



63rd

NATIONAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP - 2026



Event Code : 485283 / UP / 2026



29th November to 9th December 2026



Organised by
UP Chess Sports Association



In Association With
Varanasi Chess Association
&
Seth M. R. Jaipuria School,
Babatpur, Varanasi



Under the aegis of
All India Chess Federation

BEYOND THE BOARD

THE GREAT
MINDS INITIATIVE

— SETH M.R. —
**JAIPURIA
SCHOOLS**
— BANARAS —
PARAO • BABATPUR

C.V. Raman
1888 – 1970



Venue:

Seth M.R.Jaipuria School,
Babatpur Campus, Varanasi.



Total Prize Fund:

Rs. 30,00,000/-

1. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

 Arrival	28 th November 2026 After 1600 hrs.
 Technical Meeting	29 th November 2026 at 13:30 hrs.
 Inauguration	29 th November 2026 at 14:00 hrs.
 Round 1	29 th November 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 2	30 th November 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 3	1 st December 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 4	2 nd December 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 5	3 rd December 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 6	4 th December 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 7	5 th December 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 8	6 th December 2026 at 1530 hrs.
 Round 9	7 th December 2026 at 0930 hrs.
 Round 10	8 th December 2026 at 0930 hrs.
 Round 11	9 th December 2026 at 0930 hrs.
 Prize Distribution	9 th December 2026 at 1600 hrs.
 Departure	9 th December 2026 at 1800 hrs.



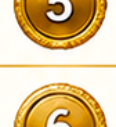
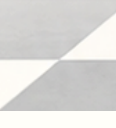


PRIZES

The cash prizes will be awarded to top 10 amounting to

Rs. 30,00,000/-

Prize money is subject to TDS rates applicable as per Income tax Rules as on date of prize distribution.

	1st Place	Rs. 6,00,000
	2nd Place	Rs. 5,00,000
	3rd Place	Rs. 4,00,000
	4th Place	Rs. 3,00,000
	5th Place	Rs. 2,50,000
	6th Place	Rs. 2,50,000
	7th Place	Rs. 2,00,000
	8th Place	Rs. 2,00,000
	9th Place	Rs. 1,50,000
	10th Place	Rs. 1,50,000





ELIGIBILITY

- (a) Four players from every affiliated State Association / Institutional Members of AICF. If any Association fails to send its quota, the vacancies caused will not be filled.
- (b) All GMs/IMs/WGMs are seeded. Such entries should come through their respective State Associations / Affiliated Units of AICF.
- (c) First six players from the previous National Championship rankings (other than GMs/IMs/WGMs).
- (d) National Junior Chess Champion – 2025–26.
- (e) Winner & Runner-up of the 2025–26 National Women Chess Championship.
- (f) Current World Champion in any category (OTB).
- (g) Current Asian Junior Champion and top three players from the last Asian Men Chess Championship (OTB).
- (h) Host, UP Chess Sports Association, shall be entitled to field four additional players.
 - (i) All Board Prize winners of the 2025–26 National Team Chess Championship held in Raipur, Chhattisgarh (March 2026).
- (j) Four players approved by AICF will be permitted from areas where no State Association exists.
- (k) One nominee of the Hon. Secretary, AICF.
- (l) If the total number of entries is odd, the host, UP Chess Sports Association, may add one additional entry to make it even.
- (m) Special Entries: Players having a valid FIDE Standard (Classical) rating as per December 2026 FRL and remitting the prescribed Special Entry Fee of Rs. 12,500/-. All such entries should come through their respective State Associations / Affiliated Units of AICF.



DRESS CODE:

As per AICF regulations on dress code for players participating in all National Championships, all State Associations must ensure that their players, including Special Entry players, are provided with proper uniforms. (In the case of Special Entry players, the respective State Associations may collect the cost of the uniform from the players.)

Players must wear uniform T-shirts or formal shirts of the same colour and brand, with the name of the State printed prominently on the back and the State Chess emblem on the front (left side). The name/logo of sponsors may also be permitted. Appropriate uniforms must also be provided for girls/women participants.

This rule is also applicable to Special Units.

Players without proper uniform will not be permitted to participate in the Championship. This will be strictly enforced.

5. Entries/Entry Fee:

All entries including special entries should come through the State Association concerned.

ENTRY FEE STRUCTURE

ORDINARY ENTRY

Rs. 3750/-

(Rupees three thousand seven hundred and fifty only)

SPECIAL ENTRY

Rs. 12500/-

(Rupees twelve thousand five hundred only)

- ▶ There will be a 50% concession in entry fee for participants from Northeastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ▶ Entry fee will be accepted strictly online through:

<https://prs.aicf.in/entry>

- ▶ For clarification and guidance regarding submission of entries, please contact: aicfnationalentries@gmail.com

ENTRY FEE STRUCTURE

Please note that the entry fee structure is valid till 15th November 2026. Thereafter a late fee of Rs. 250/- per player will be levied. No entry will be entertained after 22nd November 2026 (up to 17:00 hrs.).



