



Bridge Federation of India

Annual Report 2023

(April 2023 - March 2024)



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Brief Summary of BFI Journey

Dear Members,

As a part of the Bridge Federation of India, I got elected as Hon. Secretary in January 2024 and took charges from April 2024 but on behalf of the previous committee it is my privilege to present the detailed Annual Report for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Throughout the last financial year, the BFI has diligently pursued the objectives set by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), with a focus on promoting the game, guided by the belief that increasing participation will naturally lead to enhanced quality. Statistically, the number of registered players increased by 15%, specifically from 4,029 to 4,620 in 2023-24. This year, we observed an increase in the number of affiliated state organizations, with new affiliations from Manipur, Meghalaya, and Tripura.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the number of tournaments increased by approximately 12%, reflecting the continued growth of the game. The BFI successfully organized all existing Federation, National, Zonal, and Recognized events, along with an increase in overall tournaments. While this surge in events has posed scheduling challenges, it has ultimately benefited players by offering more opportunities to participate selectively based on quality and convenience. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this success through sponsorship, organization, and participation.

Indian bridge teams participated in four major tournaments: the 22nd BFAME (Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East) Championship, the 46th World Bridge Teams Championship, the Asian Games, and the 18th World Youth Team Championship. In the 22nd BFAME Championship, held in Lahore, Pakistan, in 2023, the Indian teams achieved remarkable success, winning gold in all four categories: Open, Mixed, Women, and Senior.

At the Asian Games, Indian teams represented the country in three categories: Open, Women's, and Mixed. In the Open team category, India earned a silver medal after a closely contested final against Hong Kong, China. Additionally, India's U31 team showcased their talent by winning the bronze medal in a thrilling match against China. The outstanding performance of the Indian youth players highlights a promising future for the development of junior bridge in India.

We are glad to announce that Shree Cement Co Ltd has signed a MOU with BFI that they will sponsor the upcoming Interstate Bridge Championships from the year 2024 for at least next six years. We are grateful to Sri H. M. Bangur for his continuous support towards the game of Bridge. Along with the same, our long relationship with Late Shri. Dr. Tolani patronage continues in form of Tolani Open Masters and Non Masters event with the immense support from her daughter Dr. Sujata Tolani. Moreover, it has been my honor to interact with our pillars of Indian bridge such as Mrs. Kiran Nadar, Mrs Hema Deora, Mr. C.V. Rao, Mr. Ashok Goel, Mr. NRK Moorthy, Mr. Sunderashan, Mr. Uma Shankar Bhartia and other dignitaries.



We extend our sincere appreciation to the Ashok Ruia family especially to Mr. Atul Ruia and Smt. Amla Ruia for sponsoring the Winter Nationals and to Mr. Subodh Maskara for sponsoring the Mavericks Summer National event. These two prestigious federation events are among the most attractive for bridge players, drawing large participation and showcasing high-quality bridge.

Tournament directors play a crucial role in the success of any event. In recognition of this, the BFI organized an online and offline Directors Training Program, led by WBF Tournament Director Mr. Sudhir Agarwal and WBF Assistant TD Mr. Sanjay Kr. Chakraborty, which was attended by around 18 participants. Furthermore, the BFI supported the participation of Regional Directors, Mr. K.S. Swaminathan and Mr. C. Sathish Kumar, in a Directors Workshop hosted by the European Bridge League in Latvia.

The Tolani Junior and Sub Junior National Championship, organized by the BFI and sponsored by Tolani Shipping held at Gupta Gardens, Nashik, from May 24-26, 2024, saw 88 young players from 15 states competing in various age categories. With participation up by 50%, this event showcased the success of the BFI Junior Development Program. A subsequent camp from May 27-30 further nurtured top talents, led by Chief Coach Vinay Desai and a dedicated team. A second camp in June led to the selection of two teams to represent India at the 8th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, in July 2024.

The Open, Mixed, and Women's Team Selection Trials were held in May 2024 at Ahmedabad's Ellisbridge Gymkhana, where top pairs competed in double round-robin formats. The top four pairs from each category were shortlisted to represent India at the World Bridge Championship in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Bridge Pathshala, in its fourth year, offers comprehensive courses across all levels and has developed a free app to increase awareness. With 101 students attending 16 courses last year, the main challenge remains raising awareness and acceptance of bridge as a mind sport among parents and schools.

The new Ranking Point Policy introduces clear guidelines for selecting and seeding Indian teams for international competitions, emphasizing performance-based selection through additional coaching camps and online training, ensuring a robust and transparent process for future events.

These initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to the development and success of bridge. I hope to continue this journey in better level for the upcoming years.



Indian Performance at International Level

Indian bridge teams participated in four major tournaments within the period from April 2023 to March 2024: the 22nd BFAME (Bridge Federation of Asia and Middle East) Championship, the 46th World Bridge Teams Championship, Asian Games, and the 18th World Youth Team Championship.

Champion in all categories at BFAME

Indian bridge teams excelled in the 22nd BFAME Championship held in Lahore, Pakistan in 2023, winning gold in all four categories: Open, Mixed, Women, and Senior.



