16th Chennai Open International Grandmasters Chess Tournament 2026
for Sakthi Group Dr. N. Mahalingam Trophy

FIDE/AICF Event code: 428096/TN/2025 & TNSCA Approval No: INT-01/TN/25-26

Under the guidance of Dr. M Manickam, President, TNSCA
Organised by Tamil Nadu State Chess Association

Under the auspices of All India Chess Federation

Date: 2nd to 9th January 2026

Venue: Hotel Ramada Egmore

Gandhi Irwin Rd, Ansari Estate, Egmore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600008
(Near Egmore Railway Station) Ph: 044-4610 4777

Total Cash Prize : Rs. 20,00,000/-

Main Prize

1st	Rs. 4,00,000/-	8th	Rs. 60,000/-
2nd	Rs. 3,00,000/-	9th	Rs. 50,000/-
3rd	Rs. 1,75,000/-	10th	Rs. 50,000/-
4th	Rs. 1,25,000/-	11th – 15th	Rs. 25,000/- each
5th	Rs. 1,00,000/-	16th -20th	Rs. 15,000/- each
6th	Rs. 80,000/-	21st- 45 th	Rs. 10,000/- each
7th	Rs. 80,000/-		

Category Prizes

ELO Rating	1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
2001 to 2200	Rs.10000/-	Rs.9000/-	Rs.7000/-
1801 to 2000	Rs.10000/-	Rs.9000/-	Rs.7000/-
1601 to 1800	Rs.10000/-	Rs.9000/-	Rs.7000/-
1401 to 1600	Rs.10000/-	Rs.9000/-	Rs.7000/-
Unrated	Rs.10000/	Rs.9000/	Rs.7000/

However, a player is eligible for one prize only (whichever is higher)
Indian Income Tax Act and rules in force will be applicable for TDS purpose.

Tournament Schedule:

02.01.2026	Friday	03.00 PM	Round 1
03.01.2026	Saturday	10.00 AM	Round 2
03.01.2026	Saturday	04.00 PM	Round 3
04.01.2026	Sunday	10.00 AM	Round 4
05.01.2026	Monday	10.00 AM	Round 5
05.01.2026	Monday	04.00 PM	Round 6
06.01.2026	Tuesday	10.00 AM	Round 7
07.01.2026	Wednesday	10.00 AM	Round 8
08.01.2026	Thursday	10.00 AM	Round 9
09.01.2026	Friday	10.00 AM	Round 10
09.01.2026	Friday	05.00 PM	Closing Ceremony

Arrival	**8.00 AM**	**2nd**	**Jan, 2026**
Technical Meeting	**2:00 PM**	**2nd**	**Jan, 2026**
Inaugural Ceremony	**2:30 PM**	**2nd**	**Jan, 2026**

Departure 07.00 PM 9th January, 2026

Entry Fee:

GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs and Rated 2400 and above - No entry Fee.

All Players Rs.10,000/- will be the entry fee without lodging.

(No request towards waiver of entry fee will be entertained.)

The last date of entry will be 27th December, 2025 (Saturday)

Any player / accompanying person who wish to avail official accommodation, can Mr. Dhanasekaran V (Accommodation incharge) on payment basis.

Accommodation for the titled players will be given from 17.00 Hrs on 01.01.2026 (Thursday)

Contact details:

Tamil Nadu State Chess Association, Room No.75, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Periamet, Chennai 600003. Phone: 044-25384477, E-mail: tnchesstmt@gmail.com

Website: www.tamilchess.com

Entry fee can be paid through online portal, using the link

https://registration.tamilchess.com/

1. For Tamil Nadu Players Registration:

https://registration.tamilchess.com/online-entry/

2. For Other State/Federation players registration:

https://registration.tamilchess.com/other-payment/

After paying the entry fee, please submit the details in the google form given below link (only for other state/ Federation players)

Gform link : https://forms.gle/JiDH3tFFfcmsGYT76

Tournament Rules

System of Play

The tournament will be conducted as per FIDE Laws of Chess and FIDE Swiss System with 10 rounds.

Time Control

90 Minutes each with 30 seconds increment from move no.1.

Default Time

15 Minutes. Any player who arrives at the chess board after the default time shall lose the game.

Tie Break

1) Buchholz cut 1 2) Buchholz 3) Sonneborn-Berger 4) Direct Encounter 5) Greater number of wins including forfeit games 6) Number of wins with black pieces.

In the event of tie the cash prizes will not be shared.

Condition for draw by agreement

Players should not agree for a draw in a game without making 30 moves each.

Ban on Electronic devices and Wrist watch

All electronic items including wrist watches (all type of watches) are not allowed in the tournament hall. Players found in possession of these items will be declared lost.

Boarding & Lodging

All GMs will be provided free boarding and hotel accommodation on double sharing basis.
All IMs/WGMs/WIMs will be provided free boarding and hotel accommodation on double sharing basis.
All participants who also pay for lodging along with the entry fee will be provided hotel accommodation on triple sharing basis/dormitory accommodation for entire duration of the event. The accompanying persons if they require accommodation should make a request and also pay for their accommodation along with the entry.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Entry Form

It is mandatory for all Indian players to fill the g-form to complete their registration.

AICF Player Registration

All Indian players must be registered with AICF for the year 2025 – 2026 before the registration deadline to participate in the tournament. Those who have not registered with AICF are required to do AICF registration online at https://prs.aicf.in/players before sending their entry.

TNSCA Player Registration

All Tamil Nadu players must be registered with TNSCA as player for the year 2025 – 2026 before the registration deadline to participate in the tournament. Those who have not registered with TNSCA are required to do TNSCA registration online at https://registration.tamilchess.com/ before sending their entry.