SYSTEM OF PLAY & OTHER RULES



7. SYSTEM OF PLAY:

The Championship will be played under FIDE's Laws of Chess and the Swiss system. A total of eleven rounds shall be played. Players from the same state/affiliated unit shall not be paired against each other in the last round. However, they may be paired if there is no compatible opponent with the same point group or score group with a maximum difference of 1 point. It is applicable only for the top 50% score of the penultimate round.



8. DEFAULT TIME:

Default time for arriving at the chessboard is 15 minutes.



9. TIME CONTROL:

The rate of play shall be 90 minutes for 40 moves followed by 30 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move number one.



10. CHESS CLOCKS:

Each participating State Chess Association must provide at least one clock in working order for every two players entered the Championship.



11. TIE BREAK:

Following is the order of tie-break:

- (a) Buchholz Cut1 (b) Buchholz
- (c) Sonneborn Berger (d) Direct encounter
- (e) The greater number of wins (forfeit included)
- (f) The greater number of wins with black



In case of tie, cash prizes will not be shared.



12. DRAW AGREEMENT:

Players shall not agree for a draw without the consent of the arbiter, before each player makes 30 moves.



13. PROTEST:

Protest, if any, against the decision of the Chief Arbiter shall be made in writing with a protest fee of Rs.3000 within 30 minutes of the occurrence of the incident. The protest fee will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.



14. APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Appeals Committee: Before the commencement of the tournament, a five-member Appeals Committee shall be constituted by the AICF / Organizing Committee, comprising three (3) Main Members and two (2) Reserve Members. All the members and reserves shall be from different states. No member of the Committee can vote on a dispute in which a player from his own state is involved and, in such case, (s) the reserve member(s) shall take his place in the committee.





15. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:

The organizers will form a tournament committee for the smooth conduct of the National Championship.



16. INTERPRETATION:

For interpretation of the rule(s) and deciding any point not covered by the above rules of the tournament, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding on all. The Tournament Committee has every right to make any addition or amendment to these rules, without notice. However, such changes/ or inclusion will be subject to AICF clearance. Such changes will, however, be displayed in the tournament hall.



17. WITHDRAWAL:

If any player withdraws from the last two rounds in any National Championship on medical grounds, he/she should undergo treatment by a doctor recommended and supervised by the tournament committee. The entry fee once paid shall not be refunded if the withdrawal from championship is done after the publication of first round pairings.



18. DISQUALIFICATION:

No participant will leave the venue before the Prize Distribution function without the permission of the Chief Arbiter. The participants disregarding this rule will be suspended for one year.



19. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS WITH AICF:

All participants in the National Championship shall be registered with AICF for the year 2026-27 before the registration on AICF Online portal for national entries. Online AICF registration can be done at the website www.aicf.in/players.



20 ARREARS:

All arrears of affiliation fee/tournament fee including those of current year must be cleared up by the affiliated Association at the time of submitting the entries; otherwise, the entries are liable to be rejected.



21. ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

All electronic items including wrist watches (all type of watches) are not allowed in the tournament hall. Those who are having mobile phones or wearing watches or possessing any other electronic devise without the permission of the chief arbiter during their play will be declared lost.





ACCOMMODATION

Dormitory lodging will be provided to all Regular Entry players, including Seeded Players.

Players who wish to avail the lodging facility must fill and submit the Google Form. This is mandatory so that the Organizing Committee can make proper accommodation arrangements.

Last date to submit the Google Form: 22nd November 2026.

Players are requested to submit the form on or before the last date to ensure that their lodging requirements can be considered.

<https://forms.gle/ZpadmPtr7xat51Cv7>



PLAYER ALLOWANCE

A lumpsum of Rs.1500/- (Rupees one thousand five hundred only) will be paid by the organizers towards the boarding expenses, only to the affiliated State Associations seeded and selected players who play this championship under normal entry fee.



FOOD & FACILITIES

- Meal options available at subsidized rates.
- South & North Indian dishes available.
- Varanasi city, famous for food, offers wide dining options available off-campus.



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Round-the-clock medical support will be available at the venue.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Travel: Nearest Airport: Babatpur Airport (Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport) – approx. 1.7 km from the venue.
- Nearest Railway Station: Varanasi Junction (Varanasi Cantt) – approx. 20 km from the venue.
- Nearest Bus Station : Varanasi Cantt Bus Station (Chaudhary Charan Singh Bus Station) approx. 20 km from the venue.
- Climate: November & December are cold in Varanasi.
Max Temp: 22°C Min Temp: 10°C
- Carry adequate warm clothing, jackets, sweaters, etc.