Open Category

The Indian Open team, comprised of Sumit Mukherjee, Rajeshwar Tewari, Jaggy Shivdasani, Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, Sandeep Thakral, and coached by Joyjit Sensarma (NPC), delivered an outstanding performance. They finished second in the round robin, trailing the top by a narrow margin.

However, their knockout stage performance was exceptional. They dominated the semi-final against Bangladesh with a score of 254.5 to 166 VPs, and triumphed over the UAE in the final with a decisive 80.5 to 34 VPs victory.



Mixed Category

The mixed team, featuring Himani Khandelwal, Rajeev Khandelwal, Kiran Nadar, Sandeep Karmarkar, Marianne Karmarkar, B. Satyanarayana, and coached by Vinay Desai (NPC), demonstrated consistent dominance. They topped the round robin with a significant lead.

Womens won the semi-final against Palestine with a score of 254.5 to 137 VPs. In a nail-biting final against the UAE, India emerged victorious with a close score of 59.5 to 53 VPs.

Women Category

The women's team, including Kalpana Gurjar, Vidhya Patel, Bharati Dey, Alka Kshirsagar, Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, and coached by Anal Shah (also the NPC), also displayed outstanding performance. They led the round robin by a large margin and continued their dominance in the final, defeating the UAE with a score of 98.5 to 56 VPs.



Senior Category

The team consisting of Hemant Jalan, Sukamal Das, Badal Das, Samir Basak, Pranab Bardhan, Subrata Saha, and coached by Subhash Gupta (NPC), also showcased their prowess. They finished second in the round robin but secured a commanding win in the final against Pakistan, with a score of 83.5 to 41.



18th World Youth Team Championship

In the World Youth Bridge Championship, which took place in Veldhoven, Netherlands, India participated in four categories: Under 16, Under 21, Under 26, and Under 31.

India's U31 team won the bronze medal against China in a nail-biting match. They secured victory in the last set with a score of 42-28 VPs, bringing the final result to 112-104 VPs. The performance of the Indian youth provided a significant pathway for the development of junior bridge in India.





**Chef the Mission & Chief Coach
Debasish Ray**

India Under 16 Team

Tirtharaj Chowdhury
Nachiketa Muthuswamy
Paavan Goyal
Rashi Sagar Jahagirdar
Zody Adhiyaman
Saikritick Satish
Coach: Parimal Vahalia



India Under 21 Team

Tilakraj Chowdhury
Kunj Chheda
Vineet Nandu
Prajwal Mayur
Vigneshwaran
Johann Pinto
Coach: Parimal Vahalia



India Under 26 Team

Soham Sarkar
Subhashree Basu
Anirudh Prakash
Shubham Acharya
Kalpana Gurjar
Vidhya Patel
Coach: Prakash Paranjpe



India Under 31 Team

Sayantana Kushari
Sagnik Roy
Pritam Das
Souvik Kar
Wrik Chakraborty
Swarnashish Chatterjee
Coach: Shibhnath Dey Sarkar

46th World Bridge Teams Championship

In the World Bridge Teams Championship held in Marrakech, Morocco, India participated in all four categories: the Bermuda Bowl (Open category), the Venice Cup (Women's category), the d'Orsi Trophy (Senior category), and the Wuhan Cup (Mixed category).

The Indian Open team, comprising Sumit Mukherjee, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Jaggy Shivdasani, Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare, Sandeep Thakral, and Joyjit Sensarma as Coach and NPC, performed admirably in the round robin. However, their performance faltered in the final set, resulting in a 10th place finish, just missing the qualifying cutoff of 8th place.



Women's Team : Kalpana Gurjar, Vidhya Patel, Bharati Dey, Alka Kshirsagar, Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, Anal Shah (Coach & NPC).



Mixed Team : Himani Khandelwal, Rajeev Khandelwal, Kiran Nadar, Sandeep Karmarkar, Marianne Karmarkar, B. Satyanarayana, Vinay Desai (Coach & NPC).



Senior Team : Hemant Jalan, Sukamal Das, Badal Das, Samir Basak, Pranab Bardhan, Subrata Saha, Subhash Gupta (Coach & NPC).

The Women's team finished in 11th position, the Senior team in 14th position, and the Mixed team in 16th position in the qualifying stage.

The performances in the World Championship indicates the significant improvement of the Indian bridge, aiming to achieve medals on the world stage.

Asian Games 2023

Indian bridge teams represented the country in three categories of the bridge event: Open, Women's, and Mixed. In the Open team category, India secured the silver medal after losing the final to Hong Kong, China.



Men's Team: Jaggy Shivasani, Sandeep Thakral, Rajeshwar Tiwari, Sumit Mukherjee, Raju Tolani and Ajay Khare. Coach and NPC : Mr Joyjit Sensarma



Mixed Team: Kiran Nadar, B Satyanarayana, Himani Khandelwal, Rajeev Khandelwal, Marianne Karmarkar and Sandeep Karmarkar
Coach and NPC: Vinay Desai



Women's team: Asha Sharma, Puja Batra, Alka Kshirsagar, Bharti Dey, Kalpana Gurjar and Vidya Patel,
Coach and NPC: Anal Shah

International Participations of Indian Directors



Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal, Head Tournament Director of BFI and WBF Tournament Director, was appointed as the Tournament Director for the Bridge in 2023 Asian Games.

