

## **Aakanksha makes it a hat trick with winning the Under 17 Chess Championship**

Pune's very own Aakanksha Hagawane is now National Under 17 Champion!! Aakanksha has won the Under 17 Chess Championship today. The 27th National Under 17 Open) was being held in Kolkata from the 9th September to 17th September 2016. By virtue of winning this championship, Aakanksha gets to represent the Asian Championship, World Youth and Commonwealth Championship again in 2017. She is also Commonwealth 2016 Champion in the Under 16 Girls category.

Aakanksha scored 7 wins and drew 4 games to tally 9 points from 11 games in this Championship. Sakshi Chitlangi from Maharashtra also tied with her but Aakanksha's superior tie break gave her the deserving championship.

Heartiest congratulations to Aakanksha for making it a hat trick performance. Her previous National titles:-

Under 13 National Champion in 2013

Under 15 /Sub Junior National Champion in 2015

Under 17 National Champion in 2016

With just a day more to go before she departs to play the World Youth in Khanty- Mansiysk, Russia from 20th September to 4th October, this is indeed an incredible, untiring feat!

Her father Shrinath Hagawane who dotingly accompanies her for coaching as well as for the tournaments, gives the credit to her coach and mentor Mr. Jayant Gokhale for the guidance, support and focused practice.

Debashree Marathe Dandekar, renowned Sports Psychologist connects with her to help groom Aakanksha to stay focused in competitions and achieving higher goals.

Aakanksha's consistency and hard work is commendable and she has benefited from playing practice with accomplished players from Pune, IM Abhimanyu Puranik and Chinmay Kulkarni while preparing for the Under 17 Nationals. She is a 11th std. student of S.P College Pune and under the IOC scholarship since last year.

Mr Jayant Gokhale is also accompanying the Indian team (Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18) for World Youth at Russia as Coach. Other Indian Team Members for the World Youth 20th September to 4th October are

### **Under 14**

Neelash Saha

Silver Medal – Anuj Dandekar

Bharambe Bhavik

Iniyan P

Tarun Kanth

**Under 14 Girls**

Priyanka Nutakki

Mishra Anwasha

Vantika Agrawal

Salonika Saina

Aashna Makhija

**Under 16**

Mitrabha Guha

Raghunandan K S

**Under 16 Girls**

Aakanksha Hagawane

Priyanka K

**Under 18**

Rajdeep Sarkar

Krishna Teja N

Vaishali R

**Under 18 Girls**

Varshini V

Mahalaxmi M

Toshali V

**Coach**

Jayant Gokhale

## Managers

Mr. Hanumantha R

Mrs. Laxmi Priya

## Description of photos:

