

Tan Zhongyi: Women's Candidates favourite who was stunned by Vaishali

NEW DELHI: Tan Zhongyi says she might come from Sichuan and Chongqing region that serves up some spicy fare, but she prefers bland food always. She however served up the spiciest of stir-fries to Lichess.org presenter Greek man Theophilus Wait, who she mistook for an Indian when he visited Chongqing, and chose from the menu expecting him to have a spicy palate. "I thought Yindu people (Indians) loved spice. So I took you to places with spicy stir fry," she said.

Talking to Lichess, ahead of the Candidates, the women's winner from 2024, who has thrice finished runners up at World's was all witty and philosophical, speaking about Chinese chess and women's chess where the Chinese have ruled – so far.

She is one amongst two

Chinese at Cyprus, along with Zhu Jinner, and Tan said where the GMs came from often shaped their style of play. On debutant Zhu Jinner who comes from Zhejiang, Tan said, "She has a very sharp side. She and Ding Liren are from the same city (Zhejiang province). But maybe different districts. I think both are very stable players with a strong psychological endurance. And in a sense, they are both not particularly expressive. But she is a very nice person. In fact, Ding Liren's style in the middle game is very sharp. So he has two different sides," she said of the men's GM who has stepped back from active chess after losing to D Gukesh.

Tan however said players from Chongqing, like her and Lei Tingjie, former World champion, are different. "But Ding is unlike us, me and Lei Tingjie.

With us, you can immediately tell it's very sharp."

Host Theo who asked if Chongqing, where modern blends tradition, train lines go through apartment buildings and has fashionable lights, glamorous styles, echoes her playing vibe – resilient but ruthless. "Chuanyu, (regions of Sichuan and Chongqing share similar culture) people are very resilient. They are hard to be defeated. But the place was once considered remote and impoverished in ancient times. And some officials didn't even want to go there to take office and died on the way. It was a very hard place. So that also shaped the spirit and courage to overcome in face of suffering or difficulties," Tan explained.

Having lost world championships to Ju Wenjun, Tan Zhongyi, would say there was an issue of dealing with pressure and

intensity. "My psychological resilience is I can accept defeat well. But that still affects me."

At the World Rapid Championships, Tan lost to India's Vaishali Rameshbabu, and recalled the experience, "It's not that I was angry, though I had lost from a winning position. I was stunned. And little embarrassed," she told Lichess.

She however held a philosophical view on winning and losing in chess. "Most of us ordinary people accept failure. Except for chosen ones like Carlsen, failure is more common than wins. There can only be one champion. And I'm not even an ordinary person. But does that mean all others are losers? Yes that maybe the case. But we have to find a way to accept it. You can't hurt yourself. Especially not your body," she told Lichess.

Hampshire bring in Yusuf as Seales replacement

HAMPSHIRE: Hampshire have signed South Africa seamer Codi Yusuf for the opening block of County Championship fixtures. Yusuf comes in for Jayden Seales, who was denied a No-Objection Certificate by his home board.

Yusuf, 27, has played two Tests and one ODI for South Africa, as well as featuring across formats for Durham during a spell in county cricket last season. In first-class cricket, he has taken 131 wickets at 28.22.

He will link up at Hampshire with new head coach, Russell Domingo, who remains in charge at Yusuf's domestic franchise, Lions. "Naturally, it is disappointing not to have Jayden with us, but we are pleased to have secured an excellent replacement in Codi Yusuf," Giles White, Hampshire's director of cricket, said. "Codi, who plays for the Lions, comes highly recommended by Russell and brings valuable international experience, as well as familiarity with English conditions following his spell with Durham last season."

What is the 'Grand Prix' attack that helped R Praggnanandhaa defeat Anish Giri?

NEW DELHI: It was a rare pawn attack, and a rather unexpected line that surprised Anish Giri in his opener against R Praggnanandhaa as the Indian took a whole 1 point on Day 1 at the Candidates at Cyprus.

