



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



ALL INDIA CHESS FEDERATION

(T.N. Society Reg. No. 125/1958)

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased and privileged to present the Annual Report of our Federation for the year 2021 - 2022 to this august body.

Again the season 2021-22 went by without much Chess activity for most part of the year. All of us are aware that the entire world went into a lock-down and left an undeniable mark in the history of Sports, due to the second wave of the Covid-19. This resulted in the Union and State Government banning all sports activities.

At a time sporting activity has been hit hard across the globe due to COVID-19 pandemic, chess is one sport which seems to keep ticking. We have introduced online National championships and also conducted many online tournaments during this corona virus forced lockdown. Thanks to technology and initiative of AICF online tournaments kept our players busy.

India is in the fourth rank in the FIDE ranking list of all the 201 affiliated Federations with FIDE and has been consistently occupying the place throughout the year that has gone by.

It is a matter of pride for all of us that despite lack of serious training, our players have performed creditably and won medals in the International Championships.

There were some more spectacular performances by our players both at the Asian and World forums. The Federation was very active during the covid situation and 70 tournaments were rated by the FIDE.

Special mention should be made to GM R Praggnanandhaa, who left the entire chess fraternity in awe as he defeated the reigning five-time World Champion GM Magnus Carlsen with black pieces in the Online Airthings Masters during February, 2022.

Our team consists of former World Champion GM Viswanathan Anand, won the Bronze medal in the FIDE Online Chess Olympiad. Our heartfelt thanks to FIDE for organising such an event meticulously, our players, coaches and support staff for showing great efforts during the entire Olympiad and Microsense Networks Pvt Ltd for the invaluable support extended to AICF.

I am happy to share that India has got the rights to host the biggest chess tournament on the planet. International Chess Federation (FIDE) President



ArkadyDvorkovich officially handed over the hosting rights to India for the organization of the FIDE 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 at Mahabalipuram near Chennai. Over 2000 players from around 200 countries would be participating in this chess spectacle. This prestigious competition, which has been organized since 1927, will be held in India for the first time and in Asia after 30 years.

Our special thanks to the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Chief Minister Thiru.M.K.Stalin along with the team at AICF carried out tremendous efforts to bring the FIDE 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 to India in short notice.

National Championships:

As I said earlier, thanks to technology, we have conducted all the National Championships online as planned and the players were selected to represent India on the basis of their performances in these championships. We have also conducted the regular over the board National Sub Junior & Girls Championships, National Junior & Girls Chess Championships, National Senior Chess Championship and National Women Senior Chess Championship respectively. For the other category National Championships will be conducted during April, May 2022. The prize money of national championships has increased substantially after roping MPL as title sponsor for all National events. As a result of all these, we have as on 31.03.2022, 73 Grandmasters, 129 International Masters, 12 Women Grandmasters, 42 Women International Masters, 94 FIDE Masters, 46 Women FIDE Masters, 60 Candidate Masters, 26 Woman Candidate Masters, 6 FIDE Senior Trainers, 45 FIDE Trainers, 197 FIDE Instructors, 162 National Instructors and 84 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 305 FIDE Arbiters. We have organized five FIDE Arbiters' Seminars and five FIDE Trainer Seminars at different places. 1. FIDE Arbiter Seminar at Kanpur from 25th to 27th February, 2022, 2. FIDE Arbiter Seminar at Guwahati from 25th to 27th February, 2022, 3. FIDE Arbiter Seminar at Shimla, HP from 04th to 06th March, 2022, 4. FIDE Arbiter Seminar at Kottayam from 11th to 13th March, 2022, and 5. FIDE Arbiter Seminar at Bengaluru from 25th to 27th March, 2022. 1. FIDE Trainer Seminar at

Kanpur from 18th to 20th February, 2022, 2. FIDE Trainer Seminar at Guwahati from 25th to 27th February, 2022, 3. FIDE Trainer Seminar at Shimla from 04th to 06th March, 2022, 4. FIDE Trainer Seminar at Kottayam from 11th to 13th March, 2022 and 5. FIDE Trainer Seminar at Bengaluru from 25th to 27th March, 2022.

