



# Checkmate

The NIIT MindChampions Academy was the first to discover the correlation between chess and academic excellence. Then Vishy made a smart move

The NIIT MindChampions Academy (MCA) is a joint initiative between NIIT and Grand Master Viswanathan Anand. The main objective of this not-for-profit is to promote the game of chess amongst schoolchildren.

"While chess is a part of everyday life in some parts of South India, there are still many students who would not get the chance to learn and play this game. We set up the MCA hoping to let everyone enjoy the benefits of chess. The most important of which is the role that chess plays in enhancing the logical, visual, memory, analytical and

concentration skills of students," says Anand. Today the MCA has helped over 1.5 million children in 16,600 schools across India learn the basics of playing chess. Transforming this learning into healthy competition, the organisation has also set up 15,000 tournaments in the last ten years.

Any Indian school is free to integrate the MCA chess programme in their curriculum. Software training will be provided to teachers. Anand also personally pays a visit to various schools in order to motivate students to keep on playing and answer doubts.

## SWEET SUCCESS

**3,454**

students reported an improvement in their math scores after having played chess for a year

**2,187**

MCA participants stated that they enjoyed a game of chess during their free time at home

**92%**

children who play chess in school feel that they are now more intuitive in decision-making