Chess.com dubbed the win induced by the Grand Prix Attack – an aggressive variant of the Sicilian Defence – as the cleanest win of the day, with Pragg playing with white.

The idea of the Grand Prix Attack was to keep attacking the Black's King with an early f-pawn push, and an eventual long castle by Giri saw him walk right into the trap, after positions had looked fairly equal.

Said to have originated in 1800 in London, chessdoctrine.com, cites two instances of the Grand Prix leading to a sharp situation: one involving Pragg in 2021 against Aryan Tari. Another dates back to Anand vs Kasparov in 1994. It is said to throw up 38 % wins for Black as against 26 % for white, though in amateurs it's 49 to 47. Reddit was afwitter with claims that Pragg



used Giri's own Chessable tutorial against him.

Chessbase reckoned Pragg used the H pawn to trap Giri.

What made the line adopted by Pragg a hoot was that it managed to disarm a very cautious Dutchman who is not prone to getting surprised. Chess.com described the Grand Prix Attack, as 'an opening favored by club players for its very straightforward plan of pushing the f-pawn and giving checkmate. Cave-man tactics are generally unlikely to work against a theoretician as renowned as the Dutch number-one, but Giri decided not to play what he'd recommended in his Chessable course on the Sicilian,' Chess.com noted.

Because it's not often played at this level, Giri was thrown off and ended up spending massive time navigating the opening, while the Indian 20-year-old shuffled his pieces at a quick clip.

Chess.com further wrote, "It wasn't that Pragganandhaa was winning out of the opening, but Giri found himself forced to castle on the opposite wing to his opponent. His position was shaky, though tantalizingly close to equality for much of the game until things fell apart in the run-up to the time control. Pragganandhaa didn't put a foot wrong and brilliantly converted his advantage when given the chance."

Mooney and Australia's spinners stand out as Australia go 2-0 up

NEW DELHI: Australia took an unassailable 2-0 lead in their ODI series against West Indies with a 90-run win in the second match in St Kitts.

New captain Sophie Molineux rested her recent back injury and watched on as veteran Beth Mooney top-scored for the visitors, who managed 269 for 7 after winning the toss.

Spinners Georgia

Wareham and Ashleigh Gardner were key with the ball as the hosts suffered a collapse of 8 for 36 on the turning deck in reply.

Ninth on the ICC's ODI rankings, West Indies had looked up for the fight against the world No.1 Australians, who fell to 82 for 4 in the 16th over of their innings.

Ashmini Munisar notably struck twice in two balls to topple heavy-

weights Georgia Voll and Ellyse Perry, out for only her third golden duck in 166 ODIs. Mooney and stand-in captain Tahlia McGrath had the Aussies back on track with a 58-run stand before a valuable knock of 39 from Wareham at No.7.

In reply, West Indies superstar Hayley Matthews had the hosts tracking nicely at 92 for 1 through 23 overs, only to

become the first victim of their almighty collapse.

Matthews was dropped by Alana King on 44 but could only add one more run before Megan Schutt's hands proved safer in the same McGrath over.

In the next over, player of the match Wareham tickled the off-stump of the other set batter, Stafanie Taylor, and then sent Deandra Dottin packing for a fourth-ball duck.

Secure governance accelerates financial AI revenue growth

Financial institutions are learning to deploy compliant AI solutions for greater revenue growth and market advantage.

For the better part of ten years, financial institutions viewed AI primarily as a mechanism for pure efficiency gains. During that era, quantitative teams programmed systems designed to discover ledger discrepancies or eliminate milliseconds from automated trading execution times. As long as the quarterly balance sheets reflected positive gains, stakeholders outside the core engineering groups rarely scrutinised the actual maths driving these returns.

The arrival of generative applications and highly complex neural networks completely dismantled that widespread state of comfortable ignorance. Today, it's not acceptable for banking executives to approve new technology rollouts based simply on promises of accurate predictive capabilities.

Across Europe and North America, lawmakers are aggressively drafting legislation aimed at punishing institutions that utilise opaque algorithmic decision-making processes.

