

**ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION
(T.N. Society Reg. No. 125/1958)**

Room No.70, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Periamet, Chennai - 600 003.

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

Dear Friends,

I am pleased and privileged to present the Annual Report of our Federation for the year 2019 - 2020 to this august body.

India continue to occupy the Fourth rank among men and women in the FIDE ranking list of all the 195 affiliated Federations with FIDE and has been consistently occupying the place throughout the year that has gone by. It shows that our top 10 players are continuously maintaining their high ELO ratings.

There were some more spectacular performances by our players both at the Asian and World forums. The Federation was very active and a record 409 tournaments were rated by the FIDE of which 20 were International open tournaments / World Championships.

National Championships:

All the National Championships were held as planned and the players were selected to represent India on the basis of the performances in these championships. As a result of all these, we have as on 31.03.2020, 66 Grandmasters, 125 International Masters, 11 Women Grandmasters, 42 Women International Masters, 83 FIDE Masters, 42 Women FIDE Masters, 39 Candidate Masters, 21 Woman Candidate Masters, 4 FIDE Senior Trainers, 41 FIDE Trainers, 191 FIDE Instructors, 54 National Instructors and 25 Developmental Instructors.

The All India Chess Federation has been practicing a unique system of organising all our National Championships one year ahead of the corresponding Asian / World Championships. Therefore our players are selected one year ahead of the championship and have ample time to prepare themselves for the Asian and World Championship matches. Since all the National Championships were held and the players were identified to represent the country one year in advance, we were able to prepare well and the results are there for everybody to see.



To sustain the above momentum it was important to equip ourselves with more technical and field officials. We took efforts in substantially increasing the technical force which is very important to carry on the activities of the Federation to the next level. We have now increased the strength of our technical team to 167 International Arbiters and 394 FIDE Arbiters. Therefore we have also organized Three FIDE Arbiters' Seminars and Three FIDE Trainer's Seminar during the year. FIDE Arbiters' Seminars at Udaipur, Rajasthan from 17th to 19th September 2019, at Mumbai from 07th to 09th October 2019 and at Salem from 13th to 15th December, 2019. FIDE Trainers' Seminar at Mumbai from 4th to 6th October 2019, at New Delhi from 18th to 20th October, 2019 and at Shillong from 27th to 29th December, 2019.

Our Federation is ranked number one in the number of registered players with FIDE which has increased to 96585 from 86733 last year which is inclusive of both men & women. The number of players currently rated is 33022 as on 31.03.2020. During the year 2019 - 2020 the number of players registered with AICF was 29590.

Once again the All India Chess Federation proved that it is second to none in hosting / organizing International events like Commonwealth Chess Championship at New Delhi from 30th June to 28th July 2019, Western Asian Youth & Junior Chess Championship at New Delhi from 5th to 28th September, 2019, World Youth Chess Championship at Mumbai from 1st to 13th October, 2019 and World Junior Chess Championship at New Delhi from 14th to 28th October, 2019 and record breaking 11 Open Grandmasters tournaments during the year with resounding success.

The members may be pleased to know that as many as 409 tournaments were rated by the FIDE out of which 230 tournaments were FIDE rated tournaments, the rest being National Championships and other International events. Delhi GM Open at Delhi, Chennai GM Open at Chennai, Mumbai Mayors Cup GM Open at Mumbai, Odisha GM Open at Bhubaneswar, Bhopal GM Open at Bhopal, Goa GM Open at Goa, Gujarat GM Open at Gujarat, IIFL GM Open at Mumbai, Lake city GM Open at Udaipur, Hyderabad GM Open at Hyderabad and Athens of the East GM Open at Madurai were International Grandmaster tournaments organized making it possible for our players to get FIDE title norms. Tata Steel Rapid & Blitz as part of Grand Chess Tour was held at Kolkata and we witnessed World Champion Magnus Carlsen along with legendary Viswanathan Anand and others in action.



Our Federation has progressed on the digital front with online registration of players and also registration of entries for all National Championships. We have also revamped our website to suit the needs of our growing activities. We have conducted free trainer and arbiter seminars during the year with the support of Sports Authority of India.

