

Hitavada, Nagpur

December 24, 2009

Anand mum about plans for world championship

NEW DELHI, Dec 23 (PTI)

VISWANATHAN Anand doesn't want the world, Veselin Topalov to be precise, to know how he is planning his title defence in next year's World Chess Championship and remained tight-lipped about his team of seconds.

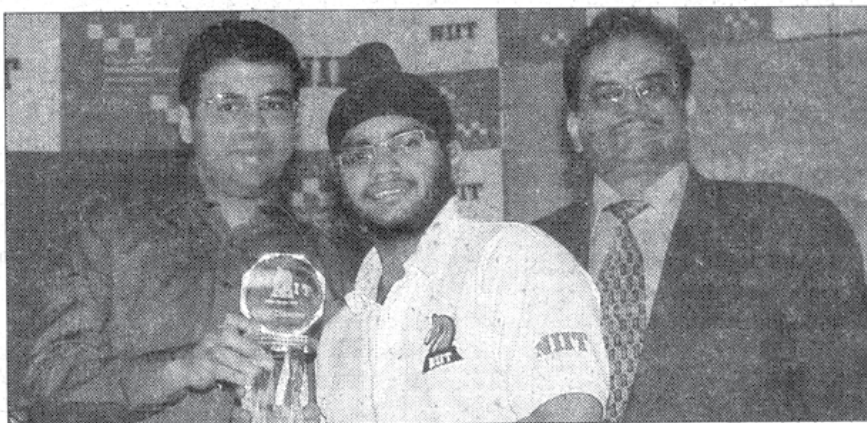
Keeping his cards close to his chest, the otherwise genial orator Anand refused to succumb to queries on his support staff, letting out just one name.

"I can tell you the name of (Peter Heine)

Nielsen (of Denmark) but would not name anybody else," Anand said with an impish smile.

"And even if I give it, my opponent would not believe it," quipped the Indian who became world champion in 2007 and successfully defended the title next year, beating Russian Grandmaster Vladimir Kramnik in Bonn, Germany.

Once again, the affable Indian will defend his title in Sophia, Bulgaria from April 5 next year over a 12-game contest with local favourite Topalov.



Viswanathan Anand gives away Mind Champions Academy North Zone 2009 award in New Delhi. (UNI)

The Times of India, Bangalore

December 21, 2009

Topalov is more aggressive than Kramnik: Anand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: A large number of IT professionals, accompanied by their friends and families, from the city thronged the Karnataka State Cricket Association hall at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday. They did not come to watch any cricket match or catch a glimpse of Rahul Dravid who went through his paces in the morning, but instead had come to meet world chess champion Viswanathan Anand. And if possible, play a game of chess with him.

They queued up in front of Anand and requested him to sign autographs after he had finished his interaction with the media on the sidelines of the NIIT corporate chess tournament. The 40-year-old world champion duly obliged them and also played simultaneous chess with the top 20 finishers.

During the media interaction, Anand, who has begun his preparation to retain the World title against Veselin Topalov in April next year, spoke on a variety of topics. *Excerpts:*

On his major assignments in 2010: Of course, the World Chess Championships

(WCC) in Sofia, Bulgaria, is the biggest challenge. But before that I will compete in the Corus chess tournament in Wijk Aan Zee.

On his rival Veselin Topalov: Topalov is more aggressive than Vladimir Kramnik whom I beat in Bonn in 2008 to clinch the world title for the second time.

On WCC: It would be a keenly fought affair. My preparation has already begun. I will decide on my team of seconds later, may be after the Corus tournament.

On India missing out on the WCC event: A player should be ready to play chess anywhere in the world. It is up to the chess body



MASTER SPEAKS: Viswanathan Anand

to decide on the venues. I have no problem at all, in playing in Sofia.

On the fat prize money on offer (approximately Rs 14 crore): I don't have any complaints (laughs).

On his performance in 2009: It was definitely a bad year for me. I am now working to rectify those mistakes that did me in. I think everything will be fine before the WCC.

On All India Chess Federation's handling of the Koneru Humpy issue: Although I don't know the details, I think the AICF has settled the Humpy issue amicably.

On the newly formed Chess Association of India (CAI) and their prize money tour-

nament in Delhi later this month: I don't know anything about the association and the tournament.

Future of chess in India: It is very bright. You can see a lot of people taking to the game seriously and obviously it will increase the quality of the game.

On the gender inequality in the game: Participation of women is less, but it is difficult to give an explanation for the gender inequality. The only way we can overcome this issue is to encourage the participation of more women players.

Vedant is champion

Vedant Goswamy of TPI Ad Services emerged champion (8.5 points) in the NIIT corporate chess championships in Bangalore on Sunday. Pratik Sengupta (TCS, 8.5 points) finished second while Suneet Singhmausil (Mobiledevz, 8) took the third spot. In the team event, TCS (25 points) won the title followed by Infosys (18) and Wipro (17).