Once again, the All India Chess Federation proved that it is second to none in hosting / organizing International events like Online Asian Youth Chess Championship from 22nd to 31st October, 2021 and three International Grandmasters Open tournaments during the year with resounding success. 1st Guwahati International Grandmaster open Chess tournament at Guwahati and Delhi International Grandmaster Open chess tournament at Delhi and Gujarat International Grandmaster Open chess tournament at Ahmedabad. The members may be pleased to know that as many as 70 tournaments were rated by the FIDE. We are planning to organize a greater number of International Grandmaster Open chess tournaments for the coming year. Organizing International Grandmaster tournaments making it possible for our players to get FIDE title norms. 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.

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.

All these things have resulted in some spectacular performances by our players who continued the exemplary legacy that has been established and 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.1,55,86,001 /- Of these, Rs.1,21,36,001/- were given as prize money in all the international tournaments and rating tournaments put together, Rs.34,50,000/- was given as prize money in all the online National Championships.

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 stakeholders and putting in measures to organize many FIDE title norm tournaments, India in the last decade had produced 73 more Grandmasters. Thanks to the continued support of the SAI / MYAS 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 the funds position looks 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 have filed our annual documents with statutory authorities like the Registrar of Societies, Tamil Nadu, the Income Tax authorities and also with the Government of India. We had conducted 4 Central Council meetings and one Annual General Body Meeting as prescribed under the Constitution.

Sponsorship:

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) signed a historic agreement with MPL Foundation for a sponsorship amount of Rupees One Crore towards the sponsorships for Indian National Championships for the next five years with a 20% increase every year.

MPL, largely associated with gaming, will hold the rights to be the title sponsors for various National championships across all formats starting from Under-7. age groups.

This is the first time ever that a Corporate sponsor has got into a long term agreement with the AICF and the credit goes to the new team that has been getting a lot of praise from all corners.

Co-sponsorship:

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) also signed a MoU with HobSpace for a co- sponsorship amount of Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs.

Acknowledgements:

Due to the hard and sincere work put in by all the stakeholders 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 of the Federation who leave no stone unturned to run the Federation as per its objectives. The office bearers have been fortunate enough to have hard working Secretarial staff and the guidance of its President Dr.Sanjay Kapoor. I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank the 33 affiliated units and 7 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:

FIDE Online Cadets & Youth Rapid World Cup 2021 - Super Final

India wins One Gold, Two Silver & One Bronze Medals



India secured 4 medals in the FIDE Online Cadets & Youth Rapid World Cup. IM Harshvardhan G B won the Gold Medal in the Under-18 Open category while Ethan Vaz in Under-10 Open and Mrinmoy Rajkhowa in Under-12 Open secured silver. IM Pranesh M won the bronze medal in the Under-16 Open category.

FIDE World Women's Team Championship 2021 Sitges, Spain 26 Sep 2021 03 Oct 2021

Historical Medal at World Women Team Championship



Team India consists of GM Dronavalli Harika, IM Tania Sachdev, IM Bhakti Kulkarni, WGM R Vaishali, WGM Mary Ann Gomes and Coach GM Abhijit Kunte made history at Sitges, Spain by securing a historical first medals at the World Women's Team Championship. India secured silver after losing to Russia in the final.

FIDE World Cup Chess Championship - 2021 held at Sochi, Russia from 10 July to 06 August, 2021

12 Indian gladiators among 309 participants at the World Cup 2021



The World Cup 2021 is here and after a long break from over the board chess, a total of 309 players (206 in open and 103 in women) took part in the world Cup Chess Championship held at Sochi, Russia. It is also a very exciting event for Indian chessas we have 12 gladiators taking part - 8 in the open and 4 in women. They are Grandmasters Harikrishna, ViditGujrathi, B. Adhiban, Aravindh Chithambaram, Nihal Sarin, Praggnanandhaa, D. Gukesh, P. Iniyar, D. Harika, International Masters R. Vaishali, Bhakti Kulkarni and Padmini Rout.

FIDE Online Olympiad 2021 Online 13 Aug 2021 15 Sep 2021

India's defence of their FIDE Online Chess Olympiad title came to an end at the semi final stage when the team lost to the USA in a tie-break.

The semi final started off in favour of team India by winning the first match 5 – 1 margin with Anand, Harikrishna, Harika and Vaishali winning their games. Koneru Humpy drew with Irina Krush as did Nihal Sarin against Liang.