All these things have resulted in some spectacular performances by our players who continued the exemplary legacy that has been established. They have made us proud by their outstanding performances both at the Asian and World forums.

Thanks to the organization of numerous tournaments, the chess players benefited immensely by way of prize money to the tune of **Rs.10,42,17,545/-** of these, **Rs.7,26,78,545** were given as prize money in all the rating tournaments put together, **Rs.71,25,000/-** was given as prize money in all the National Championships and **Rs.2,44,14,000/-** was given as prize money in all the International / Grandmaster tournaments.

By bringing such tournaments to India, the AICF has helped our players to participate or otherwise they would have to travel abroad spending huge money to participate in such tournaments.

The All India Chess Federation is working towards making India one of the strong chess playing Nations. From 1950 when the game was officially started (though AICF was registered in 1958) till 2005 India had produced only 10 Grandmasters. Due to the sustained efforts of all the stake holders and putting in measures to organize many FIDE title norm tournaments, India in the next fifteen years had produced 56 more Grandmasters. Thanks to the continued support of the Government we were able to provide our players with all possible foreign exposure and also give them intensive coaching under eminent and renowned chess trainers.

On the financial front, AICF has been utilizing the funds properly and as a result funds position look comfortable which will help us to increase our chess development programs without any financial constraints.

The Federation fulfilled all the requirements under our Constitution and Bye laws and has filed our annual documents with statutory authorities like the Registrar of Societies, Tamilnadu, the Income Tax authorities and also with the Government of India. We had conducted our Annual General Body Meeting as prescribed under the Constitution.



Acknowledgements:

Due to the hard and sincere work put in by all the stake holders like the State Associations, organizers of various tournaments, the coaches, the academies, the arbiters, the players, the All India Chess Federation is growing in stature. The support by many State Governments and especially the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India / Sports Authority of India has immensely helped fulfill the objectives of the Federation. Added to these, is a bunch of dedicated set of office bearers and secretarial staffs of the Federation who leave no stone unturned to run the Federation as per its objectives. I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the 33 affiliated units and 13 Institutional members along with thousands of subsidiary units functioning under these entities for spreading the game of chess all over the country.

We list below our notable achievements during the year that has gone by:

Asian Youth Chess Championship held at Sri Lanka from 01st to 10th April, 2019.

India bags 8 medals in the classical format Ten Medals in Rapid, Nine in Blitz for India in Asian Youth

Asian Youth Chess Championship-2019 was held at Sri Lanka from 1st to 10th April and more than 500 players from 23 Asian countries took part in the championship. India bagged 8 medals in Standard, 10 Medals in Rapid and 9 Medals in Blitz event.

World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2019 held at World Chess Olympiad at Russia from 04th to 17th August, 2019.

World Youth Olympiad-India finishes seventh

World Youth Olympiad (U-16) held in Corum, Turkey, the Indian team (Seeded 19th) performed above par to finish seventh out of 48 teams. The tournament consisted of players from 38 countries and witnessed the participation of prodigies from around the world. The Indian team consisted of CM AronyakGhosh (2380), FM Ajay Karthikeyan (2214), UtsabChatterjee (2211) and WFM Lakshmi Chidambaram (1859) finished 7th in the Olympiad.



Western Asian Youth and Junior Chess Championship held at New Delhi from 5th to 9th September, 2019

Western Asian Youth and Junior Chess Championship, New Delhi Indian youngsters dominate

