

NIIT IN THE NEWS

October - December 2013

All cities

Tata-led Neotel, NIIT in educational partnership in South Africa

THE PARTNERSHIP, WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED AT THE RECENT BRICS SUMMIT IN DURBAN

JOHANNESBURG: The Tata-led Neotel telecoms consortium in South Africa has teamed up with the NIIT and a South African community centre network to boost IT skills capacity in the African country. The partnership, which was first announced at the recent BRICS summit in Durban, was officially launched at Neotel's head office.

"We are trying to address one of the most significant socio-economic issues in South Africa, which is education," said Suresh Joshi, managing director of Neotel.

"NIIT brings the skills and the content and the capability necessary, along with our infrastructure, to provide meaningful services," he said.

Joshi said the programme would initially be rolled out in Gauteng province, the economic hub of South Africa, and expanded to the rest of the country after assessment and any corrective changes that might be necessary.

"Our partnership now with Neotel Community Training Centres helps us take it to the communities where it will become possible for communities to leverage global education, as well as content and curriculum which are established and will give back to the communities and to South Africa," he said.

Neotel's commitment to developing skills in South Africa was part of Tata's principles of always giving back to the communities in which it operated.

Rakesh Mehta, vice president of National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) and head of its South African branch, said the new partnership was part of the company's aim of developing people across the globe.

"This partnership will help build a pool of skills among South Africans that can then take up the challenge of assignments from all over the world," Mehta said.

Ahmed Ismail, who started the NIIT SpazaMall several years ago, said the initiative had been welcomed by local government officials across the country to the extent that they were regularly opening community training centres to provide ICT training opportunities to low or unprivileged communities.

"The announced programmes of NIIT, coupled with the broad-based reach of Neotel across the country, will make these quality educational initiatives even more accessible to these communities," Ismail said.

NIIT sticks with Anand

New Delhi, Nov. 25

His failure to defend the world title notwithstanding, Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand will continue to be the brand ambassador of education institute NIIT. Anand, a five-time world champion, lost the crown to Norwegian prodigy Magnus Carlsen last week in the match conducted in Chennai. The setback triggered speculation that Anand would be dropped as brand ambassador of NIIT, a brand he has promoted for quite a few years. But NIIT Chairman Rajendra S Pawar said the iconic Grandmaster would remain on board. "We salute Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, for placing India prominently on the world chess map. A true sporting legend and a national hero, Anand continues to inspire young Indians to embrace the game of chess," he said in a statement. — PTI



Viswanathan Anand

NIIT University announces the launch of MS Centre

The not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) has announced the launch of a Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC) on its campus in Neemrana near Delhi. A collaboration agreement was signed last week to formalise the partnership between Microsoft and NU in the presence of Vijay Thadani, co-founder, NU; Rajendra Pandey, president, NU; and Bhaskar Pramanik, chairman, Microsoft India. Under this agreement, Microsoft will collaborate with NU to facilitate setting up MIC with an aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst university students, by helping them apply their knowledge and technological know-how to real life problems and thus open employment and entrepreneurship avenues for the students.

NIIT to add 100 more by 2015

Press Trust of India

IT training firm NIIT Ltd said it plans to expand its education centres to 700 from the present 600 by 2015. Besides the expansion, it was also upgrading all its centres as 'Cloud Campus' which would enable students to get hands-on practices through lab exercises in machine rooms and NIIT Centres, NIIT Vice-President E Venkatesan told reporters here.

NIIT Cloud Campus has an innovative 'anywhere lab' feature, which enabled students to practice application of concepts learnt in class, from anywhere, while chatting with experts to seek answers to their queries, he said.

Stating that NIIT has tied up with ICICI Bank, for providing the required trained staff and Indian Institutes of Management for developing curriculum, he said that even it was willing to provide need-based coaching for corporates, with a minimum of 25 to 30 employees.

Last year NIIT had a placement of 20,000 and this year would increase by 5,000, particularly in IT and Banking.

NIIT profit rebounds in Q2

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Oct. 18

IT education provider NIIT Ltd has bounced back with a consolidated net profit of Rs 12 crore during the second quarter ended September 30, 2013, after posting a net loss of Rs 9.4 crore during the sequential quarter of the current fiscal.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 16 crore during the second quarter of the previous fiscal.

However, its net revenues took a slight hit (of 5.9 per cent) during the September quarter at Rs 202.4 crore, against Rs 213.1 crore during the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

Revenues from Corporate Learning Solutions division rose by 32 per cent to Rs 99.3 crore, while the Career Building Solutions division recorded net revenues of Rs 126.9 crore.

The company attributed this to high enrolment of over 13,800, in its cloud-enabled programmes.

Vijay K. Thadani, Chief Executive Officer, NIIT Ltd, said "Our focus on managed training services as one of the four growth platforms, established corporate learning business to achieve a growth of 32 per cent, signalling a strong return, and a growth of 32 per cent, signalling a strong return, and a growth of 32 per cent, signalling a strong return."

The company's cloud computing initiative has now expanded to cover 75 courses and 209 centres with a cumulative enrolment of over 47,000 students.

The 12th Edition of INFOCOM 2013 honours the 'INFOCOM 12 IT Gems of India'



Programme in Business Analytics

NIIT recently announced an edge program in Business Analytics. Given the large amounts of data generated every single across hardware, software and services. The study also estimates a five-year compounded growth of 16 per cent for the Indian analytics market. NASSI estimated that

NIIT launches website to wish Anand

CHENNAI: Leading IT training centre NIIT Limited on Tuesday unveiled #Wish4Vishy.com, a national movement to enable every Indian to cheer for the reigning World chess champion and NIIT Mind champion Viswanathan Anand as he prepares to take on challenger, world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, in the World championship to be held between Nov. 7 to 28 here.

www.wish4vishy.com offers a unique opportunity for every Indian to offer their wishes before the World championship. Fans stand a chance to win free

NIIT celebrates World Computer Day

JAMMULU, Dec 2: NIIT not only led to opening of many new channels for providing quality computer education but also ignited the fire entrepreneurship across the country.

In a nation which shaped the careers of tens of thousands of graduates in India. Continuing its tradition of innovations, it diversified into various other sectors such as banking, finance and insurance, professional life skills, BPO, executive management education and ICT solutions of schools, NIIT Franchisees.

Rahul Sharma Director of NIIT Franchisees said on this occasion that the company was one of the biggest players in the market.