But USA came back strongly in the next match as Anand lost to Jeffery Xiong on the top board, while Vidit lost to Ray Robson and R Praggnanandhaa who replaced Nihal for the second match lost against Liang. Vaishali and Humpy drew their games while Harika marked another won game. India lost the duel 2 – 4 forcing a tie breaker to decide the semi final fate. However our team failed to make the cut in the semi-final and were satisfied with the Bronze medal. Russia won the Gold after beating the USA in the final.



Online Asian Youth Chess Championships (Open & Girls Under-8, 10,12,14,16 & 18) scheduled to be held from 21st October to 24th October 2021 (Girls Categories) and 28th October to 31 October 2021 (Open Categories).

India won 8 medals which include 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 5 Bronze to finish overall second in the Open Category of Asian Youth Chess Championship. Based on the number of Gold medals, Vietnam finished ahead of India while China finished third in the overall tally with solitary Gold. Iran secured 4 silver medals to finish at fourth place while Kazakhstan with a silver finished at fifth place and Chinese Taipei found a place in the medal tally with a bronze. In the Girls' Category India won the overall championship.



For India, Pranav Anand V in Under-16 and Bharath Subramaniam in Under-14 category won the yellow metal while Aditya Mittal secured silver in Under-16 category. Anuj Shrivatri in Under-18, Aaryan Varshney in Under-16, Bhavesh Mahajan in Under-14, Atharav Singh Naruka in Under-12 and Aarav A in Under-8 completed the Indian medal tally with bronze medals.



India won the overall championship in the Girls Category of Asian Youth Chess Championship by winning 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 2 Bronze on Sunday. Kazakhstan finished at second spot with 2 Gold and 2 Silver while Vietnam finished at third place with one Gold and Silver edging 4th placer Iran with 1 Gold and Bronze medal. China and Sri Lanka also found place in medal tally with solitary bronze medal.

For India Susmita Bhowmick in Under-18 Category and Pooja Shree R in Under-8 Category won the yellow metal while Saina Salonika in Under-18, Divya Deshmukh in Under-16 and Ananya Rajan in Under-8 secured silver. Ananya Raman in Under-12 and Samhita Pungavanam in Under-8 completed the Indian medal tally with bronze medals.

A record number of 908 players (open) and 487 players (girls) from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, Hongkong, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and India participated in the event held on Tornado Platform from 22nd to 31st October 2021.

Asian Junior Chess Championships held at Srilanka from 17th to 23rd December, 2021

Asian Junior Championships 2021: Indians sweep out



It was Indian domination in the Asian Junior Chess Championship as VS Rahul became champion while Mitrabha Guha, Harshvardhan G B and Raghunandan Srihari finished from second to fourth position. In the girl's category Savitha Shri B won the yellow metal and Priyanka K finished as runner up.

Asian Under-14 Online Team Chess Championship held from 25th to 27th March, 2022

India clinches Asian Under-14 Online Team Chess Championship title

The Indian 'A' team won the Asian Under-14 Online Team Chess Championship organised by Chess Federation of Sri Lanka on behalf of Asian Chess Federation through the Tornelo platform. 32 Asian teams participated in the event and Indian 'A' consists of IM Bharath Subramaniam, IM Raahil Mullick, CM Shahil Dey, CM Dev Shah, Souhardo Basak and non-playing captain FT Praful Zaveri registered 7 wins, 1 draw and 1 lose in this 9 round Swiss System tournament to occupy the pole position with 15 match points.

The only loss in the event the team tasted from the hands of compatriot India 'B' team. The B team consists of CM Praneeth Vuppala, CM Tanmay Jain, CM Kadam Om Manish, Rohit S and Sreyas Payyappat finished at creditable third position behind Iran 'A' with 13 points. Praneeth V of India 'B' won Board prize in 1st board while Bharath Subramaniam of India 'A' secured silver. Souhardo Basak won gold in 4th Board and Raahil Mullick silver in 3rd board. However, in the girls category the Indian team failed to find a place on the podium.





AICF ARBITER REFRESHER COURSE

We have conducted the Arbiter Refresher Course online. A total number of 88 International Arbiters, 179 FIDE Arbiters and 150 National Arbiters underwent the two days Arbiter Refresher Course. The 'A' Classified International Arbiters were exempted from the Refresher Course and Arbiters undergone Refresher Course are only allowed to officiate in FIDE Rated events for the year 2021-22.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to AICF Arbiters Commission, International Arbiters Prof. R. Anantharam, Mr. Dharmendra Kumar, Mr. Gopakumar M S and Mr. Swapnil Bansod for the meticulous effort for successful conduct of the refresher course.

