

Anand felicitates young champions

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WORLD chess champion Viswanathan Anand felicitated the winners of the South Zone NIIT Mind Champions Academy—Chess Masters competition final at the Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School on Monday. The winners will represent South Zone in the national finals slated for January 17 in New Delhi.

While S Goutham of Karnataka and C Spandana of Andhra Pradesh topped the zone, Andhra Pradesh's Srinivas Varma came runner-up in the championship vied by 4,280 students from 794 government

and private schools from four states.

The topper from each state then tussled for the zonal championship.

Congratulating the young champions, Anand said: "It is a proud feeling to see these youngsters actively take part in the championship. I am confident that this will help them in their academics as well.

"Also, it is heartening to see that the NIIT Mind Champions Academy has reached a huge number of children across the country to initiate them to chess. This is a good sign for the game's development in the country and hopefully India will become all the more powerful in chess," he said.



World champion Viswanathan Anand plays with young champions in Chennai on Monday