IT Minister AL Bhatt felicitates one of the toppers during the NIIT Convocation ceremony in the city on Wednesday. (ST)

By Our Reporter

एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी ने 100 प्रतिशत छात्रों को नौकरी दिलाने का रिकॉर्ड कायम किया



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Certificates awarded in skill training by MC



MC Commissioner V P Singh and others after distributing certificates to urban poor youth who completed NIIT Yuva Jyoti programme under SJSRY, in Sector 31 of Chandigarh on Friday. SANTANSHU SHARMA

DP CORRESPONDENT
Chandigarh

Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vivek Pratap Singh and his wife Archana Verma Singh distributed passing out certificates to all the urban poor youth who completed specialised skill training at NIIT Yuva Jyoti Ltd in PHD House, Sector 31 in a convocation ceremony of urban poor youth being trained in Retail, Sales and Marketing (Showroom and Fast-food Retail) organised under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY).

In his address, the commissioner said that the Poverty Alleviation Cell was committed to achieve the national targets under SJS-

RY and ensured that SJSRY would come up with latest and trendy employment linked programmes in the upcoming time.

Municipal Corporation Joint Commissioner Rajiv Kumar Gupta said that in future, SJSRY would cover the new sets of Skill Training Programme in the sectors of IT and ITes; retails, sales and marketing; tourism, travel, hospitality and trade; media and entertainment; technical and services sector.

Hriday Saraswat from NIIT Yuva Jyoti Ltd informed that in the training programme, 100 poor youth from slums and rehabilitated areas including Hallomajra, Sector 26, Sector 56, Ram Darbar and Colony No 4 had success-

fully completed the professional skill course.

All the beneficiaries were provided a training kit comprising of quality and standard teaching material, bag, inclusive of stipend money Rs 1,000 per beneficiary. In the entire training programme, 44 girls and 56 boys are among 100 beneficiaries. These include 28 from scheduled caste, 8 from backward classes, 1 from disabled. As far as placement is concerned, NIIT Yuva Jyoti has placed 75 per cent of the total beneficiaries in the tricity based corporate showrooms and branded business ventures. The highest salary touched is Rs 10,000 per month with an average salary of Rs 6,500.

Daily Post, Chandigarh, October 5, 2013



NIIT to add 100 more by 2015

Press Trust of India

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students to practice application of concepts learnt in class, from anywhere, while chatting with experts to seek answers to their queries, he said.

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Hindustan Times (Edge), New Delhi, October 16, 2013

NIIT profit rebounds in Q2

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Oct. 18

IT education provider NIIT Ltd has bounced back with a consolidated net profit of Rs 12 crore during the second quarter of the current fiscal.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 11.6 crore during the second quarter of the previous fiscal.

However, its net revenues took a slight hit (of 5.9 per

cent) during the September quarter at Rs 262.4 crore, against Rs 279.1 crore during the same quarter of the previous fiscal.

Revenues from the Corporate Learning Solutions division rose by 32 per cent to Rs 99.3 crore, while the Career Building Solutions division recorded net revenues of Rs 126.9 crore.

The company attributed this to high enrolment, of over 13,800, in its cloud-enabled programmes.

Vijay K. Thadani, Chief Executive Officer, NIIT Ltd, said "Our focus on managed training services as one of the four growth platforms, enabled corporate learning business to achieve a growth of 32 per cent, signalling a strong enterprise demand for the offering."

The company's cloud campus initiative has now expanded to cover 78 courses and 209 centres with a cumulative enrolment of over 47,000 students.

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Hindu Business Line, Hyderabad, October 19, 2013



NIIT Tech Q2 profit rises 44%

Our Bureau

New Delhi, Oct. 15

Information technology solutions provider NIIT Technologies expects its business to improve in the coming quarters as the economic environment in the West it believes is improving.

"Environment in the US is improving and Euro Zone, which was a bit tough may improve in the coming months, with likely re-election of Angela Merkel as the Chancellor (of Germany)," Arvind Thakur, Chief Executive Officer and Joint Managing Director, NIIT Technologies, told reporters here.

He said markets such as West Asia and Africa are also expected to get better in near future in travel and transportation sectors – the segments where NIIT Technologies focuses. However, the shares from domestic market will shrink owing to

NIIT Tech			
	July-Sept 2013	July-Sept 2012	Change (%)
Revenues	587.3	500.1	17.4
Gross profit	198	179.8	10.1
Net profit	62.4	43.1	44.7
EPS (in Rs)	10.33	7.18	43.9

OUTLOOK Environment in the US is improving. West Asia and Africa are also expected to get better in near future.

more focus on the international markets. The domestic market contributed 16 per cent of the company's revenue in July-September quarter, which may go down to around 10 per cent.

The company reported a net profit of Rs 62.4 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, up 45 per cent from the same period last year. Its consolidated revenue also grew 17.4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 587.3 crore. "We experienced robust growth in the US with business expanding by 15 per cent se-

quentially during the quarter," Thakur said. The contribution from the US increased to 41 per cent from 38 per cent last year to the total revenue. However, revenues from Europe, West Asia and Africa decreased to 36 per cent from 39 per cent last year.

Among industry segments, travel and transportation contributed to 37 per cent, banking, financial, services and insurance was 33 per cent, and manufacturing/distribution contributed to six per cent to the revenue mix, the company said. Fresh or-

ders of \$84 million were secured during the quarter leading to \$248-million worth of orders executable over the next 12 months, the company said.

Its headcount reduced by 190 people, and the staff strength stood at 8,017 at the end of the quarter. However, the utilisation improved to 80.3 per cent from 77.3 per cent from the previous quarter, while the attrition remained at 12.4 per cent, Thakur said.

NEW COO

The company also created a new position of Chief Operating Officer and inducted Sudhir Chaturvedi into the role, who will be based in the UK and will look after global sales and delivery for software and business services, Thakur added.

Its shares closed at Rs 288.50 on the BSE, down 2.89 per cent from the previous close.

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Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, October 16, 2013



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"We are trying to address one of the most significant socio-economic issues in South Africa, which is education," said Sunil Joshi, managing director of Neotel.

"NIIT brings the skills and the content and the capabil-

ity necessary, along with our infrastructure, to provide meaningful services", he said.

Joshi said the programme would initially be rolled out in Gauteng province, the economic hub of South Africa, and expanded to the rest of the country after assessment and any corrective changes that might be necessary.