Mr. Sanjay Chakraborty, one of the national directors of the BFI, was selected by the WBF as a tournament director for the Transnational event of the 2023 World Bridge Championship held in Marrakech, Morocco. He also became an assistant tournament director for the WBF.



To enhance the quality of tournament directors, the BFI sent two directors, Mr. KS Swaminathan and Mr. C. Satish Kumar, to Riga, Latvia, to attend the 2023 WBF Tournament Directors Seminar. The three-day workshop culminated in both directors receiving certificates upon successful completion of the course. Recognizing their quality and eagerness, the BFI plans to send more directors to future seminars to further improve the standard of Indian tournament directors.

Federation and National Level Tournaments

The Indian Bridge Calendar features a variety of tournaments held annually across India, organized by our member state associations and affiliates. The federation classifies these tournaments into five major categories:

1. Federation Tournaments

Organized by the federation on a national scale, these events are open to all players and serve as qualifying rounds for the selection trials. They offer the highest federation points along with the ranking points, awarded to deserving participants. Outstanding candidates are selected to represent India in world-level competitions. These tournaments attract the maximum participation from all affiliated states and bodies.

The following events are classified as FEDERATION events:

- a) Late Shri. Ashok Ruia Winter National Bridge Championships (since 1958)
- b) Mavericks Summer Nationals
- c) Shree Cement Interstate National Championships
- d) Smt.Vijya Jajoo Memorial Mixed Championships
- e) National Women's Championships
- f) Selection Trials - Open, Women's, Mixed, Senior
- g) Selection Camps - Open, Women's, Mixed, Senior
- h) Tolani Junior & Sub-Junior National Championships
- i) Junior and Sub-Junior Camps

2. National Tournaments

These tournaments are designated with "NATIONAL" status, featuring technical and manpower infrastructure similar to federation events. They are organized by external bodies such as corporate sponsors, clubs, and state associations under the aegis of the federation. A capitation fee is required to attain national event status. These tournaments also award substantial federation master points and ranking points to merit holders.

At present there are six national recognized events:

- a) Shree Cement National Bridge Championships, Kolkata
- b) Yashwant Rao Holkar National Bridge Championship, Indore
- c) Mohanlal Bhartia Memorial Grand Prix, New Delhi
- d) HCL International Bridge Championships, New Delhi
- e) Tolani Open National Masters Championship
- f) Prime Mixed Championship



3. Zonal Tournaments

Organized by local state associations, these events adhere to the federation's general conditions of contests, rules, and regulations. Recognized by the federation, they award federation points and ranking points to participants. Currently, there are four zonal tournaments in India.

- a) Balrampur Chini (East Zone) Bridge Championship
- b) FNCC Bridge Championship (South Zone)
- c) Delhi Gymkhana Bridge Championship (North Zone)
- d) President's Cup Bridge Championship (West Zone)

4. Recognized Events

Organized by local state associations, these events adhere to the federation's general conditions of contest, rules, and regulations. Open state championships also fall under this category. These events are recognized by the federation and award federation points to participants but no ranking points.

- a) All India Madhava Prasad Memorial Bridge Tournament (Corbett Park)
- b) Jubilee Hills Open Bridge Tournaments
- c) Secunderabad Club Annual Event
- d) KSBA diamond Jubilee Tournament
- e) Shri Ajay Kumar Goel Memorial Nainital Bridge Tournament
- f) Kabra National Pairs
- g) Prime Women Pairs Championship
- h) Willington Club Annual Swiss Pairs
- i) Madras Gymkhana Club Annual Open Championship
- j) KBA All India Open Championship

5. Other Events

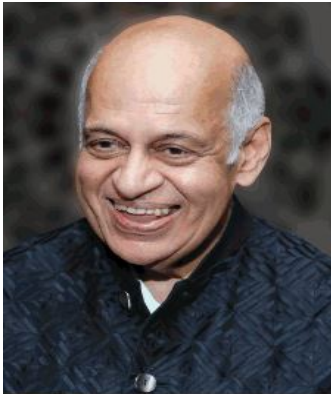
This category includes club or state-level tournaments that award local points to encourage participation among non-tournament players.

In addition to these events, there are several other invitational tournaments, such as the Annual Corporate Bridge Event, Padmapat Singhania Pairs, and Mavericks Premier League. Thanks to the support from sponsors and players, there has been a significant increase in the number of tournaments in recent years. This surge has posed challenges for the federation in scheduling the events without overlaps. However, this growth benefits players by providing them with more options to selectively participate in tournaments based on quality and convenience.



Federation Tournaments

Late Shri. Ashok Ruia Memorial Winter Nationals



RUIA Trophy considered as symbol of Bridge supremacy in India, started in 1959 in the memory of Late Shri Ram Niwas Ruia. It is a running trophy given to the Team of Four champions in the Winter National Bridge Championship.

Late Shri. Ashok Ruia was the biggest supported for the promotion of Indian Bridge with his supreme vision and dedication across all sectors. We wholeheartedly express our deep gratitude to the family of Ashok Ruia especially Mr. Atul Ruia and Mrs. Amla Ruia for their continued support of the Winter Nationals each year.

