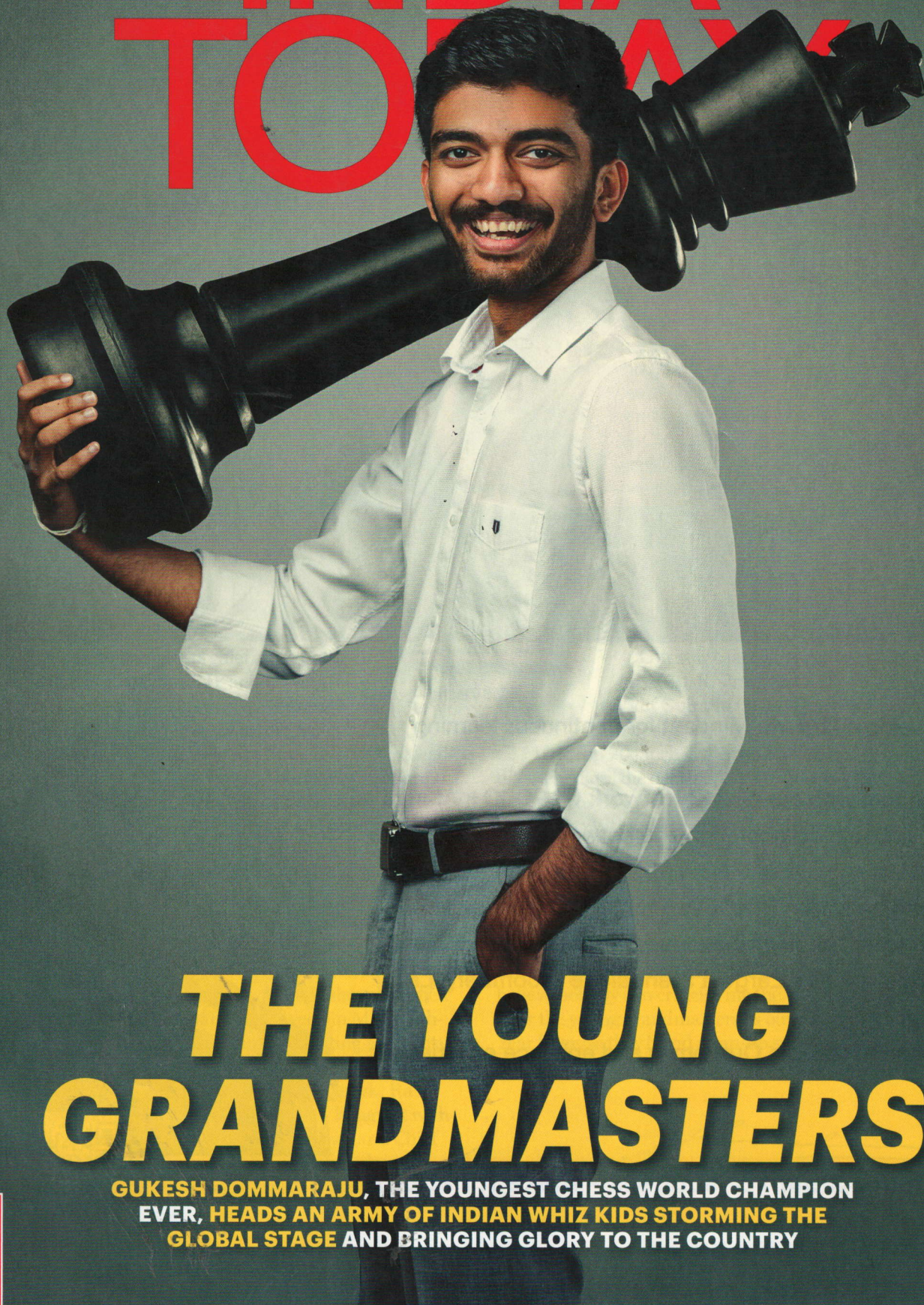
NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR 2024

www.indiatoday.in

JANUARY 6, 2025 ₹100



# INDIA TODAY



## THE YOUNG GRANDMASTERS

**GUKESH DOMMARAJU, THE YOUNGEST CHESS WORLD CHAMPION  
EVER, HEADS AN ARMY OF INDIAN WHIZ KIDS STORMING THE  
GLOBAL STAGE AND BRINGING GLORY TO THE COUNTRY**