"Our partnership now with Siyafunda Community Training Centres helps us take it to the communities where it will become possible for communities to leverage global education, as well as courses and curriculums which are established

and will give back to the communities and to South Africa," he said. Joshi said Neotel's commitment to developing skills in South Africa was part of Tata's principles of always giving back to the communities in which it operated.

Rakesh Misri, vice president of National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) and head of its South African branch, said the new partnership was part of his company's aim of developing people across the globe.

"This partnership will help build a pool of skills among South Africans that can then take up the challenge of

assignments from all over the world," Misri said.

Ahmed Ismail, who started the NGO Siyafunda several years ago, said the initiative had been welcomed by local government agencies across the country to the extent that they were regularly opening community training centres to provide ICT training opportunities at low or subsidised cost for underprivileged communities.

"The renowned programmes of NIIT, coupled with the broadband reach of Neotel across the country, will make these quality educational initiatives even more accessible to these communities," Ismail said. PTI

Pioneer, Lucknow, September 24, 2013



M'laya Govt sponsored IT students pass out

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

Shillong: Department of Information Technology, Government of Meghalaya in association with NIIT, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, on Wednesday felicitated students from across Meghalaya who successfully cleared NIIT's cutting-edge certification programs as part of 'Sponsored IT program of Department of Information Technology, over the last one year.

Speaking on the occasion as the chief guest, state IT minister AL Hek said, "The training program was conceptualized with the objective to enhance the employability of youth in Meghalaya. With NIIT's proven expertise in training delivery, this initiative will help us to develop industry-ready professionals who will contribute significantly towards the development of IT sector in Meghalaya."

The project is an initiative of Department of Information Technology, Government of Meghalaya, and NIIT to enhance employability of youth in Meghalaya. During the last one year, over 1300 youth from the State have successfully completed select programs under this project and have been awarded certificates from NIIT.

The students were trained in NIIT's cutting-edge programs such as Diploma in Finance & Accounting; Diploma in Business Systems & Information Man-



agement; INFOEDGE + Tally, and Network +. Successful and eligible candidates have been placed in leading corporate across India like WIPRO, HSBC, Accenture, Airtel, TATA Indicom, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Capital, S.S. Netcom, NEXT Education, Hyundai, Centre Point, Regetta Farms, RNB Cement etc.

At present, Meghalaya has a state-of-art NIIT centre at Shillong with internationally certified faculty who work towards creating a pool of industry ready professionals in the state. NIIT's selected career development programs also equip students with hands-on professional practice with a year-long internship that gives them an opportunity to work with leading IT organizations.

Eastern Chronicle, New Delhi, September 26, 2013



NIIT students felicitated



IT Minister AL Hek felicitates one of the toppers during the NIIT Convocation ceremony in the city on Wednesday. (ST)

By Our Reporter

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Chief Guest AL Hek, Minister for Information Technology felicitated the students.

Shillong Times, Shillong, September 27, 2013



INDIA INC: COMMITTED TO AFRICA

What is your view on the future of Indo-Africa trade relations in general in the coming years, and how improving trade relations can benefit both economies?



To me, India and Africa are natural allies and their partnership adds immense value to South-South economic cooperation. I am confident that the economic engagement between the two partners will deepen further in the years to come and contribute to the well-being of their respective populations.

— Sunil Bharti Mittal
Chairman and Group CEO, Bharti Enterprises and Co-Chair, India-Africa Business Council

The regulatory framework in Africa is highly conducive for business. I feel that business in Africa is highly sustainable, profitable and offers great potential for growth, as can be seen from the Dabur example. And so, further improving trade relations between India and Africa can benefit both economies.

— Amit Burman, Vice Chairman, Dabur India



Africa's potential will reward commitment, engagement and a right business model. There is a very real opportunity for the pharmaceutical industry in Africa. This will require long-term commitment and willingness to navigate the complexities and the investment to build the path to market. We are committed to it.

— Arun Sawhney, CEO and MD, Ranbaxy Laboratories

The Indo-Africa partnership has gathered unprecedented momentum in the last few years. The bilateral trade between India and Africa has crossed the US\$ 46 billion mark and expected to achieve US\$ 70 billion in bilateral trade by the year 2015.

India is one of the leading investors in African countries. The Indian investments, made in joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries, touch the US\$ 34 billion mark and cover diverse sectors like oil & gas, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, IT, fertilisers and infrastructure among others. Africa has emerged as India's sixth largest trading partner, and the number will grow exponentially in the near future.

Information technology has been a critical tool that has enabled governments to broaden the reach of services. Indo-African trade relations have been excellent with active support from the respective governments. With increased trade, investments and travel, it will enable both the countries to collaborate and develop as the growth poles in the business space, in the 21st century.

— P R Venketrama Raja
Vice Chairman & MD, Ramco Systems



India and Africa have always had close relations with shared heritage and history. Now, with the economic opportunities opening up, this could also lead to a much stronger relationship in the future.

Being energy dependent, India is importing much more energy from Africa today than a decade earlier, and is also making suitable investments in this sector.

However, for sustainable and durable ties with African nations, India must move beyond trade and increase the level of investment beyond energy. Today, India is involved in building critical rail and road infrastructure in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Uganda. Africa is also becoming a key destination for Indian investments in software, education, telecom, and financial sectors. More investments in these areas – backed by strong bilateral support – will help in creating an enduring partnership for the future.

— Pawan Munjal, MD and CEO, Hero MotoCorp



With their rich histories and cultures, Africa and India have been the cradles of two of the world's greatest civilisations. Our societies have evolved very differently from those of the West. But despite our slow start as the economies open up, I am confident that in the next few decades, the world will see the potential of the 2 billion people who live here - the world will see that the people who built the pyramids and the Taj Mahal can also build economic powerhouses of the 21st century.

— Anand G Mahindra
Chairman and MD, Mahindra & Mahindra Group



India and the African nations have been building strong and mutually beneficial associations since long. As emerging economies, India and Africa have a lot in common – rich natural resources, similar demographics and large domestic markets. This provides a natural synergy for building partnerships. The concerned stakeholders should adopt more proactive initiatives to strengthen the bilateral relationship to the benefit of all.

— R S Agarwal, Joint Chairman, Emami Group of Companies



The IT space will see a boom in the trade relations. Many IT companies in the space of software development are setting/have already set up offices in Africa as they see good potential. Similarly, world class state-of-the-art training and education will also see growth, and hence there would be investments made by Indian companies in these areas. These investments would mutually benefit both India and Africa.