SENIOR NATIONAL ARBITER EXAMINATION

We have conducted the Senior National Arbiter Examination online. The examination received great responses. A total of 56 candidates appeared for the examination and 45 of them cleared the examination.

CHESS FOR EVERYONE PROJECT (ARBITER):

We have conducted the National Arbiter Training online programme. This two month program has been divided into 28 batches with an average 25 participants in each batch and all the participants underwent the 30 hour training spread over five days for each batch. A total number of 777 participants enrolled for the seminar out of which 583 attended the seminar. This herculean task was undertaken by the AICF Arbiters Commission and FIDE Lecturers IA R Anantharam, IA Dharmendra Kumar, IA Gopakumar MS and Swapnil Bansod lead the seminar as Chief Lecturers while IA Vasanth BH, IA Nitin Shenvi, IA Anandh Babu and IA Vivek Sohani assisted them in lectures. The Lecturers took meticulous effort to teach Laws of Chess, Swiss System, Tournament Systems, Tie Break Regulations, Rating Regulations, Title Regulations, Arbiter Regulations, Anti Cheating Regulations, Online Regulations, Zoom, Torneo and Swiss Manager to each participant. On 30th January 2022, all the participants underwent the 30-hour training took a common online National Arbiter Examination under the supervision of 30 International Arbiters as invigilators. A total number of 19 participants successfully completed the examination to achieve 'A' Grade while 293 participants secured 'B' Grade. While 123 and 46 participants secured C and D grade respectively. All the participants who secured A & B Grade were awarded with Senior National Arbiter title and become eligible to apply for FIDE NA License to officiate in FIDE Rated events whereas the participants secured C & D Grade have been awarded with NA Title.

CHESS FOR EVERYONE PROJECT (ORGANISER):

We have conducted the National Organiser Training programme online. Program has been divided into 6 batches with an average 30 - 40 participants in each batch and all the participants underwent the 18 hours training spread over three days for each batch. This herculean task was also undertaken by the AICF

Events Commission and IM Neeraj Kumar Mishra, IA R.Anantharam, IA Dharmendra Kumar, IA Gopakumar MS, IA V.Ravichandran, Mr.KVVSarma, Ms.Subha Rakesh and IA BH Vasanth were the lecturers.

FIDE Arbiter Seminar & Trainer Seminar:

We have conducted five FIDE Trainer Seminar & five FIDE Arbiter Seminar in the following centers.

Date	Place	Lecturers
18-20 Feb 2022	Shimla	IM Neeraj K. Mishra & IM Sekhar Sahu
25-27 Feb 2022	Patna	GM Pravin Thipsay & IM Neeraj K. Mishra
04-06 Mar 2022	Bengaluru	GM R B Ramesh & IM Neeraj K. Mishra
11-13 Mar 2022	Guwahati	IM Vishal Sareen & GM Pravin Thipsay
25-27 Mar 2022	Visakhapatnam	IM Vishal Sareen & IM Sekhar Sahu

1. FIDE Trainer Seminar held at Shimla



2. FIDE Trainer Seminar held at Patna



3. FIDE Trainer Seminar held at Bengaluru



4. FIDE Trainer Seminar held at Guwahati.



5. FIDE Trainer Seminar held at Vishakapatnam.



FIDE Arbiters' Seminar

Date	Place	Lecturers
18-20 Feb 2022	Kanpur	IA M.S.Gopakumar & IA Nitin Shenvi
25-27 Feb 2022	Guwahati	IA Swapnil Bansod & IA Vasanth BH
04-06 Mar 2022	Shimla	IA Dharmendra Kumar & IA Nitin Shenvi
11-13 Mar 2022	Kottayam	IA Dharmendra Kumar & IA MS Gopakumar
25-27 Mar 2022	Bengaluru	IA R.Anantharam & IA Paul Arokiaraj

1. FIDE Arbiters Seminar held at Kanpur



2. FIDE Arbiter Seminar held at Guwahati



3. FIDE Arbiter Seminar held at Shimla



4. FIDE Arbiter Seminar held at Kottayam



5. FIDE Arbiter Seminar held at Bengaluru





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 beloved President Dr.Sanjay Kapoor 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 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 Chauhan

Hon. Secretary
All India Chess Federation