Team of Four Gold

Winner : Mavericks

Subodh Maskara, Subhash Gupta,
Keyzad Anklesaria, P Sridharan,
Jaggy Shivdasani, Anal Shah

Runners Up : Indian Railways A

Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder,
Gopinath Manna, Sandeep Dutta,
Sayantan Kushari, Sagnik Roy

Match Point Pairs

1. Mithun Mukherjee & Kamal Mukherjee
2. Vijay Phatarphekar & Prakash Hegde
3. Shambhunath Ghosh & Biswajit Poddar



Prime Women's Pairs Championships

1. Bharti Dey & Aprana Sain
2. Alka Jain & Devi Bhatnagar
3. Vasanti Shah & Gopika Tandan



Mavericks Summer Nationals

Team of Four Gold

Winner : Formidables

Sumit Mukherjee, Rajeswar Tiwari,
Sayantan Kushari, Kaustubh Bendre,
Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy



Runners Up : Dhampur Sugar

Ashok Goel, Vinay Desai,
Swarnendu Banerjee, Sunit Chokshi,
Raju Tolani, Ajay Khare



K K Bhatnagar Memorial

Mixed IMP Pairs

1. Puja Batra & Subhash Gupta
2. Tara Laroia & Uttam Gupta
3. Marianne & Sandeep Karmarkar



Women IMP Pairs

1. Usha Kabra & Marianne Karmarkar
2. Bharati Dey and Alka Kshirsagar
3. Vasanti Shah & Gopika Tandan

Jaggy Shivdasani Trophy

Match Point Pairs

1. Sunit Chokshi & Swarnendu Banerjee
2. Sumit Mukherjee & Rajeswar Tewari
3. Keyzad Anklesaria & Debabrata Majumder



Interstate Bridge Championships



Team of Four

Winner : West Bengal A

Vibhas Todi, Kamal Mukherjee,
Shibnath Dey Sarkar, Pranab Bardhan,
Badal Das, Partha Sarathi Mukherjee

Runners Up : Indian Railways

Sumit Mukherjee, Debabrata Majumder,
Gopinath Manna, Sandeep Dutta,
Sayantan Kushari, Sagnik Roy



Match Point Pairs

1. Binod Shaw & Sanjit Dey
2. Shubham Acharya & Soumalya Ghosh
3. Koushik Mukherjee & Subhrajit Mukherjee

Prime Mixed Teams & Pairs Championships



Team of Four

Winner : Sarala Fibers

Rajeev Khandelwal, Himani Khandelwal,
Arun Puranik, Vrinda Jhunjhunwala,
Sumit Mukherjee, Monica Jajoo

Runners Up : Kabra Magic

Usha Kabra, Gopinath Manna,
Sandeep Karmarkar, Bharti Dey,
Marianne Karmarkar



Mixed Pairs

1. T V Ramani & Bindiya Kohli
2. Sumit Mukherjee & Monica Jajoo

Tolani Open National Masters



Team of Four Masters

Winner : Mavericks

Subodh Maskara, Subhash Gupta,
Keyzad Anklesaria, Debabrata Majumder
Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral

Runners Up : Formidables

Sumit Mukherjee, Rajeswar Tiwari,
Sayantan Kushari, Kaustubh Bendre,
Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy

Match Point Pairs

1. Anil Padhe & G Venkatesh
2. Shibnath Dey Sarkar & Pranab Bardhan
3. Rahul Shetty & Finton Lewis



Shree Cement National Bridge Championships

Winner : Formidables

Sumit Mukherjee, Rajeswar Tiwari,
Sayantan Kushari, Kaustubh Bendre,
Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy

Runners Up : Mavericks

Subodh Maskara, Subhash Gupta,
Keyzad Anklesaria, Debabrata Majumder
Jaggy Shivdasani, Sandeep Thakral

Match Point Pairs

1. Abhijit Sarkar & Sujit Bhattacharjee
2. Rana Roy & Swarnendu Banerjee
3. Koushik Mukherjee & Priya Ranjan Sinha

HCL International Bridge Championship

Team of Four Gold

Winner : Aza Buboslovakia

Kamil Nowak, Piotr Marcinowski,
Jakub Patreuha , Patryk Patreuha



Runners Up : Formidables

Kiran Nadar, B. Satyanarayana,
Rajeshwar Tewari, Sumit Mukherjee,
Kaustabh Nandi , Sagnik Roy



Match Point Pairs

1. Boye Brogeland & Christian Bakke
2. Julian Stefanov & Vladimir Mihov
3. Jerry Stamatov & Ivan Nanev



IMP Pairs

1. Binod Shaw & Sanjit Dey
2. Mithun Mukherjee & Soumya Das
3. Rashebul Hasan & Md. Amirul Islam



Pro Am IMP Pairs

1. Nabil Edgton & Mithun Mukherjee
2. Debabrata Majumder & Sudhir Aggarwal
3. Jacek Pszczola & Vikrant Mehta



Holkar National Bridge Championship

IMP Pairs

1. Gopinath Manna & Uttam Gupta
2. Sagnik Roy & Sayantan Kushari
3. Raju Tolani & Ajay Khare



Team of Four Gold

Winner : Mavericks

Subodh Maskara, Subhash Gupta,
Keyzad Anklesaria. Jaggy Shivdasani,
Debabrata Majumder, Sandeep Thakral



Runners Up : Indian Chain

NK Chitlangia, Subid Majumdar,
Partha Sarathi Mukherjee, Badal Das,
Aniruddha Bhattyacharya,
Pranab Bardhan



Mohanlal Bhartia Memorial Grand Prix



Team of Four

Winner : India Glycol Ltd.