— Ninad Karpe, MD and CEO, Aptech



We believe that Africa is clearly the next frontier of growth and a strong foundation in the region today will yield tremendous dividends in the coming decade. We look forward to more partnerships between the Indian and African country governments, aimed at making trade more open and beneficial to both regions in the long run.

— Vivek Gambhir
MD, Godrej Consumer Products



The India-Africa relationship is distinctive and owes its origins to a common past that they share -- a past that witnessed a struggle against colonialism, poverty and illiteracy. India and the African nations have been building strong and mutually beneficial associations. Africa offers diverse opportunities for trade and investments. Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world, and we are happy to be participating and contributing in the growth story.

— Qimat Rai Gupta, CMD, Havells India



India and Africa have a shared history, amply spoken about at various junctures. We have had similar experiences and today are fighting similar battles. In the recent past, due to the work done by organisations like CII and FICCI and the leadership provided specifically by Minister Anand Sharma, we have converted some of the shared goodwill into economic ties. But these ties are still at a nascent stage. They need the push and support of stronger political will and greater private sector interface. India has experiences to share with African economies that may help them to skip a few stages of development and leapfrog into the next level. The imperatives of both India and the African economies will be better served if partnerships are strengthened, experiences are shared and progressive dialogue continues.

— Sanjay Kirloskar
Chairman & MD, Kirloskar Brothers



The proximity between Africa and India, as well as their long history of trade, has played an important part in nurturing this relationship. Trade between them has grown exponentially during the last decade, with some reports suggesting it could have more than tripled in this time. With the growing focus on South-South trade, rather than just with the more mature markets, this is expected to reach an even more significant volume, with some reports suggesting it will be worth about US\$ 90 billion by 2015. Both regions have a remarkable lot to complement each other through trade, and there can be numerous benefits, especially in terms of mutual learning for infrastructural projects and for gaining an improved understanding of and access to the Bottom of the Pyramid consumer segment in both markets.

— Karl Slym, MD, Tata Motors



The growing inter-dependence between India and Africa can be a key dynamic, which will shape trade and investment between the two countries. Given an enabling environment, both are well positioned to address the opportunities and challenges, which, in turn, would propel sustainable economic growth in Africa.

— Rajendra S Pawar
Chairman and Co-Founder, NIIT



A large consumer base in India and Africa, especially, with a growing middle class, indicates the potential for a flourishing bilateral trade. India could leverage this opportunity by increasing its exports to the African continent and improve trade balance.

— H M Nerurkar, MD, Tata Steel





Website for Anand ahead of Worlds

New Delhi: NIIT Limited on Tuesday unveiled a website www.wish4vishy.com, a unique initiative to enable every Indian to cheer for Viswanathan Anand as he gears up to defend his title against World No 1 Magnus Carlsen at World Chess Championship in Chennai from November 7 to 28. Wish4Vishy, offers a unique opportunity to every Indian to take pride in Anand's achievements and wish him good luck before the forthcoming World Chess Championship. Speaking on the Wish4Vishy initiative, Anand said: "I would like to thank everyone for the amazing wishes. To all the friends who have sent in their wishes for me through NIIT's Wish4Vishy initiative, I would like to say that every single wish means a lot to me."

The Times of India,
New Delhi, October 30, 2013

NIIT launches website to wish Anand

CHENNAI: Leading IT training centre NIIT Limited on Tuesday unveiled #Wish4Vishy www.wish4vishy.com, a national movement to enable every Indian to cheer for the reigning World chess champion and NIIT Mind champion Viswanathan Anand as he prepares to take on challenger, world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, in the World championship to be held between Nov. 7 to 28 here.

www.wish4vishy.com offers a unique opportunity for every Indian to offer their wishes before the World championship. Fans stand a chance to win free tickets for the championship and special gifts on every alternate day for the best wish expressed.

Speaking on the initiative, Anand said: "I would like to thank everyone who sends in their wishes for me through NIIT's new initiative. Thank you for the fantastic support and your love."

G. Raghavan, Chief Executive, Career Building Solutions, NIIT Limited, said, "the movement will give every Indian an opportunity to cheer for Vishy and be a part of this excitement."

The Hindu, Chennai,
October 30, 2013



NIIT Invites Indians To #Wish4Vishy For The World Chess Championship 2013

by VINAYA NAIDU on NOVEMBER 5, 2013 in CAMPAIGNS

The World Chess Championship 2013 is here. The Grandmaster and five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand will defend his World Championship title against chess champion Magnus Carlsen in the games to be held from November 9 to 28 in Chennai.

And NIIT Ltd – the IT training institute associated with Anand since 15 years now – has launched a unique initiative to enable every Indian to cheer for our champion "#Wish4Vishy". Through the initiative, one can wish Viswanathan, popularly nicknamed as 'Vishy', via an array of online tools – a centralised microsite and social networks like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The best entries stand a chance to win free tickets for the World Chess Championship 2013!

Wish4Vishy on social

Although we invented chess, ironically it is cricket that we are fond of, a game invented by the British. So it is a refreshing change to see scores of wishes pouring in for the Grandmaster. The informative microsite combines wishes from everywhere as well as the ones made on the site itself.



A stream each of the initiative's Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages make up the bottom half. The right pane displays all the wishes and you can also add yours through the specific social links. In addition, you can also share your wish for Vishy along with your name, email and phone number.

On Facebook, the buzz was being created as early as mid October, when fans were braced for the upcoming initiative. The page saw a brand new cover photo and many updates inviting the more than 250K strong Facebook community to send in their wishes through the microsite and also use the hashtag #Wish4Vishy. The wall has also been sharing interesting facts about chess and the GrandMaster. Besides, the Facebook page houses an app of the same name and function as the microsite. ...

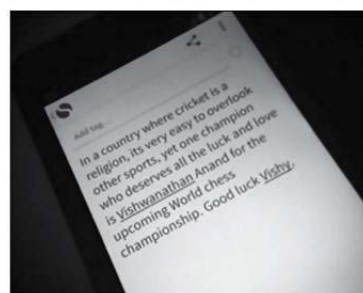


NIIT asks Indians to #Wish4Vishy

Satrajit Sen, afaqs!, New Delhi,
October 30, 2013 Section: News Category: Digital

The digital initiative enables every Indian to cheer for Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand as he defends his title in the World Chess Championship, 2013, in Chennai.

We Indians, do this all the time. Before every cricket match India plays, we pray our hearts out and send wishes to the players and the team. Probably it is time where we do the same for our other sporting superstars.