Consequently, the dialogue within corporate boardrooms has narrowed intensely to focus on safe AI deployment, ethics, model oversight, and legislation specific to the financial industry.

Institutions that choose to ignore this impending regulatory reality actively place their operational licenses in jeopardy. However, treating this transition purely as a compliance exercise ignores the immense commercial upside. Mastering these requirements creates a highly efficient operational pipeline where good governance functions as a massive accelerator for product delivery rather than an administrative handbrake.

The mechanics of retail and commercial lending perfectly illustrate the tangible business impact of proper algorithmic oversight.

Consider a scenario where a multinational bank introduces a deep learning framework to process commercial loan applications. This automated system evaluates credit scores, market sector volatility, and historical cash flows to generate an approval decision in a matter of milliseconds.

Satish Sharma reaffirms sports revamp pledge as Wushu championship concludes

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Science and Technology Satish Sharma today reaffirmed the government's pledge and plans towards revamping the sports sector in Jammu and Kashmir while encouraging youth empowerment and excellence.

The Minister, while presiding over the closing ceremony of the 19th UT Jammu & Kashmir Wushu Championship 2025 at Bhagwati Nagar's Indoor Hall, outlined his vision of transforming Jammu & Kashmir into a vibrant sporting hub, emphasizing that youth development through sports remains a top priority of the government.



LG's Diary

Vande Mataram is our identity, strength and vow. It is not just verses but a profound experience woven into our civilization's fabric. Vande Mataram singing & related events revives memories of immortal martyrs, honors their sacrifices, and renews our commitment to India's glory: Office of the LG J&K posted on X.



Today, Rajasthan Foundation Day was celebrated with great fervor at Lok Bhavan. We also celebrated Odisha Day which will be observed on 1st April. I believe diversity & ancient values of these two states have inspired people, gave them strength & a vision to unite all humanity.



I believe diversity & ancient values of these Rajasthan and Odisha states have inspired people, gave them strength & a vision to unite all humanity: Office of the LG J&K

ORDER

In the interest of administration, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir ordered transfer and posting of 6 IAS officers. Shreya Singhal, IAS (AGMUT: 2020) shall also hold the charge of the post of Director, Information, J&K, in addition to her own duties.

Subject: Transfers and Postings.

Government Order No. 501-JK(GAD) of 2026
Dated: 30.03.2026

In the interest of administration, the following transfers and postings are hereby ordered with immediate effect:

- Mr. Nazim Zai Khan, IAS (AGMUT: 2013), Mission Director, Mission Vatsalya/Shakti (ICPS), J&K, is transferred and posted as Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir.
- Dr. Sagar Dofode Dattatray, IAS (AGMUT: 2014), Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, is transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department vice Mr. Sandeep Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2011), Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department. He shall also hold the charge of the posts of Mission Director, Holistic Development Agriculture Programme (HADP) and Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP), relieving Mr. Sandeep Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2011), of the additional charges, who shall await further orders of posting in the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.
- Ms. Shreya Singhal, IAS (AGMUT: 2020), Managing Director, J&K Tourism Development Corporation, holding additional charge of the post of CEO, JK ERA, shall also hold the charge of the post of Director, Information, J&K, in addition to her own duties. She shall assume the charge of the post of Director, Information, J&K on 1st of April, 2026.
- Ms. Mahima Madan, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Additional Secretary to the Government, Information Technology Department, holding additional charge of the posts of CEO, J&KGA and Additional Secretary, Resident Commission, New Delhi, is divested of the additional charge of Additional Secretary, Resident Commission, New Delhi.
- Mr. Amit Gupta, IAS (AGMUT: 2023), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, is posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pahalgam vice Mr. Qaiser Mehmood, JKAS, who shall await further orders of posting in the General Administration Department.
- Mr. Rajesh Kumar Shavan, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department, is transferred and posted as Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Jammu vice Ms. Rifat Kohli, JKAS, who shall await further orders of posting in the General Administration Department.

By order of the Lieutenant Governor.