The Western Asian Youth & Junior Chess Championships-2019 organised by Delhi Chess Association on behalf of All India Chess Federation and Asian Chess Federation was held at The Tivoli Grand Resort Hotel, New Delhi from 4th to 11th September 2019. A total number of 408 players from ten Asian Zone 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 3.7 federations (India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and UAE) participated in this prestigious event, which have 16 different age categories and played under Standard, Rapid and Blitz format. Mr. Berik Balgabaev, Advisor to the FIDE President inaugurated the championship in presence of Mr. Bharat Singh Chauhan, Dy President Asian Chess Federation. During the ceremony Mr. Balgabaev conveyed the good wishes message of FIDE President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich to all the participants and officials. In the opening day, Rapid events were held and as expected the host India dominated the medal tally by winning 43 medals, which include 15 gold. Uzbekistan secured Gold in Under-18 Open category while Tajikistan, Bangladesh made place in the medal tally with solitary silver while Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka contented with winning bronze. In the standard format as dominating country in the Western Asian, India once again proved their mettle by winning 41 medals out of 48 in which 14 each were Gold and Silver. Uzbekistan secured one Gold and Two Bronze while Kazakhstan secured single Gold. Tajikistan and Sri Lanka made their presence in medal tally with solitary silver and Kyrgyzstan with a bronze. On the final day afternoon, Blitz championships were held and India dominated this format also by winning 41 Medals with 15 Gold. Uzbekistan won 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze while Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka won silver each and Iran completed the medal by solitary bronze. India won the overall trophy by winning 125 medals out of which 44 were Gold while Uzbekistan secured runner up trophy with 8 medals and Kazakhstan finished as second runner up with 3 medals.



World Youth Chess Championship Under - 14, 16 and 18 held at Renaissance Hotel and Convention Centre Mumbai, India from 30th September to 12th October, 2019

**India bags seven medals
GM Pragnanandhaa is U18 Open Champion**

FIDE World Youth Chess Championships (under 14, 16 and 18 years old categories) finished in Mumbai, India. 464 players from 64 countries, including 3 GMs, 22 IMs, 48 FMs, 1 WGM 11 WIMs and 39 WFMs participated in this event. Russia bags 3 gold, one silver and one bronze in its credit and lifted the overall championship. India got one gold, 3 silver & 3 bronze picked up the runner up and Kazakhstan lifted up the third with one gold one silver. 14 Years old Indian Grandmaster Pragnanandhaa become champion in engraved a careful draw on the final round against Valentin Buckels of Germany to become the clear champion in the Under 18 open category with 9 points. India's silver medals came from Vantika Agarwal (girls' under-18), S. L. Srihari (under-14) and Divya Deshmukh (girls' under-14). The bronze medals were secured by Aronyak Ghosh (under-16), M. Sreeshwan (under-14) and Rakshitta Ravi (girls' under-14)

World Junior & Girls Chess Championship held at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel New Delhi, India from 13th – 25th October, 2019

World Junior Championship 2019: Shtembuliak and Shuvalova Champions

After three years India again missed out on a podium finish in the World Junior Championship-2019, which was held at The Leela Ambience Conventional Hotel, New Delhi from 13th to 25th October 2019. Evgeny Shtembuliak of Ukraine and Polina Shuvalova of Russia clinched their maiden World Junior title in Open and Girls categories respectively. Karthikeyan Murali and Aakanksha Hagawane registered the best performance for India by finishing fifth in their respective categories.

The championship was inaugurated by FIDE President Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich in presence of Hon Vice President of FIDE Mr. DV Sundar, AICF President Mr. PR Venketrama Raja, AICF Secretary Mr. Bharat Singh Chauhan, Asian Zone 3.7 President Mr. RM Dongre and Secretary of Delhi Chess Association Mr. AK Verma. In his inaugural address Mr. Arkady Dvorkovich spoke about how FIDE values transparency and is trying to bring real change in the chess world. AICF believes in the President's vision and is working with FIDE towards this end.



Asian Junior Chess Championships held at Indonesia from 2nd to 8th July, 2019

Ragunandan and Vantika Agarwal clinch Silver medals in Asian Juniors

The Asian Junior Open & Girls Chess Championship 2019 was held at Solo, Indonesia from 2nd to 8th July 2019. A total of 71 players from 9 Asian Countries participated in the Standard, Rapid & Blitz categories.

Top seed IM Nguyen Anh Khoi of Vietnam become the Asian Junior Champion while IM KS Ragunandan of Karnataka clinched the Silver Medal in Standard and Bronze Medal in Rapid while in the Girls section WIM Vantika Agrawal of Delhi secured Silver in both Standard and Rapid formats.

WIM Akanksha Hagawane of Maharashtra secured Bronze in Standard and Silver in Blitz. Meanwhile, FIDE Master Nitish Belurkar of Goa completed the Indian medal tally with a Bronze medal in Blitz event.