**CHAIRMAN AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** Aroon Purie  
**VICE CHAIRPERSON AND EXECUTIVE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** Kalli Purie  
**GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Dinesh Bhatia

**GROUP EDITORIAL DIRECTOR:** Raj Chengappa  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER:** Manoj Sharma

**GROUP CREATIVE EDITOR:** Nilanjana Das; **GROUP PHOTO EDITOR:** Bandeep Singh  
**EDITOR (FEATURES):** Kai Jabir Friese

**MANAGING EDITORS:** Sunil Menon, S. Sahaya Ranjit; **MUMBAI:** M.G. Arun

**EXECUTIVE EDITORS:** Manisha Saroop, Kaushik Deka

**SENIOR DEPUTY EDITORS:** Sangram K. Parhi, Sasi Nair;  
**HYDERABAD:** Amarnath K. Menon

**DEPUTY EDITORS:** Anillesh S. Mahajan, Pradip R. Sagar;  
**JAIPUR:** Rohit Parihar; **MUMBAI:** Suhani Singh

**SENIOR EDITORS:** Sonali Acharyee, Ashish Mukherjee, Saikat Niyogi;  
**PATNA:** Amitabh Srivastava

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Sonali Khetarpal; **MUMBAI:** Dhaval. S. Kulkarni;  
**AHMEDABAD:** Juma Shah; **BANGALURU:** Rahul Noronha

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR:** Avishek G. Dastidar, Vipul Grover; **BENGALURU:** Ajay Sukumaran

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT:** KOLKATA: Arkamoy Datta Majumdar

**PHOTO DEPARTMENT:** Chandra Deep Kumar, Rajwant Singh Rawat (Deputy Chief Photographers), Arun Kumar (Principal Photographer);  
**MUMBAI:** Mandar Suresh Doodhar (Chief Photographer)

**PHOTO RESEARCHERS:** Prabhakar Tiwari (Deputy Visual Research Editor),  
Saloni Vaid (Chief Photo Researcher),  
Jodha Singh Adhikari (Principal Photo Researcher)

**CHIEF OF GRAPHICS:** Tanmoy Chakraborty

**ART DEPARTMENT:** Sanjay Piplani (Creative Editor),  
Angshuman De (Senior Art Director), Rajesh Kumar Angira, Bhoomesh Dutt  
Sharma (Associate Art Directors), Santosh Kumar Sharma (Assistant Art  
Director), Praveen Kumar Gummadi (Chief Designer),  
Siddhant Junde (Chief Illustrator)

**PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT:** Harish Agarwal (Chief of Production),  
Naveen Gupta (Chief Coordinator)

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
Suparna Kumar

**IMPACT TEAM**  
Senior General Managers: Mayur Rastogi (North), Jitendra Lad (West),  
Syed Naveed (Chennai)

**GROUP CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER:** Vivek Malhotra

**SALES AND OPERATIONS**  
Deepak Bhatt, National Head (Distribution)  
Vipin Bagga, General Manager (Operations)  
Rajeev Gandhi, General Manager (North)  
Yogesh Godhanlal Gautam, Regional Sales Manager (West)