NIIT Limited, one of Asia's largest IT trainers, has unveiled #Wish4Vishy, a national campaign to enable every Indian to cheer for the reigning World Chess Champion Viswanathan (Vishy) Anand. Anand will take on challenger World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen at the World Chess Championship 2013, to be held on November 7-28 in Chennai.

The initiative involves sending in best wishes to Anand over NIIT's social platforms for the World Chess Championship. Being run on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Vine, #Wish4Vishy offers an opportunity to every Indian to take pride in Vishy's achievements and wish him good luck before the forthcoming World Chess Championship. The best entries stand a chance to win free tickets during the World Chess Championship 2013, and special gifts on every alternate day for the best expressed wish.

For this, the company has also launched a microsite, Wish4Vishy.com that will be the hub of all the wishes pouring in. There is an Instagram feed, Twitter feed, Facebook feed as well as wishes coming in straight from the microsite that would be visible.

Anand has been associated with NIIT for nearly 15 years now. NIIT MindChampions' Academy (MCA), a not-for-profit joint initiative that was started by NIIT and Anand to promote chess in schools, has today touched 1.65 million children in over 17,000 schools cumulatively, across the country. Over the years, MCA has not only enabled schools to use chess as an academic tool but has also made it possible for Vishy, personally, to take the legacy of chess to children across India.

Speaking on the #Wish4Vishy initiative, G Raghavan, chief executive, career building solutions, NIIT, says, "It is a matter of immense pride for every Indian that five-time World Champion and NIIT MindChampion Vishy Anand will be defending his world title at his home ground in Chennai, this November. Therefore, we have specially put together the #Wish4Vishy movement to give every Indian an opportunity to cheer for Vishy and be a part of this excitement."

Born in Chennai, Anand has won the World Champion's title five times. He is the only person in the history of chess to have won a world championship title in all formats - match, knock-out and tournament. It is his success in the world scene that has made this ancient Indian game a mass sport in India.

Tags: NIIT MindChampions, NIIT Limited, Viswanathan Anand, G Raghavan

http://www.afaqs.com/news/story/39076_NIIT-asks-Indians-to-



Master had grand youth, made the right moves

THE CHAMPION As Viswanathan Anand gears up for what could be the defining event of his illustrious career, his near and dear ones recall the path to greatness taken by the chess genius

by sport@weekend

MVL Manikantan
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CHEMBA It is a pleasant morning and a steady breeze blows from the Bay of Bengal as one enters Customs Colony in the calm Besant Nagar locality in a street dotted with independent villas. It is easy to locate the residence of K. Viswanathan, retired General Manager of Southern Railway, more prominently father of world chess champion, Viswanathan Anand. The humbly floors one as Susheela Viswanathan, Anand's mother, welcomes you into 'Ganga'.

The youngest of three children, Anand was the blue-eyed boy of the family. "There was a difference of 13 years between Anand and our eldest son, and 11 between him and my daughter. They used to be very protective of him. Even we (parents) were very happy. After a long time, a child was born and we could spend more time with him. We pampered him but he was not naughty," says Susheela with pride.

His mother came from a family of lawyers and engineers was the profession on his father's side. But Anand's interest lay in his mother's pastime—chess. "We used to play at home, I was very interested. Anand saw us play and picked up five-six," says Susheela.

Soon, Anand was enrolled at the Mikhail Tal Chess Club, named after the former Soviet champion, India's first International Master, Manuel Aaron, conducted classes there. "There, once a player lost, he had to give someone else a chance, but Anand would play from morning till evening, without losing."

Aaron, 77, vividly remembers. "He played very well for a young boy. He used to be there when the club opened and play against anyone who turned



Anand enjoys a game of croquer - a mix of cricket and baseball. His showdown with Carlsen will clash with Sachin's farewell Tests.

up. I didn't train him, I used to give him lectures from Russian chess magazines during 1977-78, and he had a lot of questions. His mother taught him chess and he developed the game himself. "I realised he had the spark to achieve big things when he started beating everybody, but he played fast and we could not judge much."

BLITZ PLAY Anand's blitz play earned him the title of "Lightning Kid." "Some felt playing so fast was not good but I didn't want to curb his natural game. He was so fast he made his move and walked around checking games on other tables while

his opponent still pondered over his next move," says his mother.

An important development was his father's transfer to Manila on deployment in the late '70s. Philippines, a growing chess nation, boasted of Asia's first GM, Eugenio Torre. "He (Torre) hosted a daily show that posed end-game problems. I used to write them down and when Anand got back from school we solved and sent them," says Susheela. Anand kept winning so often the organisers invited him to pick any number of books, given as prize, but stop taking part to give others a chance!

THE RISE Once back in India in 1980, Anand's competitive streak began to unfold. He won step-by-step - at club level, then city and then at district level. It was in 1983 that the chess fraternity was convinced of Anand's genius. He became national sub-junior champion, and in the national team championship in Mumbai, the 13-year-old was picked to represent Madras Colts. "He won the top board prize (reserved for the strongest member in a team), despite fever," says Ebenezer Joseph, a FIDE trainer who captained that side.

For them, chess was never a topic of discussion. "All through we never spoke about chess. I knew he was big player because he never came to school. Most of our classmates did not grasp it back then. But I knew he was special around the time he won the World Junior Championship and received the Arjuna Award," says Bhat.

ALWAYS SENSITIVE Anand may come across as a man of few words, but not to his friends. "For



KNOW THE MAN

- Loves Mexican and Thai food, equally loves mother's rasam rice.
- Likes to eat at school friend Ram Bhat's restaurant in Chennai. Bhat used to get badminton henna and pakodas packed for him after school.
- Loves astronomy, rents remote-controlled giant telescopes to go star-gazing.
- Anand was based in Madrid in the 1990s as it helped travel to tournaments in Europe. He lived with a couple, Nieves and Maurice, who treat him like their son.
- Former champions Bobby Fischer and Mikhail Tal are role models.
- Studied pure science in school but opted to graduate in commerce, to pursue chess full-time.
- Plays table tennis, darts and carrom apart from croquer, a mix of baseball and cricket. Loves to play rummy, and hates to lose the card game. Shows frustration if he loses, says his mother. Cycles and runs late in the night to unwind, underlining the importance of physical fitness.
- Supports the Spain national football team.
- First recipient of the Rajiv Gandhi Khil Ratna.
- Was classmate of actor Arvind Swamy (of Raja and Bombay Beach). While doing out once after world champion, he was handed a book to get Swamy's autograph by someone who didn't recognise him!
- Ahead of a big match, prefers to sleep by midnight and wake up early, revises before taking another short nap.
- Likes to take walks on the beach near his home in the night.

