

## **Aakanksha wins Gold Medal in Commonwealth Championship Under 16 Age group category!**

As expected, India dominated the entire series of all age groups, ranging from Under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, Women and Open section.

In Open section, all three medals were won by Indian players as follows:

**Gold Medal – Grandmaster Abhijit Gupta**

**Silver Medal – Grandmaster S. L. Narayanan**

**Bronze Medal – Grandmaster Deepen Chakravarthy**

In Women's section as well all three medals were with Indian players, as follows:

**Gold Medal – WGM Tania Sachdev**

**Silver Medal – WGM Mary Ann Gomes**

**Bronze Medal – WGM Kiran Manisha Mohanty**

Separate age group tournaments were conducted for Under 8, 10, 12 and 14 years age categories while players of Under 16, 18 and 20 years age groups had to prove their strength by playing in the "Open" section.

It was a great comeback for Aakanksha after her 10<sup>th</sup> Standard exams and long break due to same on International Circuit and on her very first appearance, she has won the Commonwealth Championship for the Under 16 Age Group Category, which was conducted in Srilanka and concluded yesterday.

Aakanksha played very well and was always in top 10 players from the start. Out of 9 games, she scored 4 wins, drew 4 games and lost one. Her highest achievement was from the 4<sup>th</sup> round, where she held Top seeded and Grandmaster Abhijit Gupta to a draw with black pieces. Also, her only loss was with Grandmaster Swapnil Dhopade.

Supported by "LAKSHYA" Foundation and also having a scholarship from Indian Oil Corporation, Aakanksha is training with FIDE Trainer Jayant Gokhale since 9 years. She has just passed her Board exam with flying colors. A training camp with Grandmaster R. B. Ramesh in last month was quite helpful for her, other than training games with 3 IM Norms holder Aniruddha Deshpande and Chinmay Kulkarni. Sports Counselor Debashree Marathe has been always with Aakanksha and immensely beneficial.

Aakanksha will be representing our country in the upcoming "World Youth Championship" which will be held in Russia from 20<sup>th</sup> September.

**Description of photos:**