Commonwealth Chess Championship 2018 held at New Delhi, India from 30th June to 06th July, 2019

Abhijeet Gupta wins fifth Commonwealth title

The Commonwealth Chess Championship-2019 organised by Delhi Chess Association at The Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, New Delhi from 30 Jun to 07 July 2019. A total number of 641 players from 11 Commonwealth countries (Bangladesh, Botswana, England, Malaysia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Singapore, Seychelles, South Africa and India) participated in the event, which includes 14 Grandmasters, 12 International Masters, 3 Women Grandmasters, 7 Women International Masters, 14 FIDE Masters and 9 Women FIDE Masters.

The entire championship saw lots of ups and downs and produced excitement till the end. At the end of ninth and final round top seed Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta clinched the title for the record fifth time. Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram finished as first runner up while Grandmaster Swapnil Dhopade secured second runner-up position. As expected India won 49 medals out of 51 at stake which include 17 Gold. Malaysia and Bangladesh won one Silver and Bronze respectively.

International Master Tania Sachdev becomes Women Champion while Women International Master Divya Deshmukh won silver and Women Grandmaster Bhakti Kulkarni secured bronze.



19th edition of IPCA World Individual Chess, Ruzomberok, Slovakia

Jenitha Anto bags gold for the sixth time

The 19th International Physically Disabled Chess Association (IPCA) World Individual Chess Championship 2019 took place from 28th June to 6th July in Ruzomberok, Slovakia. It was a nine rounds swiss event following time control of 90 minutes for the entire game with 30 seconds increment from move one. WIM K. Jennitha Anto from Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu bagged the IPCA World Women's title the sixth time this year. Jenitha was struck with polio at a very young age and has been wheelchair bound ever since. But nothing has deterred her from achieving her dreams to become a world class chess player. At the 19th IPCA World Individual Chess Championship 2019 she secured 5.0/9 points to become the highest scoring female player in the event and thus clinched the title for a record sixth time.

Various FIDE Titles & Norms won by our Players:

In the Game of Chess, getting GM, IM, WGM, WIM, FM, WFM, CM, WCM, IA, FA and FT titles are very important and shows the strength of the players. On this score, it has been an eventful year which passed by. Our Chess players made tremendous impact by bagging not less than 127 FIDE Titles which includes 5 Grandmaster Titles, 20 International Master Titles, 3 Woman Grandmaster, 4 Woman International Masters, 10 FIDE Masters, 7 Women Fide Master Titles, 10 Candidate Masters, 1 Woman Candidate Masters, 20 International Arbiter titles and 47 FIDE Arbiter Titles.

FIDE Titles achieved during 2018. The list is given below:

Grandmasters	International Masters	Woman Grandmasters
1. Iniyam, P 2. Swayams, Mishra 3. Girish, A. Koushik 4. Prithu Gupta 5. Sadhwani, Raunak	1. Aditya Mittal 2. Mendonca, Leon Luke 3. Neelash Saha 4. Sai Agni Jeevitesh, J 5. Bharath Subramaniam H 6. Koustav Chatterjee 7. Kulkarni Bhakti 8. Mehar, Chinna Reddy C.H. 9. Mitrabha, Guha 10. Sankalp Gupta 11. Sreeshwan Maralakshikari 12. Anuj Shrivatri 13. Aronyak Ghosh 14. Harshavardhan G B	1. Srija, Seshadri 2. Nandhidhaa, P V 3. Varshini, V