Anand's wife, Aruna, who has always managed his schedule over the past 15 years, finds playing in Chennai would be a great relief for Team Anand.

GROWING UP YEARS AND ALL THAT

HT Correspondent
* sports@hindustantimes.com

CHENNAI: For many, schoolmates are the best friends and it is no different for hotelier Ram Bhat. But little did he realise the boy he shared the desk with in Don Bosco school would go on to become a chess legend. "We were friends from the time I can remember. He was in Manila for a few years and came and joined our class and the friendship continued," says Bhat.

For them, chess was never a topic of discussion. "All through we never spoke about chess. I knew he was big player because he never came to school. Most of our classmates did not grasp it back then. But I knew he was special around the time he won the World Junior Championship and received the Arjuna Award," says Bhat.

ALWAYS SENSITIVE Anand may come across as a man of few words, but not to his friends. "For

us, he is not Anand the world champion, but Anand the studious boy who is a great friend."

"His biggest quality is that he never tries to put anyone in discomfort. Whenever he has taken me for his tournaments, he ensures I have no problems at all. He took me to Monaco once because I love Formula One and the chess tournament also took place around the same time. Knowing my local background, he took me to restaurants serving different cuisines every day," says Bhat.

EVER AFFABLE Anand was the favourite in school, adored and admired for his exploits at such a young age. But studies were always a priority. "He always caught up with school. They gave him the liberty to miss classes but he always took the exams even if it were postponed. In our 12th standard model examinations, he barely scraped through. But within two weeks, he prepared so well he scored

per cent in maths, physics and 100 per cent in chemistry," recalls Bhat. Anand, who was based in Spain in the early 80s, was mainly in touch with Bhat among his school friends. But with the growth of internet and mobile phones, the gap narrowed. "In the 2000s, he started reconnecting with all our other classmates. He tried to attend reunions, get-togethers and other functions."

NOSTALGIC ANAND In fact, the 20th year school reunion for Anand in 2007 turned out to be one of the deciding factors for him to move back to Chennai. "I was living in Spain for about 15 years but about six years ago we got the feeling that perhaps we should get established in Chennai. We really liked Spain but felt we should perhaps go back home. We also had the class reunion, 20 years since we left school. We met and got nostalgic and thought it would be nice to get back and spend time in India," Anand had said in an interview to ChessTV.

est for many reasons. It will bring chess to the forefront not only in India but also in the world. I hope that in 10 years we have a talent that will watch the Anand-Carlsen match and it blew me away."

Does your experience as five-time champion give you an edge? I will not be thinking of it. That doesn't add to the start score. The experience will help no doubt.

How does the world championship translate in terms of chess development? Definitely this is a match that is inter-



Anand after winning his first ranking tournament in 1982. Soon after, he upset India's first International Master Manuel Aaron to give notice of his huge talent.

INTERVIEW VISWANATHAN ANAND

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Viswanathan Anand, the five-time world chess champion, is set to defend his title against Norwegian prodigy Magnus Carlsen. At his home in Chennai, he talks about preparing for the game's biggest event. Anand and his young opponent will battle in a quiet room at the Hyatt Regency in Chennai from November 9 to 28. Anand spoke to HT in an email interview.

How are your preparations progressing? We will know only once the match starts. But I am fairly satisfied.

is playing in Chennai an advantage or is there extra pressure? It is a world championship match, so I will be treating it as one. Being in Chennai is a special feeling but I'm only thinking of the chess.

You have seen the past generation of players and Carlsen is seen as representing the new generation. Your thoughts on the generation shift. Now is not the time to try and make observations. Yes, he does represent a new generation but in the end you have to still play chess.

Carlsen came across as a confident, mentally strong player when he spoke to the media in Chennai. He is a tenacious player and tries to extract the maximum from any position.

He holds you in high regard and has worked with your team in the past. You think that gives him more insight into your preparations? Yes, Minister, Monty Guess it works both ways.

This game is being compared to the Spassky vs. Fischer game in 1972. I don't really give it much thought. I guess people like to attach tags to make it easier.

Your preparations have been different. Carlsen began training after a good season while you are having a longer preparation? Each one decides to choose one's own rhythm. It worked out that way for me.

The training must be rigorous. How do you unwind? I usually like to run late at night. I also like watching comedy series like Fawcety Towers, Yes Minister, Monty Python or All G.

How does the world championship translate in terms of chess development? Definitely this is a match that is inter-



Anand is as much a national treasure as Tendulkar

Over the next fortnight, a nation will turn its moist eyes towards its most loved sporting hero. The Sachin Tendulkar Farewell Tour is upon us, as are the tributes, platitudes and shows of emotion that wouldn't be out of place in a soap opera. At the same time, another Indian sporting titan, three years older, will be con-



COLUMN

Dileep Premachandran

testing a world championship on home soil, perhaps the only time he'll do so in a game generally not kind to those in their 40s.

One legend's last hurrah will be watched by millions, and be splashed across the front pages in a dozen languages. Unless you live in a cave, you'll know what the second Test against West Indies signifies. Contrast that with the chess world championship, and the lukewarm interest from mainstream media.

Viswanathan Anand, undisputed champion since 2007, takes on Magnus Carlsen, the 22-year-old Norwegian who wasn't even born when he became a Grandmaster at the age of 18. Carlsen isn't just the

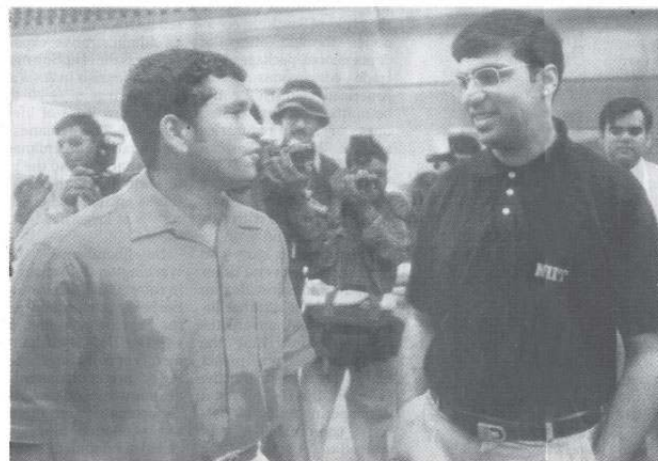
World No. 1. Last February, his Elo rating reached 2872 points, 21 more than the legendary Garry Kasparov managed. Anand's highest rating was 2817, nearly three years ago.