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 completion of the game. The protest fee shall be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

Appeals Committee

Before the commencement of the tournament, a five member Committee of Appeal with two reserves shall be formed by the organisers. All the members and reserves shall be from different federations. No member of the committee can vote on a dispute in which a player from his own federation is involved and in such case the reserve member(s) shall take his/her place in the committee.

COVID Protocol

All players and accompanying persons have to adhere the rules and regulations framed by Government of India/Government of Tamil Nadu at the time of tournament towards the COVID – 19 protocol.

Organising Secretary	Tournament Director	Technical Director
Mr. B.Murugavel Vice President,TNSCA	Mr. P. Stephen Balasamy General Secretary, TNSC A	Mr. R.Anantharam, Chairman, Arbiters Commission, TNSCA

For further assistance please contact:

Tamil Nadu State Chess Association, Hall No.75, JN Stadium, Chennai 600 003.
Ph.044-25384477 E-mail: tnchesstmt@gmail.com Website:www.tamilchess.com

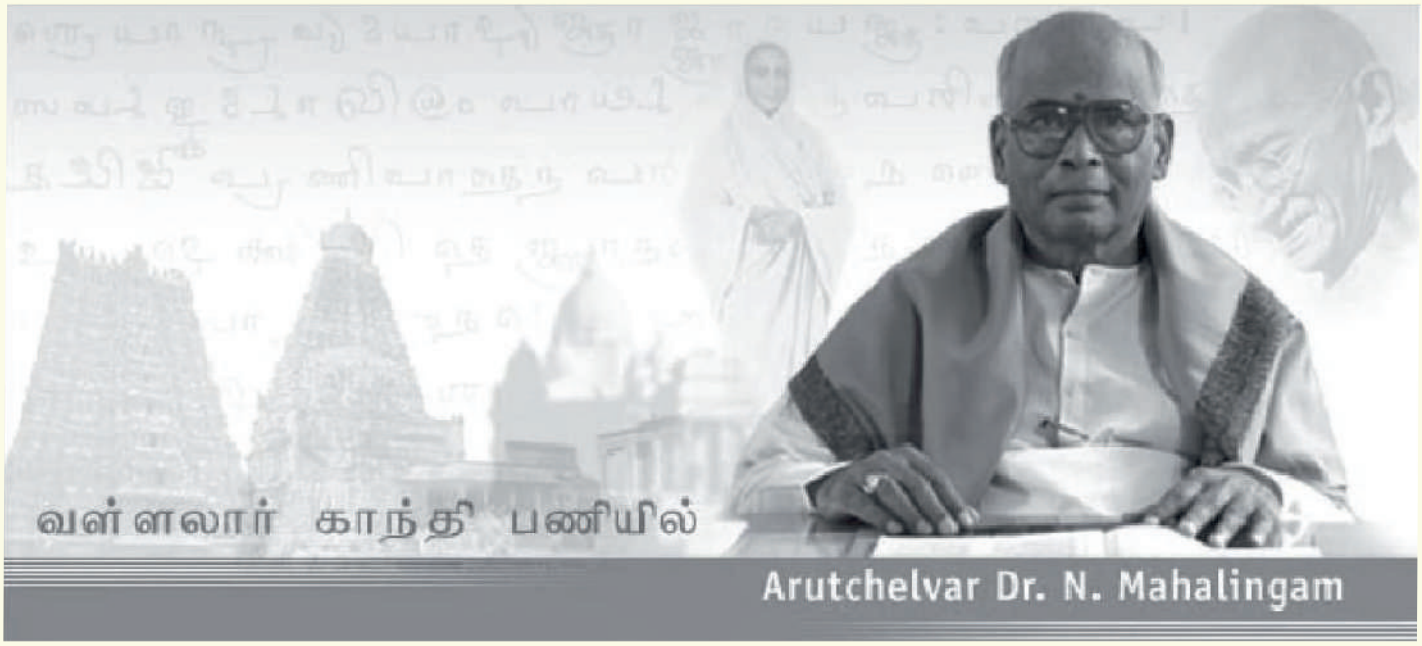
Tournament Coordinator: Mr. S. Paul Arokia Raj, IA & FI
Mob : +91 98404 58484 E-mail: chesspaul64@gmail.com

Accommodation in-charge : Mr.V. Dhanasekaran
Mob :+91 9841748583 / 9884748583 E-mail: danasekar2@gmail.com

Ms. Dineshwari - Mob: +91 6382464633

Hotels near the tournament venue:

Lakshmi Lodge, 16, Kennet Lane, Egmore (opposite to Egmore Railway Station)	Ph: +91 44 42148725/26/27 Mobile: +91 98409 00342
Hotel Pandian, 15, Kennet Lane, Egmore (opposite to Egmore to Railway Station)	Ph: +91 44 28192727 Mobile: +91 98414 21207 +91 98414 21202
Vestin Park Hotel 39, Red Cross Road, Egmore	Ph: +91 44 28527171 Mobile +91 99400 11946
Hotel Ramada, Egmore	Ph: 044 4610 4777 Mobile: +91 99400 13269



Dr. N. Mahalingam, founder, Sakthi group of companies was a chess philanthropist beyond comparison. His compassion for chess players in distress was phenomenal. He expressed his appreciation of the achievements of chess players with meaningful gifts that inspired them to higher efforts. As a former President of Tamil Nadu State Chess Association and All India Chess Federation, Dr.N.Mahalingam Championed the growth and the development of the game.