Hemant Jalan, Ashish Malhotra,
Kaustabh Nandi, Sagnik Roy,
Sandip Dutta, Gopinath Manna.



Runners Up : Tornatae

Prasad Keni, Sujit Bhattacharya,
Sanjit Dey, Binod Shaw,
Rana Roy, Sukamal Das.



Match Point Pairs

1. Prasun Mukherjee & Abhijit Chakraborty
2. Jaggy Shivdasani & Sandeep Thakral
3. Sayantan Kushari & Kaustubh Bendre



Smt. Vijya Jajoo Memorial National Mixed Championship



1. Jesal Dabriwala & Soumya Das
2. Kiran Nadar & B Satyanarayana
3. Nina Shah & Kaustubh Deodhar

Tolani Junior & Sub-Junior Bridge Championships

Team of Four

- Under 31**

Winner : Soumadeep Ghosh, Arya Chakraborty, Soham Sarkar, Subhashree Basu.

Runners : Swarnasish Chatterjee, Mathew Chandy, Pradip Dey, Babrubahan Bose.
- Under 21 & 26**

Winner : Vineet Nandu, Kunj Chheda, Saswata Ballav, Monu Kumar.

Runners : Kalpana Gurjar, Vidya Patel, Dinesh babu, Sai Manju.
- Under 16**

Winner : Rashi Jahagirdar, Tirtharaj Chowdhury, Saikritick Satish, Adhiyaman Zodypache.

Runners : Krishant, Roshan, Anushree R, Harrita S.

IMP Pairs

- Under 31**
 1. Swarnish Chatterjee & Mathew Chandy
 2. Pradip Dey & Babrubahan Bose
 3. Rounak Ghosh & Sagnik Roy
- Under 26**
 1. Taral Rodrigues & Tilakraj Chowdhury
 2. Kalpana Gurjar & Vidya Patel
 3. Dinesh Babu & Sai Manju
- Under 16**
 1. Rashi Jahagirdar & Tirthraj Chowdhury
 2. Saikritick Satish & Adhiyaman Zodypache
 3. Agilan Zodypache & Ananthan S.

Match Point Pairs

- Under 21 / 26 / 31**
 1. Taral Rodrigues & Tilakraj Chowdhury (U26)
 2. Subhashree Basu & Soham Sarkar (U31)
 3. Surajit Bar & Souvik Kar (U31)
 4. Rounak Ghosh & Sagnik Roy (U31)
 5. Swarnasish Chatterjee & Mathew Chandy (U31)
 6. Soumadeep Ghosh & Arya Charkaborty (U31)



Selection Trials & Camps

Junior & Sub-Junior Selection Trials & Camps

The Tolani Junior and Sub Junior National Championship, organized by the Bridge Federation of India, took place at Gupta Gardens, Nashik, from May 24-26, 2024. The event saw enthusiastic participation from 88 young bridge players across 15 states, competing in various age categories: 42 in Under-16, 12 in Under-21, 16 in Under-26, and 18 in Under-31. This prestigious championship featured a variety of events, including team competitions, IMP, and Matchpoint pair events, providing a comprehensive platform for these budding talents to showcase their skills.

The participation in the championship has increased by 50%, demonstrating the success of the BFI Junior Development Program. Additionally, the BFI is actively promoting bridge across NITs, IITs, and various institutions to attract more players. We hope to see even greater participation from junior players in open tournaments in the near future.



The meritorious players were shortlisted and further nourished in the camp organized at Kensington club, Nashik from 27-30 May, 2024. Both the championship and the subsequent camp were conducted by the Mr. Keshav Samant and Hemant Pandey, under the expert supervision of Chief Coach Mr. Vinay Desai, with valuable assistance from Mr. Girish Bijoor, Mr. Keshav Samant, Ms. Bindiya Naidoo, and Mr. Rahul Khambete. The events not only highlighted the competitive spirit of young bridge players but also underscored the Bridge Federation of India's dedication to nurturing and promoting the sport at the grassroots level.



Second camp was organized from 26th to 28th June and considering the overall performance of the players, the BFI Junior Selection Committee, announced two teams to represent India at the 8th World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, from July 13-18, 2024.