	15.Krishnater Kushager 16.Moksh Amit Doshi 17.Mullick,Raahil 18.Rathanvel, V S 19.Sammed Jaykumar,Shete 20.Soumya, Swaminathan	
Woman International Masters 1.Cholleti Sahajasri 2.Isha Sharma 3.Makhija, Aashna 4.Priyanka, K	FIDE Masters 1 Ajay Karthikeyan 2 Ayushh Ravikumar 3 Chilukuri Sai Varshith 4 Gunasekaran, K. 5 Mahitosh Dey 6 Manish Anto Cristiano F 7 Mohamed Anees M 8 Premnath, R. 9 Rahul S 10 Rohith Krishna S	Woman FIDE Masters 1.Anusha N L V 2.Bhagyashree Patil 3.Greeshma Anand Dhumal 4.Jain Nityata 5.Jyothsna L 6.Pandey Srishti 7.Vishwa Vasnawala
Candidate Masters 1.Aaditya Dhingra 2.Arjun K 3.Bhavesh Mahajan 4.Garv Gaur 5.Hariharan 6.Venkatachalam 7.Jijo Joy 8.Karthik Sai Ch 9.Patil, Pratik 10.Snehal, Bhosale	Woman Candidate Masters 1.Ananya, Suresh	International Arbiters 1.Biswajit, Bharadwaj 2.Venkata, Kumar G. 3.Arvind Mhamal 4.Deshmukh, Preeti 5.Patel Kavita 6.S Chougule, Bharat 7.Sohani Vivek Suhas 8.Beig, Saleem 9.Bhaskar.v 10.Bhatt Swati 11.Chitaranjan Taorem 12.Chockalingam Balaji Ulaganathan 13.Kavlekar, Sanjay R. 14.Mrityunjay Singh 15.Naveen Kumar T 16.Rupesh, Kumar 17.Saini, Rashmi 18.Selva Manikandan S 19.Shivakant Mishra 20.Stella Sharmila P



FIDE Arbiters 1.Chetan, Chauhan 2.Gandhi Sagar 3.Gundoo Gurujitsingh 4.Jain Rinku 5.Kamate Jameel Dastagir 6.Naresh Krishna, S 7.Neelesh, Kumawat 8.Nelson, Clement 9.Roopak Arora 10.Salina Masum 11.Sawant Rupesh Damodar 12.Shaji K 13.Sharma Shardul 14.Soni Shubham 15.Sri Chitra P 16.Taba Anam 17.Tangsale Pranav Vijay 18.Aravind D M 19.Gobi Krishnaan S 20.Karnik, Bhavesh 21.Nandhini, Saripalli 22.Rane Sachin Mohan 23.Sibin K Raghavan	24.Sudeep S 25.Sunitha Jain 26.Thakurdesai Chinmay 27.Vishal Kumar Minz 28.Yash Tulapurkar 29.Aditya Krishnamurthy 30.Binoy Singha 31.Arumugam P 32.Chandra Reddy Mouli R 33.Damodaran, Ashok K 34.Dattaram Pinge 35.Girish Reddy 36.Gopi Mohanan M S 37.Jadhav Pushkar 38.Jaiswal, Puneet 39.Joshi Nikhil 40.Kalaivani C 41.Mani K 42.Priyanka Nag 43.Rohit Yadav 44.Sachin R B 45.Senthil Kumar V 46.Shah Dhaval 47.Sriram, R
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AICF Chronicle:

The monthly official magazine of the Federation "AICF Chronicle" edited by C.G.S.Narayanan, features reports, final standings and annotated games of various tournaments organized all over the country along with photographs of important events. It also presents fact files of Indian GM/IM/WGM/IA international news of interest, end games studies, middle game tactics, portraits on masters of the past, articles on chess problems and Tournament Calendar. The members can download the magazine from the Federation's official website www.aicf.in as limited copies are printed for circulation to affiliated units and institutions and for posterity.



As I look behind the year that went by, I am extremely satisfied that all our efforts to promote the game in the country in a big way have borne fruitful results and I thank everyone including the players, the State Associations, the coaches, the arbiters, the managers, organisers, state governments, Sports Authority of India and the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. I also place on record the excellent work by our office staff whom I found to be committed to their Job. I am blessed to have the guidance of our fellow office bearers for guiding me and the Federation to the path of glory and success, so that the objects that are enshrined in our constitution were met. I also take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks to President of AICF Mr. Venketrama Raja, for his invaluable contribution. I have no doubt in my mind that if all of us are focused as we have been doing, Indian Chess is bound to grow from strength to strength and our next Annual Report will only have success stories.

Bharat Singh

Bharat Singh Chauhan
Hon. Secretary
All India Chess Federation