CM's Diary

At the Yuva Mahotsav held today in Jammu, the Chief Minister distributed cheques to the beneficiaries under Mission YUVA, marking a significant milestone in youth empowerment and entrepreneurship promotion.



The disbursement, conducted as part of a mega outreach initiative, covered 3,003 cases and reflected a cumulative credit achievement of ₹1,000 crore. The financial assistance, provided as seed capital, is aimed at enabling aspiring youth to establish and expand their enterprises, thereby fostering sustainable livelihoods across the region.



Chief Minister launched a series of digital initiatives under Mission YUVA, underscoring the Government's commitment to promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation.

On the occasion, he also unveiled the Credit Guarantee Fund for allied activities to enhance access to finance for young entrepreneurs. Further, he digitally inaugurated all 20 Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), which will provide structured handholding, mentorship, and facilitation support, thereby strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem and improving credit linkage for youth across Jammu and Kashmir.



Chief Minister launched a series of digital initiatives under Mission YUVA, underscoring the Government's commitment to promoting youth entrepreneurship and innovation.

ORDER

The Omar Abdullah government has ordered the Constitution of UT and Divisional Level Committee(s) for monitoring and implementation of IEC Campaign and Action Plan under Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject: Constitution of UT and Divisional Level Committee(s) for monitoring and implementation of IEC Campaign and Action Plan under Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan
Government Order No. 509-JK(GAD) of 2026
Dated: 30.03.2026

Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of Union Territory Level Committee and Divisional Level Committee(s) comprising the following, for monitoring and implementation of IEC Campaign and Action Plan under Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan:

A. Union Territory Level Committee:

1. Administrative Secretary, Home Department	Chairperson
2. Administrative Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department	Member
3. Administrative Secretary, Information Department	Member
4. Administrative Secretary, Social Welfare Department	Member
5. Inspector General of Police, Crime, Jammu & Kashmir	Member

Terms of Reference:

- To provide overall guidance for implementation of IEC campaigns under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan across the Union Territory.
- To oversee and review the design, rollout and progress of the three-month intensive IEC action plan, ensuring alignment with the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.
- To ensure inter-departmental convergence at the UT level for effective and uniform execution of IEC activities and campaign initiatives.
- To review periodic progress reports from Divisional Level Committees, identify bottlenecks and issue necessary directions for course correction.
- To recommend policy interventions and institutional strengthening measures to ensure effective implementation and impact of IEC campaigns and the three-month action plan.

B. Divisional Level Committee(s) for Jammu & Kashmir Divisions:

1. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir	Chairperson
2. Inspector General of Police, Jammu/Kashmir	Member
3. Director General, Social Welfare, J&K	Member
4. Director, Information, J&K	Member
5. Director, Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir	Member

Director General, Social Welfare, J&K and Director Information, J&K shall be convenor Members of the Divisional Level Committee for both Jammu and Kashmir Divisions.

Terms of Reference:

- To oversee and ensure implementation of IEC campaigns on the ground under the Abhiyan, with focus on outreach, visibility and community participation.
- To supervise and ensure execution of the six-month action plan at the Divisional and District levels, in coordination with all concerned Departments.
- To monitor progress of activities as per the prescribed calendar and ensure adherence to timelines and targets.
- To identify local challenges and gaps in IEC activities and recommend corrective measures.
- To submit periodic progress reports to the Union Territory Level Committee on the status of IEC campaigns and implementation of the six-month action plan.

By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Secure governance accelerates financial AI revenue growth

Financial institutions are learning to deploy compliant AI solutions for greater revenue growth and market advantage.

Satish Sharma reaffirms sports revamp pledge as Wushu championship concludes

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

Satish Sharma congratulated the Jammu district team on winning the championship, showcasing their exceptional talent. He also applauded runners-up Srinagar district and Khelo India Centre Jammu for their impressive show.

Satish Sharma also commended the Wushu Association of J&K for its role in promoting the sport and organizing the championship successfully. He assured full governmental support to sports associations that are actively contributing towards nurturing talent and promoting excellence.