

## Youngsters shine at epilepsy day celebrations in the city

**GAME** People came from outside the city to participate in chess and carom championships

Rishma Kapur

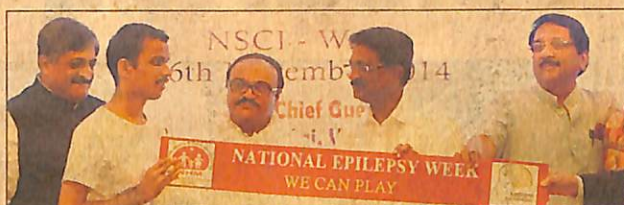
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**MUMBAI:** For Annadurei Chakraborty, 25, it was the first time that he travelled in

a train. A priest from Chennai, Chakraborty took part in and won the chess competition, organised by the National Rural Health Mission and National Sports Club of India to celebrate the National Epilepsy Week on Saturday at NSCI, Worli.

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder, which is characterised by epileptic seizures. This happens when the nerve cell activity in the brain is disturbed.

Four main sport events,



■ Devashish Bhaindarker, an epilepsy patient, receives the award for academic excellence from NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal on Sunday.

KALPAK PATHAK / HT PHOTO

chess, table tennis, badminton and carom, were organised for those suffering from epilepsy. The competition saw participation from all over the country.

Dr Nirmal Surya, chairman, Epilepsy Foundation, said, "People do not realise how talented people with epilepsy can be. Feedback from people was so inspiring these last two days."

Hindustan Times staffer Mahesh Pawar won an award for social service and outstanding contribution in creating awareness about the cause.

Thane resident Rohit Palshikar, 21, won the table tennis tournament. "I had

stopped playing five years back. Participating in this competition was a last-minute decision. I am happy that I won," said Palshikar.

Palshikar's mother, equally proud of his victory, said, "He is not only interested in sports, but also music. He plays the harmonium and tabla and even composes songs and wants to pursue theatre."

The events are held every year to showcase talent and to engage those with epilepsy in various activities. A workshop for consultants was also held to educate them on myths about the disorder and to inform them on latest treatments.

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## Doctors, epilepsy patients to take part

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**MUMBAI:** Around 200 people — including doctors and patients — from the Epilepsy Foundation will run for full and half marathons at the 12th edition of Mumbai Marathon on Sunday.

Dr Nirmal Surya, founding trustee of Epilepsy Foundation, said, "This is our fifth year at the Mumbai

Marathon. We want to spread awareness about the fact that people suffering from epilepsy can be cured with proper medication. They often go through severe depression. We have set up cheer zones for them during the marathon, in which few artists will entertain and encourage them to complete the event."

Eight doctors and 12 patients of Epilepsy will

run for full marathon, while 28 participants are running the half marathon, of which 15 runners are from Indore.

Surya said: "It is important that epilepsy patients participate in main events such as full and half marathon instead of dream run. Through this, they will develop a feeling that they are no different from others and they can achieve what others can do."