Indian Open Selection Trials & Camps

The Open Team's Selection Trial was held from May 1st to 7th, 2024, at the Ellisbridge Gymkhana in Ahmedabad. In the qualifying stage, the top 10 pairs competed, playing 10 boards in a double round-robin, all-play-all format. Based on the results, the top 8 pairs advanced to the finals. In the final stage, the pairs played 14 boards in a double round-robin, all-play-all format, and the top four pairs were shortlisted. The chosen pairs from all categories will participate in the upcoming World Bridge Championship in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

1. Raju Tolani
Ajay Khare
2. Binod Kumar Shaw
Sanjit Dey
3. Sandeep Thakral
Jaggy B Shivasani
4. Rajeshwar Tewari
Sumit Mukherjee



Indian Mixed Selection Trials & Camps

The Mixed Team's Selection Trial was held from May 8th to 12th, 2024. In the qualifying stage, the top 16 pairs competed, playing 8 boards in an all-play-all format. Based on the results, the top 8 pairs advanced to the finals. In the final stage, the pairs played 8 boards in a double round-robin, all-play-all format, and ultimately, the top four pairs were shortlisted.

1. Kiran Nadar
B. Satyanarayana
2. Rajeev Khandelwal
Himani Khandelwal
3. T V Ramani
Bindiya Kohli
4. Bindiya Naidoo
Priya Ranjan Sinha



Indian Women’s Selection Trials & Camps

The Women's Team Selection Trial was held from May 13th to 17th, 2024. The top 10 women pairs competed, playing 10 boards in a double round-robin, all-play-all format. Based on the results, the top four pairs were ultimately shortlisted.

1. Puja Batra
Asha Sharma
2. Alka M Kshirsagar
Bharti Dey
3. Alka Jain
Devi Muthu Bhatnagar
4. Bindiya Naidoo
Aparna Sain



Indian Senior Selection Trials & Camps

The Seniors Selection Trial for the upcoming World Bridge Games in Argentina got organized from June 26 to 28 in the scenic venue of Bengal Rowing Club. Two teams competed in this prestigious event: **Shree Cement: Ravi Goenka (Captain), Arun Bapat, Kamal Mukherjee, Badal Das, Pranab Bardhan, Vibhas Todi.** Hemant Jalan: Hemant Jalan (Captain), Subhash Gupta, P Sridhar, Rajesh Dalal, Sukamal Das, Samir Basak. A thrilling competition consisting of 16 boards across 9 segments over three days, **Shree Cement** emerged victorious with a score of 315-302 IMP. With this win, Shree Cement will proudly represent India at the 16th World Bridge Games.



Affiliation with Sports Authority of India

The affiliation with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has been immensely supportive, contributing significantly to the recent international successes of Indian bridge players. Recognized as a PRIORITY sport by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs for several years, bridge has benefited from enhanced support and recognition. As part of SAI's program, the "Interstate Bridge Championships" for Seniors, Juniors, and Sub Juniors, has received due recognition. This acknowledgment aligns with our federation's plans to provide more international exposure to Indian players.

Building on the achievements at the BFAME, World Championships, and Asian Games, the Bridge Federation of India has been actively collaborating with SAI to prepare athletes according to their guidelines through coaching camps and national competitions. This year, the federation conducted six coaching camps for various categories, including Seniors (Men, Mixed, Women) and Juniors (U31, U26, U21, U16).

Junior Camps

1. Junior Camp – 27th to 30th May, Nashik
2. Junior Camp – 29th to 28th June, Online

Senior Camps

1. Open – 1st to 7th May, Ahmedabad
2. Mixed – 8th to 12th May, Ahmedabad
3. Women – 13th to 17th May, Ahmedabad

National Championships

1. Interstate National Championships, Guwahati, Assam– 14-18th Sept
2. Juniors/Sub Juniors National Championships, Nashik – 24th to 26th May



BFI Programs & Policies

Bridge Pathshala

Bridge Pathshala is now in its fourth year of operations and has successfully established all the essential components for conducting Bridge classes at Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. The Pathshala offers four comprehensive 18-session courses (Beginners, Supervised Play, Awareness, and Standard American Bidding), a 9-session course on bidding (Precision/Strong Club), and 26 specialized topics, each lasting two hours.

To further increase awareness of the game, Bridge Pathshala has developed a free app available on both Android and Apple iOS platforms. The app is also accessible on laptops, whether using Windows or macOS. Over the past year, we conducted 16 full-fledged courses, reaching a total of 101 students, in addition to providing private tuition. All courses were very well received, with excellent feedback from participants.

The main challenge in attracting more students to the game is the current lack of awareness about it. Additionally, gaining acceptance from parents and schools, who may not yet recognize bridge as a mind sport due to its association with card games, presents an opportunity for further education and outreach. However, with increased awareness and a better understanding of its benefits, we can successfully encourage more young people to embrace the game.

New Master Point Secretary

The BFI Committee, in its meeting on June 10, 2024, appointed Mr. Soumadeep Ghosh as the new Masterpoint Secretary. All local and federation tournament records, as well as new member registration data, should be sent to Mr. Soumadeep Ghosh at bfimasterpointsecretary@gmail.com or via phone at +919831719151. The BFI appreciates the cooperation of all members in submitting records promptly.

BFI's Online Monthly Newsletter

BFI has started a Monthly Online Newsletter from the month of March 2024 and I am Highly appreciable to Mr. Rounak Ghosh, who has come forward voluntarily to act as the Editor of the same. We have already seen five monthly editions of the bulletin, which are very much informative in every aspect of covering regular Bridge activities. The online edition of these volumes are published online in the BFI website during the 1st week of each month. Any state association official or player who intends to share any relevant bridge news information can send it to Mr. Rounak Ghosh at the email address: ronforiit@gmail.com, or WhatsApp: +91 9038211297.