CONTACT INFORMATION



ENTRY QUERIES:

aicfnationalentries@gmail.com



GENERAL QUERIES:

varanasinational2026@gmail.com



BEYOND THE BOARD

THE GREAT MINDS INITIATIVE



OUR MISSION

To connect young minds to India's great scientific heritage through engaging, school-based activities.

Following the success of our pilot in Lucknow, we are expanding nationwide. We aim to inspire children to explore the lives and discoveries of Indian science icons, starting with Sir C. V. Raman.

1



DISTRICT – VARANASI

Deep school
activation across
the host district.

2



STATE – UTTAR PRADESH

Statewide expansion
across all districts.

3



NATIONAL – INDIA

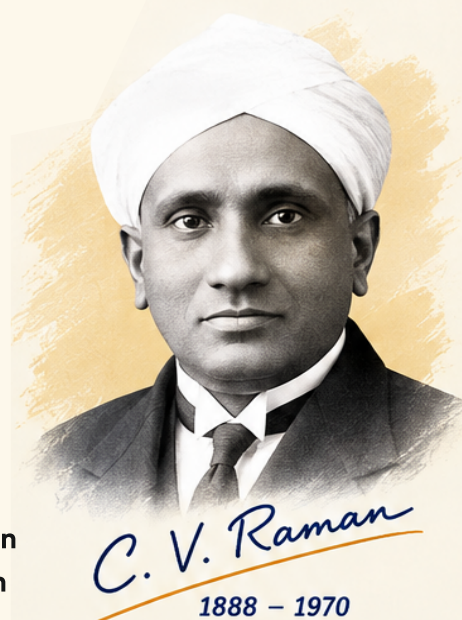
Nationwide rollout with
participating schools.



ABOUT C. V. RAMAN

Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (C. V. Raman) was one of India's great physicists. He was born on **7 November 1888** in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

- ▶ He conducted important research on the **scattering of light**.
- ▶ On **28 February 1928**, he discovered the '**Raman Effect**'.
- ▶ According to the Raman Effect, when light passes through a material, a small part of the light can undergo a **change in its energy and wavelength**.
- ▶ For this great discovery, he received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** in **1930**. He was the **first Indian scientist** to receive a Nobel Prize in science.
- ▶ In India, **28 February** is celebrated every year as **National Science Day** in memory of his discovery of the Raman Effect.
- ▶ He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in **1954**.
- ▶ He passed away on **21 November 1970**.



*Raman Effect
– A small change,
a big discovery!*

IN BRIEF



C. V. Raman made India proud throughout the world through his scientific research. The Raman Effect is his most famous discovery, and it is still used in the study of physics, chemistry, and materials.



NOBEL
PRIZE
1930



BHARAT RATNA
1954

For any further queries, schools may contact:
varanasinational2026@gmail.com



ORGANISING COMMITTEES



ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Chairman**
◆ **Deepak Kumar Bajaj**
President, Varanasi Chess Association
- ◆ **Vijay Kumar (+91-9415256945)**
Organizing Secretary
Joint Secretary, UP Chess Sports Association
- ◆ **Tushar Saraswat (+91-9559161414)**
Convenor
General Secretary, Varanasi Chess Association
- ◆ **Anand Singh (+91-9839001533)**
Organizing Co-ordinator
General Secretary, Lucknow Chess Association



TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- Chairman**
◆ **Ajai Mishra**
Joint Secretary
UP Chess Sports Association
(+91-9412821922)
- ◆ **Atul Nigam**
Joint Secretary
UP Chess Sports Association
- ◆ **Umesh Singh**
Executive Member
UP Chess Sports Association



RECEPTION & VENUE COMMITTEE

Chairman
Anil Kr. Jajodiya
Director, SMRJS

Shamz Tabrez
Vice President,
Varanasi Chess Association

Ms. Sudha Singh
Principal, SMRJS

Ramesh Yadav
Sports HOD, SMRJS
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UP Chess Sports
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Deepak Saigal
Vice President,
UP Chess Sports
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A K Raizada
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Vinay Anand
Treasurer,
UP Chess Sports
Association

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WHERE STRATEGY MEETS EXCELLENCE



63rd NATIONAL **CHESS** CHAMPIONSHIP - 2026



BABATPUR CAMPUS
(Near Airport)

Mob.: 75 1802 1801/02



PARAO CAMPUS

Mob.: 70 80 400 882/83/85



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