

GTL co-sponsors Asian Chess for Visually impaired

Chess tourney puts organisers in a fix
Times of India, Mumbai
19 November, 2003

The visually impaired chess players are gearing up to play the maiden Asian championships, but the organisers are still searching for answers with little under 20 days to go.

Despite having a title and co-sponsors, the amount falls far short of the total budget needed to conduct the tournament and the All India Chess Federation for the Blind is knocking on corporate doors in a desperate bid to "plug the financial gap".

That apart, the biggest problem facing AICFB is that the parent body, the All India Chess Federation, is yet to give the former affiliation.

"We have written to the AICF, seeking affiliation, but we have received no response so far," said Vinay Shetty, advisor to AICFB.

"As a result of the non-affiliation we are missing out on the grant from the central government, which could cover the financial gaps," explained Shetty. The AICFB has two sponsors for the championships, Bank of Baroda, the title sponsored, and GTL Limited.

"Running the tournament costs Rs 23 lakhs. We have fallen short by Rs 6 to 7 lakhs," informed Shetty.

Twelve countries are participating in the tournament, which also has world champion, Kazakhstan's Younusoff.

Asian Chess for Visually impaired
The Indian Express, Mumbai
19th November, 2003

World Champion Younusoff to be the star attraction
The All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB) will be organising the first-ever Asia Chess Championship for the Visually Impaired in Mumbai from December 7 to 16.

The International Braille Chess Association, the apex world body, which represents the interests of all visually impaired chess players all over the world has entrusted this responsibility to the AICFB.

The Championship is a landmark event, and is being organised with the ultimate objective of promoting the game of chess amongst visually impaired persons all over Asia.

Apart from India, 100 countries have confirmed their participation in the Championship, which will show case the best individual talent.

Each country will send four players and a manager. The current World Champion, Younusoff, who is from Kazaksthan, will be the star attraction.

The countries, which have already intimated their travel details, are Kazaksthan, Iran, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Yemen and Bangla Desh. The other countries expected are Turkmenistan, Israel and Myanmar.

The tournament will be played on a Swiss League basis of 7 rounds.

A seminar will be held during the tourney where the formation of an Asian body will be discussed.

The championship is sponsored by Bank of Baroda with GTL Limited as co-sponsors. The Hotel Mirador at Chakala, Andheri (East) are the hospitality sponsors, informed AICFB secretary Charudatta Jadhav.

Two teams from India will take part. TEAM ONE: Rajesh Ozha, Darshan Patel, Shirish Patil, Madan Bagaitkar TEAM TWO: Tapan Das, Balraman, Rakesh Kumar, Gaurav Gadodia.