

## DNA, Bangalore

December 21, 2009

### Anand expecting tough fight

**DNA Correspondent**  
BANGALORE

India's pride and world champion Viswanathan Anand is confident about his chances when he takes on Bulgarian challenger Veselin Topalov in the World Chess Championship in April/ May next year. "I am preparing well for the 2010 World Championship. The matches should all be even and hard-fought. Topalov is more aggressive than Vladimir Kramnik," he said on the sidelines of a corporate chess event organised by NIIT. "It is difficult to top 2007 and 2008 but 2009 was not terrible. My focus will be on the 2010 World Championship."

The championship was originally scheduled to be held in Chennai but was shifted to Sofia, Bulgaria. Asked if it mattered, Anand said: "I am ready to play anywhere. It is upto the world federation where they decide to have the matches."

The prize fund for the World Championship is two million euros. Regarding that he said: "I have no complaint. Even if the prize money is more, I will still have no complaint."

India is now firmly established as one of the top chess playing countries and the popularity of

the game continues to grow in India. "The future of chess in India is bright," he said, while adding he has no plans of retiring right now.

Asked about the low number of women players, he said: "There is no real explanation for the gender gap in chess. The number of girls present in chess is low. More girls must take it up and it will grow." To another question, he replied that physical fitness plays a small role but not very important.

During the programme, there was an interactive session during which Anand took questions from players, parents and the media. He later played combined chess with several players.

#### TCS win

In the corporate tournament, TCS won the team title, while Vedant Goswami won the individual title.

#### Results

**Team:** 1. TCS, 2. Infosys, 3. Wipro.

**Individual:** 1. Vedant Goswami (TPI Ad Services), 2. Prateek Sengupta (TCS), 3. Sumit Singhmausil (Mobiledevz).

**Leela Biswas award for most promising woman player of championship:** Ishika (Infosys).



A file picture of Anand

## Indian Express Bangalore

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# Anand fetes NIIT MindChampions

**Express News Service**  
Bangalore, December 19

THE winners of the NIIT MindChampions Academy were felicitated by Vishwanathan Anand at the Delhi Public School-South in Bangalore on Saturday.

MindChampions, launched in 2002, is a joint initiative by NIIT and World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand, to promote chess among the younger genera-



Vishwanathan Anand signing a book for a girl in Bangalore on Saturday.

tion. Anand said chess needed to be considered as a creative sport. Sudha Murthy, chairperson of Infosys Foundation, said one should try to play all games.

Gautham S of Geetanjali Vidyalaya, Bangalore and Jagu Rajesh of Zilla Parishad High School, Chebrolu East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh were adjudged winners of South Zone Finals of the NIIT MindChampions Academy-Chess Master-2009.