Carlsen is "The Mozart of Chess", a sobriquet that The Guardian's recent in-depth profile explained thus: "It's not so much to do with his mercurial gifts — such as his ability to memorise thousands of games, or to beat 10 strong players simultaneously, blindfolded — but his style of play. He makes his moves more by intuition than analysis, feeling for them rather than thinking them through. And there is harmony in his moves — music, you might say."

And what of Anand, who was acknowledged as a prodigy in his field long before most had even heard of Tendulkar? How many will follow these games, which the chess world is anticipating as it once did the Karpov-Kasparov clashes of the 1980s? If Anand overcomes the vigour of youth, the front page might be his for a day. If he doesn't, he will continue to be an afterthought, as he has been for a quarter-century in a country besotted with its cricket team.

Low-key sport

Chess doesn't lend itself to Mexican waves, or hyperbolic commentary. Anand's favour-



GREAT MASTER AND GRAND MASTER: Sachin Tendulkar's longevity is something to be marvelled at, while Viswanathan Anand outduelled a generation of peers and those significantly younger. — FILE PHOTO

ite e4 opening will never be subject to the sort of analysis that accompanies a Tendulkar back-foot punch through extra-cover. Few will know either that he has won his world titles at venues as far apart as Teheran, Mexico, Bonn, Sofia and Moscow.

In a sense, Anand's story is the tale of all other Indian sport

since 1983. When the going is good — the hockey team came within a minute of the semi-finals at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 — we rally behind the flag.

When it's not — India's footballers qualified for the 2011 Asian Cup through the AFC Challenge Cup, a competition for weaker sides, and then con-

ceded 13 goals in three games — no one can better us at mockery, never mind that the abysmal state of sports administration in this country means it's a miracle that our teams compete against better sides, leave alone win.

Remember the 4x400m women's relay quartet that became our darling after winning

gold at the Commonwealth and Asian Games in 2010?

After all four were found guilty of doping offences a year later, we airbrushed them from memory. By then, we had a cricket World Cup win to celebrate. Athletics? What's that?

Greatest Indian sportsperson

Given that his years as a champion have come so late in his career, there's certainly a case to be made for Anand being the greatest sportsperson India has ever produced.

He didn't just succeed in a country where the chess culture is threadbare compared to the former Soviet republics, he also outduelled a generation of peers and those significantly younger.

Gata Kamsky, who beat him in a quarterfinal 17 years ago, is 39. Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov, who held the title before him, were both born in 1975. Even as we marvel at Tendulkar's longevity and wonder if we shall ever see his like again, spare a minute's thought for Anand.

A golden boy long before Tendulkar, he found a second wind that even Kasparov could not.

He is as much a national treasure. Hopefully, over the next month, a one-sport nation will remember that.

The Hindu, New Delhi, November 5, 2013



Anand to Make Move with Black Pieces

Defending champion will start his campaign against Magnus Carlsen in the first game of the 12-round World Chess Championship on Saturday



The Fide world championship match between Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen formally got underway on Thursday with traditional pre-match press conference followed by the opening ceremony. The day's proceedings began at

11:30 in the morning when both sides inspected the playing hall and the table & chess board. The two then formally met at the Technical meeting where the arbiters take the two through the precise rules and regulations governing the match.

The press conference saw Anand and Carlsen share the dias — their first interaction in nearly 6 months since the Tal Memorial tournament in Moscow.

The big takeaway was Anand's revelation of his team of seconds. The world champion unveiled the new look A-team. It may be recalled that stalwarts Peter-Heine Nielsen and Rustam Kasimdzanov had left earlier this year. The new lineup sees only Polish grandmaster Radek Wojtaszek replacing from the last iteration.

Krishnan Sasikiran, Sandipan Chandra and Peter Leko are the new entrants. The first surprise of the match is Leko, the former Hungarian prodigy.

"The first message you get is Anand wants a solid form of play" while working. What does this show? "Anand wants to get very solid with black" while perhaps dynamic with white. Saravanan concluded, "Anand wants a precise repertoire".

Carlsen said "while he appreciated Mr Anand's openness," he refused to disclose his team. It is known that Kasparov will be assisting him from outside, however the precise lineup of the norwegian is

still a mystery. Each player is entitled to have upto four grandmasters present during the match.

Later, a glittering opening ceremony saw the world championship formally declared open by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalitha. The official drawing of the lots meant that the chief minister picking a scrolled photograph from a vase and then a chess piece. The colour of the piece and the photograph would determine the colour of the first game. Jayalitha picked Anand's photograph while the piece was black.

So Anand will start his title defence with the black pieces on Saturday's match opener. It will not be much of a surprise to him, as two of his last three matches also started with him wielding black.

The ramifications of the colour pick are wide-ranging and there is no doubt that both sides have rehearsed both eventualities. For one, starting with black also means ending with black. This can lead to an incredibly tense finale if the scores are tied going into the last game. The player with white however will have two back-to-back blacks in the middle of the match which can mean a very dangerous passage of play.

After a day of rest, the first pawn will be pushed on Saturday. The rival teams will be making the final tweaks in their preparation. Anand and Carlsen, on the other hand will merely be trying to get a good night's rest, and try to relax on the eve of the most important contest of their careers.



Reigning world chess champion Viswanathan Anand and Norway's Magnus Carlsen at a press conference in Chennai on Thursday

The Economic Times, New Delhi, November 8, 2013



SPORT

Not treading the beaten path, champion reveals seconds

Anand to start with black

V. SARAVANAN

Chennai: Defending champion Viswanathan Anand will start his campaign with black pieces against Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the 12-round World Chess Championship, here, on Saturday.

After declaring the Fide World Championship Match 2013 open, Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalitha picked the photograph of Anand from the first bowl and a black piece from the other during the draw of lots for the match.

Anand will get back-to-back white games in round six and seven when the changing over would be done. As per rules, the player getting white in game one has to get black in game seven to make it even for both participants.

The five-time world champion is used to opening with black pieces in the event.

Earlier, Anand did something unusual. At a packed media conference before the inauguration ceremony, Anand revealed the names of his seconds.

In the 64-square game, seconds are like secret agents and the common practice is not to reveal their names thereby keeping things shrouded in mystery.

