

The seminar in Chennai was the first of three that I gave in India during October. It produced 23 School Instructor Trainers and 3 School Instructors. Here is what the All India Chess Federation had to say about it.

Shot In The Arm For Chess In Schools Program

Mr.J.C.D.Prabhakar, the President of All India Chess Federation held discussions with Mr. Kevin O'Connell, Executive Secretary, Chess In Schools Commission of FIDE (World Chess Federation) today at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium where a three days seminar is being conducted from 18th October 2012. During the discussion Mr.Prabhakar highlighted the keen interest shown by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr.J.Jayalithaa, in promoting whole lot of sports and the game of chess in particular in the State of Tamil Nadu. He informed him that she has introduced a very ambitious programme for school children who are 7 to 17 years of age and has made it mandatory for all the Government School children to learn the game. Efforts are already under way by the Tamil Nadu State Chess Association to equip the physical education teachers and other teachers from various schools with the knowledge of the game of chess so that they can teach the children in their respective schools.

The AICF in its efforts to complement the above decision of the Tamil Nadu Government decided to bring a foreign expert Mr. O'Connell, Executive Secretary, Chess in School Commission of FIDE (World Chess Federation). FIDE's Chess In Schools programme is active with its Executive Secretary, Mr. O'Connell of Ireland giving lectures on training teachers and the art of introducing chess in schools.



Left to right: Kevin O'Connell, J.C.D.Prabhakar, D.V.Sundar (FIDE VP):

Apart from Chennai, Mr. O'Connell will conduct seminars in two venues in India, the second is from Oct 21-23 at Delhi and the final lecture is at Jalgaon in Maharashtra from Oct 26-28. These three seminars are certain to give a boost to chess in schools activity.

There are around 26 well known trainers from Tamil Nadu who are attending this camp at Chennai. The benefits are going to be seen in the coming years.

The course was inaugurated by India's first IM Manuel Aaron in the afternoon of Oct 18 at the Nehru Stadium in Chennai.

Mr.O'Connell is likely to kindle and arm our trainers with plenty of methods so far not known to our trainers. India, the most active chess nation in the world is now training students in schools. More champions are sure to emerge from these initiatives by the AICF.



It was a great honour to be introduced by Manuel Aaron, India's first IM.



Organizers and trainees outside the Nehru Stadium.



Watching the National Under-13s fighting for a place in next year's Continental & World Under-14s and the year's training to preced it.