New Ranking Point Policies

The new Ranking Point Policy provides clear guidelines for selecting and seeding Indian teams across various categories for international competitions. Formulated by the BFI's nominated Ranking Committee, this policy incorporates insights from previous ranking policies (2022, 2021, and 2018) and recent performance appraisals from major events such as the BFAME Championships, APBF Championships, 46th World Championships, and the Asian Games 2022.

The policy emphasizes enhancing the selection process through additional phases of coaching camps, focusing on performance-based selection, and offering online coach training. These guidelines are designed to ensure a robust and transparent selection process for all future competitions.

Members of Ranking Point Committee: Mr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Hon. General Secretary, BFI, Mr. Anand KS Samant, Eminent Player & Ex Ec. Member, Mr. R Venkatesh, Eminent Player, Mr. T C Pant, Ex. Jt. Sec., BFI, Mr. Debasish Ray, Eminent Player.

Members Technical Committee: Mr. Pradeep Kulkarni, Hon. General Secretary, BFI, Mr. Anand KS Samant, Elite Player & Ex Ec. Member, Mr. R Krishnan, Elite Player & EC member, Mr Sumit Mukherjee, Elite Player & EC member, Mr. R Venkatesh, Eminent Player, Mr. T C Pant, Ex. Jt. Secy, BFI

National Coach Advisors: Mr. Vinay Desai (National Coach) Mr. Joyjit Sen Sarma (National Coach), Mr. Anal Shah (National Coach)

Director Workshops

The Directors Accreditation Committee (DAC) of BFI is excited to announce the launch of a "Monthly Online Training Director Workshop" starting in September 2023. This workshop, aimed at Level 1 (Assistant and Directors Level), will focus on the regular updating of WBF Laws. Although Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal and Mr. Sanjay Chakraborty have already conducted four classes, the busy tournament schedule has made it challenging to organize them consistently. However, BFI is committed to ensuring these workshops are held more regularly moving forward.

In November 2023, the West Bengal Bridge Association (WBBA), an active state association under BFI's supervision, organized a two-day Directors Workshop to address the shortage of Tournament Directors (TDs). WBBA is the only state association who took this appreciable initiative. The workshop, led by Mr. Sudhir Aggarwal, Mr. Sanjay Chakraborty, and Mr. Ajay Brahmachari, attracted around 18 participants. The program included lecture sessions, followed by a written assessment and practical simulations, and was well-received by all attendees.



BFI Committee & Sub-committees (2024 - 2026)

Executive Committee

President :	Mr. Prasad Keni
Vice Presidents :	Mr. Keshav Mathur, Mr. Keshav Samant
Hon. Gen. Secretary :	Mr. Debasish Ray
Hon. Jt. Secretaries :	Mr. Hemant Pande, Mr. DV Ravi
Hon. Treasurer :	Mr. C Satish Kumar
EC Members :	Mr. MBV Subrahmanyam, Mrs. Monica Jajoo Mrs. Rupa Bakeri, Mrs. Bindiya Naidoo, Mr. Prakash Gupta
Elite Sports Persons :	Mr. Keshav Samant, Mr. Debasish Ray

BFI Sub Committees

1. RTI Committee - Keshav Mathur
2. Player Grievances Committee - Debasish Ray
3. Disciplinary Committee - Amar Sinha
4. Constitution Compliance - Prasad Keni
5. Advisory & Finance Committee - Prasad Keni
6. Indian Team Selection Committee - Prasad Keni
7. Athletes Commission - Sumit Mukherjee
8. Ethics Commission - Monica Jajoo
9. BFI Technical Development Committee - S. Sundarram
10. Directors Accreditation Committee - Keshav Mathur
11. Systems Policy Committee - Sudhir Aggarwal
12. Event Format and Conditions of Contest (COC) Committee - S. Sundarram
13. Internal Complaints Committee - Monica Jajoo
14. Junior Development Committee - Anil Padhye
15. Women & Girls Development Committee - Monica Jajoo
16. Vishaka Committee - Monica Jajoo
17. Directors Accreditation Committee - Keshav Mathur
18. Media and Publicity Committee - Keshav Mathur
19. Education, Promotion and Teaching Committee - Anil Padhye
20. Purchase Committee - Keshav Mathur