**Volume 50-Number 1; For the week**

**Dec 31, 2024-Jan 6, 2025, published on every Friday**

- Editorial/Corporate Office Living Media India Ltd., India Today Group Mediaplex, FC-8, Sector-16A, Film City, Noida - 201301; Phone: 0120-4807100
- Subscriptions: For assistance contact, Customer Care, India Today Group, C-9, Sector-10, Noida (UP) - 201301. email: wecare@intoday.com; Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778 (Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6pm).
- Sales: Direct all trade enquiries to General Manager (Sales), Living Media India Limited, C-9, Sector-10, Noida-201301 (UP).
- Regd. Office: F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.
- Impact Offices: 1201, 12th Floor, Tower 2 A, One Indiabulls Centre, (Jupiter Mills), S.B. Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai-400013; Phone: 022 69193355; Fax: 66063226
- E-1, Ground Floor, Videocon Towers, Jhandewalan Extn, New Delhi.
- Door No: 610, 610A, 612, 5th Floor, Block A, Imperial Chaitanya Building, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai, Tamilnadu-600018.
- 201-204 Richmond Towers, 2nd Floor, 12, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025; Phones: 22212448, 22213037, 22218343; Fax: 22218335;
- 52, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700071; Phones: 22825398; Fax: 22827254; • 6-3-885/7/B, Somajiguda, Hyderabad-500082; Phone: 23401657, 23400479, 23401000, 23402481, 23410982, 23411498; Fax: 23403484 • 39/1045, Karakkatt Road, Kochi 682016; Phones: 2377057, 2377058; Fax: 2377059 • 2/C, 'Suryarath Bldg', 2nd Floor, Behind White House, Panchwati, Office C.G. Road, Ahmedabad-380006; Phone: 26560393, 26560929; Fax: 26565293 • Copyright Living Media India Ltd. All rights reserved throughout the world. Reproduction in any manner is prohibited.
- Printed and published by Manoj Sharma on behalf of Living Media India Limited. Printed at Thomson Press India Limited, 18-35 Milestone, Delhi Mathura Road, Faridabad-121007, (Haryana) and at Rajhans Enterprises, 134, Industrial Town, 4th Main Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560044, (Karnataka).

Published at F-26, First Floor, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

Editor: Raj Chengappa.

• INDIA TODAY does not take the responsibility for returning unsolicited publication material.

All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only



For reprint rights and syndication enquiries, contact  
syndications@intoday.com or call +91-120-4078000  
[www.syndicationtoday.in](http://www.syndicationtoday.in)

# INSIDE

NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR 2024

Photo Montage by BANDEEP SINGH



(L-R) R. Praggnanandhaa,  
Vaishali Rameshbabu,  
Gukesh D., Arjun Erigaisi

## THE YOUNG GRANDMASTERS

Gukesh Dommaraju, the youngest chess world champion ever, heads an army of Indian whiz kids storming the global stage and bringing glory to the country

<b>NARENDRA MODI</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>MOHAN BHAGWAT</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>NITISH KUMAR</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>I.N.D.I.A BLOC</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>HEMANT SOREN &amp; KALPANA SOREN</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>D.Y. CHANDRACHUD</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>OMAR ABDULLAH</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>GAUTAM ADANI</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>RAM MANDIR, AYODHYA</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>DEVENDRA FADNAVIS, EKNATH SHINDE &amp; AJIT PAWAR</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>MEN'S T20 WC SQUAD</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>MAMATA BANERJEE</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>MANU BHAKER</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>ARVIND KEJRIWAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>DILJIT DOSANJH</b>	<b>53</b>

**Note to the reader** From time to time, you will see pages titled 'An Impact Feature' or 'Focus' in INDIA TODAY. These are no different from advertisements, and the magazine's editorial staff is not involved in their creation in any way

Cover Photograph by BANDEEP SINGH  
(Chess Piece, courtesy Vasant Vihar Club, Delhi)

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquiries before sending money, incurring expenses or entering into commitments in relation to any advertisement appearing in this publication. The India Today Group does not vouch for any claims made by the advertisers of products and services. The printer, publisher, editor-in-chief and the editor of the India Today Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences in the event of such claims not being honoured by the advertisers.



FOR SUBSCRIPTION ASSISTANCE, CONTACT: Customer Care,  
India Today Group, C-9, Sector-10, Noida (UP) - 201301.  
email: wecare@intoday.com | Phone / Whatsapp: +91 8597 778 778  
(Monday to Friday, 10 am - 6pm)

E-MAIL to:  
[letters.editor@intoday.com](mailto:letters.editor@intoday.com) or  
log on to [www.indiatoday.in](http://www.indiatoday.in)



SCAN HERE TO  
SUBSCRIBE