

Anand interacts with NIIT ambassadors



Viswanathan Anand.

— FILE PHOTO

CHENNAI: Reigning World chess champion Viswanathan Anand, who finished fifth in the recently concluded London Chess Classic, said on Thursday that his dip in form this year is something he wants to leave behind.

“This is something I want to put behind me. My focus now is on the World Championship in May. Boris (Gelfand) and I have played a lot against each other since 1989, but that doesn’t mean I will be complacent. He’ll probably have new strategies and I’ll have to work my way around them.”

Interacting with ‘Ambassadors of NIIT’ — a bunch of 38 college students selected for entrepreneurial grooming — the 42-year-old shared how chess had honed him into becoming a thorough professional.

“Chess teaches certain things that can be applied to life. Even at school, those who play chess tend to do better academically. The obvious ways in which it helps are memory and concentration. It also helps in developing decision-making skills,” Anand said.

The NIIT Mind Champion said he’d be thrilled were he to be conferred with the Bharat Ratna. “I would not lobby for it, but it would be incredible if I were to get it. It’s great that sportspersons are now being considered for this honour.”

Unnikrishnan K. Raghavan, Zonal Manager, NIIT and Senthil Muthukumaran, Regional Head (Chennai), NIIT, were also present. — Principal Correspondent