Annual Bridge Calendar

2024 - January to December					
Month	From	To	Tournament Name	Status of Event	Tournament Status
Jan	03-Jan	09-Jan	65Th Winter Nationals, Jabalpur	Ranking	Confirmed
	26-Jan	28-Jan	Willingdon Annual Swiss Pairs, Mumbai	Category B	Confirmed
Feb	01-Feb	04-Feb	Madras Gymkhana Club, Chennai	Category B	Confirmed
	15-Feb	18-Feb	Tolani Centenary Masters & Non Masters, Nagpur	Ranking	Confirmed
	23-Feb	25-Feb	Padamapat Singhania Inv Pairs, Khanpur	Category B	Confirmed
Mar	29-Feb	2-Mar	Qualifying Event For Mixed And Women	Ranking	Confirmed
	09-Mar	11-Mar	FNCC, Hyderabad	Category B	Confirmed
	14-Mar	24-Mar	NABC Spring		
	26-Mar	27-Mar	Vijya Jajoo Memorial Mixed National Championship	Ranking	Confirmed
	28-Mar	31-Mar	Bhartia Memorial, ITC Dwarka, Delhi	Ranking	Confirmed
Apr	07-Apr	10-Apr	Juniors Coaching Camp, Kolkata		proposed
	11-Apr	14-Apr	Shree Cement National Championships, Kolkata	Ranking	Confirmed
May	1-May	7-May	Selection Trials For Men Event	Ranking	Confirmed
	8-May	12-May	Selection Trials For Mixed Event	Ranking	Confirmed
	13-May	16-May	Selection Trials For Mixed Event	Ranking	Confirmed
	23-May	27-May	Juniors National Championships	Ranking	Confirmed
	28-May	31-May	Juniors Coaching Camp	Ranking	Confirmed
Jun	05-Jun	6-Jun	Women Pairs	Ranking	Confirmed
	07-Jun	8-Jun	Mixed Pairs	Ranking	Confirmed
	09-Jun	14-Jun	Mavericks Summer Nationals	Ranking	Confirmed
Jul	04-Jul	07-Jul	Corbett National Park	Category B	Confirmed
	18-Jul	28-Jul	NABC Summer		Confirmed
	19-Jul	21-Jul	Goa Bridge Festival	Category B	Confirmed
	13-Jul	18-Jul	World Youth Transnational Bridge Championships		Confirmed
Aug	02-Aug	04-Aug	All India Himachal Open Bridge Championship, Solan	Category B	Confirmed
	09-Aug	11-Aug	Gondwana Club All India Bridge Championship, Nagpur	Category B	Confirmed
	15-Aug	18-Aug	Mavericks Premier League		Confirmed
	28-Aug	31-Aug	Shree Cement Interstate National Championships, Goa	Ranking	Confirmed



Annual Bridge Calendar

Month	From	To	Tournament Name	Status of Event	Tournament Status
Sep	31-Aug	2nd Sep	Secunderabad Club	Category B	Confirmed
	14-Sep	21st Sep	21St HCL International	Ranking	Confirmed
Oct	03-Oct	06-Oct	All India Shri Ajay Kumar Goel Memorial Bridge Tournament	Category B	Confirmed
	16-Oct	3-Nov	World Bridge Games, South America		Confirmed
	25-Oct	27-Oct	South Zone Championships, Trivandrum	Category B	Confirmed
	03-Oct	06-Oct	Kr Ajay Goel Memorial	Category B	Confirmed
Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov	Prime Women Event	Ranking	Confirmed
	13-Nov	16-Nov	Prime Mixed National Event	Ranking	Confirmed
	08-Nov	10-Nov	East Zone Championships, Kolkata	Category B	Confirmed
Dec	08-Dec	18-Dec	66Th Winter Nationals, Pune	Ranking	Confirmed

2025 - January to March

Month	From	To	Tournament Name	Status of Event	Tournament Status
Jan	16-Jan	20-Jan	Madras Gymkhana Club, Chennai	Category B	Confirmed
	24-Jan	26-Jan	Willingdon Annual Swiss Pairs, Mumbai	Category B	proposed
	09-Jan	12-Jan	Holkar Indore	Ranking	proposed
Feb			Vijya Jajoo Memorial Mixed National Championship	Ranking	proposed
	08-Feb	11-Feb	Tolani Centenary Masters & Non Masters, Nagpur	Ranking	proposed
	21-Feb	23-Feb	Padampat Singhania Inv Pairs, Khanpur	Category B	Confirmed
	27-Feb	02-Mar	Kr. Murli Manohar Memorial Bridge Championship, Bareilly	Category B	Confirmed
Mar	TBA	TBA	Selection Trials For 2025 World Championship	Ranking	proposed
	TBA	TBA	Bhartia Memorial, ITC Dwarka, Delhi	Ranking	proposed



Acknowledgements

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to our former president, Mr. Sutanu Behuria, and our former Hon. Secretary, Mr. C.M. Kulkarni, for their outstanding efforts in advancing the development of Indian bridge. Their contributions have laid a strong foundation for the progress we continue to build upon today.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India and the Sports Authority of India, for their unwavering support in promoting and developing bridge at both the national and international levels. Your commitment has been crucial to our success, and we are deeply grateful.

The BFI extends its deepest gratitude to all the sponsors who have generously contributed to our bridge tournaments, education and training programs. As a sport recognized as a national priority by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, bridge has benefited from CSR contributions, which have been instrumental in promoting junior development and educational initiatives. Your support has been invaluable, and we are truly thankful.

Moving forward, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our current president, Mr. Prasad Keni, for his invaluable assistance and generous support. Last but not the least, I am profoundly grateful to our BFI communication manager Srinivasan Iyengar whose contributions and commitment have been truly commendable.

Thank you all for your recognition and support.

Best Regards,
Mr. Debasish Ray
Hon. Gen. Secretary
Bridge Federation of India

