

Make chess part of curriculum: Anand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: United Karnataka Chess Association's proposal to the state government to include chess in school curriculum got full support from Viswanathan Anand on Sunday after the world champion opined that such a positive move would be a boost to the future of chess in the state.

"Studies have shown that children who play chess tend to do well in academics. Their ability to solve problems, take decisions and mental skills

KING OF HEARTS

improve. A couple of hours of chess a week as a hobby are more than enough to encourage children to learn and excel in the game. So I think it's very important that chess gets a place in school curriculum and hope Karnataka will



FAN FOLLOWING: World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand interacts with a fan in Bangalore on Sunday

join in as well," Anand said.

The 42-year-old Grandmaster further said he would

be again skipping the Chess Olympiad in Turkey next month due to its 'unpredict-

able' format. Anand will next play in the Chess Masters Final in Spain in September, followed by London Chess Classic (December) and the TATA Steel tournament in Holland (January 2013).

On a lighter note, when asked if he wanted his one-year-old son Akhil to be chess player, Anand quipped, "At the moment it's too early. But maybe in a couple of years I will put a chess board in front of him and see how he reacts. If he's interested, I will teach him. Let's hope I am lucky!"

HAT-TRICK FOR TCS

Tata Consultancy Services clinched the Team Championship for the third time in a row in the NIIT National Corporate Chess Championship. Infosys, Chennai 'A' finished second while its Bangalore team ended up third.

K Sunil Prasad