

# MAKING MATHS A FUN SUBJECT

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**NEW DELHI:** Here's good news for students who are frightened by the sight of numbers, or for teachers and school heads hoping to turn such encounters into pleasant experiences for the former.

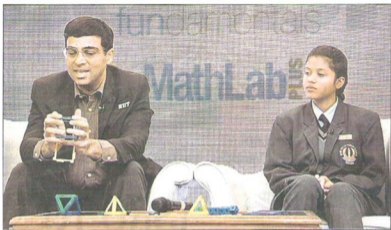
HT-Pace, the Hindustan Times Newspaper in Education initiative, in collaboration with NIIT, a global leader in skills and talent development, organised an event on Saturday to unveil the findings of a study conducted by latter in 34 schools across 11 states in the country. The study touches upon the qualitative and quantitative impact of Math labs on the performance of students.

The event also informed principals and teachers from about 150 schools across the city about MathLab Plus, NIIT's curriculum-based initiative that aims to make the study of Mathematics a simpler and fun-filled one.

The findings of the NIIT study, presented by chess Grandmaster and former world champion Viswanathan Anand, establishes a direct correlation between proficiency in this subject enabled through MathLab Plus, which benefits about 6 lakh students in 1,500 schools across India.

"Over 8,000 teachers are using it to make Maths more interesting and fun for students," said Prateek Chatterjee, vice-president, communications and marketing, NIIT Ltd. An enactment highlighting the importance of Maths in everyday life, and a discussion comprising teachers, students and parents as well as Anand that touched upon issues including Maths anxiety, followed.

Articulating his belief that any lesson learnt enjoyably leads to better results,



■ Former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand uses 3D tools to demonstrate the importance of making numerical concepts fun to understand, at an event organised by HT-Pace in collaboration with NIIT, on Saturday

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Anand said: "You do not have to just absorb a concept, you have to maintain it until it becomes a reflex. This can be achieved only when it is made fun and interesting."

"We do not have a Math lab yet due to space constraints. Soon, we plan to have two labs, one each for the junior and senior students, by next year," said Geeta Kapoor, HOD (Maths), Bhartiya Vidya Bhawan, KG Marg.

Blue Bells Model School, Sector-4, Gurgaon, has had a Math lab since 2004. Since last year, the school has replaced it with NIIT's MathLab Plus, in which the students of Classes 3 to 10 learn numerical concepts in an engaging way.

"Earlier, our visits to the Math lab were uninteresting," said Saloni Chhabra, a Class 10 student of the school.

"Now we study Maths with the help of screens, projectors and 3D shapes, which has reduced the workload tremendously. The lab is so wonderful that we have a good time while learning something new," said Aditi Dudeja, a Class 10 student of Blue Bells.

"This new approach helps us understand the concepts better by allowing us to apply them practically. Our motive now is not just to complete the task and get marks, but to enjoy the topic," added Saloni.