

44TH FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD TORCH ARRIVES IN STATE

Panaji: July 3, 2022

Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri Govind Gaude received the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad torch from Grandmaster Anurag Mahamal in the presence of lady Grandmaster Bhakti Kulkarni at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir, Ponda today at a function organized by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs today.

The 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad Torch was brought to Goa by early morning flight by Grandmaster Anurag Mahamal and was given a rousing welcome by sportsmen and others.

Grandmaster Anurag Mahamal brought the Chess Olympiad torch in Goa this morning from Mumbai, which was then directly taken to Kranti Maidan followed by the torch relay which began at 7.30 a.m. from Kranti Maidan to Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir in Ponda in a walkathon rally, followed by the official function at Rajiv Gandhi Kala Mandir by lighting the lamp and various cultural programmes.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the first-ever torch relay on June 19, 2022 for the Chess Olympiad ahead of the 44th edition of the event, which will be held in Mahabalipuram from July 28 to August 10, 2022. For the first time, the international chess body, FIDE, has instituted the torch relay, which is an Olympic tradition but has never been done in the Chess Olympiad.

The torch will travel to 75 iconic locations across the country in 40 days before arriving in Mahabalipuram, near Chennai. Chess grandmasters from across the State will receive the torch at each location.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Gaude stated that his main goal as Minister of Sports, Art, and Culture is to honour all athletes and artists. All Athletes and artists will always have the support of the government. No athlete or artist will be left behind due to financial or other constraints, he asserted.

Speaking further Shri Gaude said hard work, as well as belief is essential for success and felt that is extremely difficult to achieve success unless and until they believe. Success does not happen by chance. It is the result of pure and sheer hard work. Above all, love is essential for both learning and doing. Success cannot be recorded in a single day or night. It requires commitment and perseverance, he observed.

Explaining the significance of playing chess games, he said that chess is a professional sport and it helps to improve not only memory but also thinking power, strategic thinking, observation power, and other skills, allowing them to face any challenge in life and overcome anxiety, anger, arrogance, and greed. Chess is good for those who want to start enterprise because it develops strategic thinking, analytical thinking, leadership skills, goal setting, and risk taking. Chess has the power to make the seemingly impossible possible, he added.

Government plans to organise various village-level games in order to discover hidden sporting talent at the grassroots level, Shri Gaude said and added that identifying sporting talent to support the Khelo India programme is extremely difficult unless and until we go to the grassroots level. The government intends to establish a residential academy centre of excellence through Kelo India, a national programme for sports development, he said.

Applauding India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, for also prioritizing sports in national education policy, he said everyone cannot be a doctor or an engineer. Sports career can be pursued by putting more emphasis on sports. No one can stop you from achieving success if your determination is strong and you continue to work hard, he said and cited examples of popular

Indian athletes Hima Das and Karnam Malleswari, who achieved success in sports by overcoming many adversities in their lives.

Grand Master Anurag Mhamal and women Grand Master Bhakti Kulkarni, as well as other prominent chess players, were honoured by Minister of Sports, Youth Affairs, and Art and Culture, Shri Govind Gaude on the occasion.

MP, Rajya Sabha, Shri Vinay Tendulkar; Ponda Municipality Chairman, Shri Ritesh Naik; Regional Director of Sports Authority of India, Smt. Sushmita Jotshi; Dy. Director Nehru Yuva Kendra, Shri Kalidas Ghatwal; AICF Shri Naresh Khandolkar; Administrator of Goa Chess Association Shri Nyaneshwar Naik; Director of Sports and Youth Affairs Shri Ajay Gaude and Dy. Director of Sports and Youth Affairs Smt. Jennifer Ferrao e Gonsalves were present on the occasion.

Director, DSYA, Shri Ajay Gaude welcomed whiles Smt. Jennifer Ferrao e Gonsalves proposed a vote of thanks. Smt. Sidhi and Shri Rohit compered the function.

--

Issued by Department of Information & Publicity

Department of Information & Publicity
3rd Floor, Udyog Bhavan,
Near Azad Maidan, Panaji