But Anand chose not to tread the beaten path. He revealed that apart from his long-standing seconds in Grandmasters Radoslaw Wojtaszek of Poland and Sandipan Chanda, there are two new entrants — Peter Leko of Hungary and Krishnan Sasikiran.

Leko himself played the match for the world championship against Kramnik in 2004, and considered to be an

● International Master V. Saravanan, who has worn the India colours, will be covering the face-off exclusively for **The Telegraph**

Opening theoretician of highest level.

Carlsen, the challenger, was taken by surprise. But he kept his cards close to his chest. "I appreciate Anand's openness, but I am not going to return the favour," he quipped.

Though it is widely known that Team Carlsen always included his fellow countryman Jon Ludwig Hammer, the details of other members remain a secret.

Anand is not known for indulging in mind games in any of his World Championship matches, repeatedly ignoring jibes from his opponents. He had downplayed statements from his opponents Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov, or his detractors like Garry Kasparov.

Anand promised an attacking game. "As always, I worked hard. Couple of months of training and I think I am ready to attack. We will see how it goes, but I think I am ready to play."

Both Carlsen and Anand looked fitter than their usual selves. Carlsen's team has revealed that he spent his major share of preparation at the Kragero Resort in southern Norway, playing beach volleyball and football. And en route India, Carlsen had another practice camp at Muscat, for two weeks, to acclimatise himself to the warm and humid Chennai weather.

Even after landing in India, Carlsen spent the initial days of his stay at a beach resort in the outskirts of Chennai, before arriving at the Hyatt Regency, the official venue of the match.

His manager, Espen Agdestein indicated that Carlsen intends to spend time at the beach resort in the rest days between the games.

Carlsen downplayed the view of some experts that he will start as a favourite. "I do not know if everyone considers me a favourite, but in general I expect to do well in tournaments. If I manage to do well, I can win and that will be my mindset here as well," he said.



Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen, in Chennai, on Thursday

Telegraph, Kolkata, November 8, 2013



Opening moves: India's Viswanathan Anand (left) and Norwegian challenger Magnus Carlsen at a press conference two days before the start of the world chess championship match between them. The 12-game match will be played over three weeks starting Saturday. It was decided on Thursday through a lottery that Carlsen will play with white pieces in the first game, which is considered a small advantage.

Mint, New Delhi, November 8, 2013



Anand in control



UNWAVERING FOCUS: Reigning world chess champion Viswanathan Anand, playing black, opened his defence of the crown with a draw against World No.1 Magnus Carlsen in Chennai on Saturday. The quick 16-move draw by Anand, considered the underdog, was seen by experts as a creditable effort. — PHOTO: R. RAGU (REPORT ON SPORTS PAGE)

The Hindu, Hyderabad, November 10, 2013



Anand plays out tame draw with white pieces

Chennai: After a bookish opening and a brief attacking game, reigning World Champion Viswanathan Anand from India and his Norwegian challenger World No.1 Magnus Carlsen agreed to a draw at the end of the 25th move in the second round of the World Chess Championship at the Hyatt Regency Hotel here Sunday.

"The position we got after the 12th move was sharp. I chose a solid line. He (Carlsen) went for queen exchange. After exchange of queens there was nothing much," Anand told the media after the game.

Anand arrived at the playing arena ahead of Carlsen. Much to the expectation of the chess players across the world, Anand playing white opened with e4 — pushing the king pawn two squares.

Carlsen responded by playing c6 — pushing one square his pawn in front of his white bishop for a Caro-Kann defence.

Both the players blitzed their first seven moves. In the ninth move Anand and Carlsen traded their white bishops. On the 14th move, Anand castled on the queen side while Carlsen responded by castling on his king's side.

At this juncture it was anticipated that the game would produce a decisive result as Anand will be focusing on attacking the black king from the king side. On his part, Carlsen would attack the champion's king from his queen side.

A flurry of activity happened with the 15th move as Carlsen exchanged his two knights for his opponent's two advantageous squares on the white king file.

STRATEGIC PLAY

■ It was a repetition of a game played by Anand against Chinese Ding Liren some time back and Anand spent a lot of time thinking about various complicated variations but could not be sure of himself.

■ The easier way out was to play solid, as Carlsen did when faced with slightest difficulty and the draw was up for grabs for the Norwegian.

■ While the first game out of 12 lasted just 16 moves, this one went on till the 25th but the result of the game had been forecast by many much before that.

Anand's pawn formation on both the sides was good as compared to Carlsen's. A couple of moves later, Carlsen went for exchange of queens which the champion obliged.

With most of the major pieces going off the board it was expected that the play would go for end game in which Carlsen is said to be an expert. In fact, Carlsen had started marching down his queen side pawns while Anand was playing his two rooks to attack the black king's defence.

But at the end of the 25th move, both the players agreed to split the point and went back home with one point each out of two games.

Monday is a rest day. The third match will be held Tuesday evening when Carlsen will open the game playing white. [JAN5](#)

Anand apologetic after short draw in second game

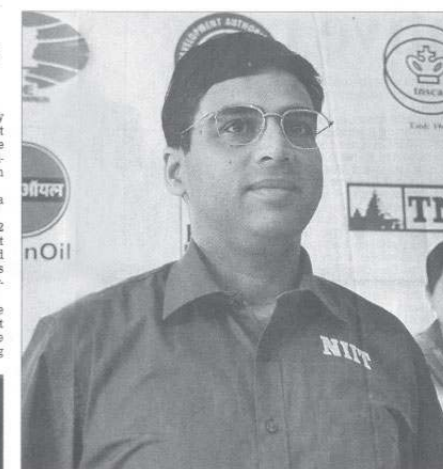
Chennai: Viswanathan Anand today offered apology after he played out a tame draw with white pieces in the second game of World Chess Championship clash against Magnus Carlsen of Norway here today.

"Today it's my turn to tender a slight apology," said Anand. "The position we got after move 12 is a very sharp one. I have studied it in the past, it's very very complicated and I had not really expected it. That's clear," he said at the post-game conference at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

"I will not talk too much about the opening move. I think the critical point was on move 18 when Vishy could have tried but black seemed to be doing fine," Carlsen said. [JF7](#)



STALEMATE: The final board position of Anand (white) vs Magnus Carlsen game 2.



RANJI ROUND-UP

We both have a little information now as to what the other person is trying. I am sure it will get interesting. I was trying to recollect all sharp variations around move 13-15, trying to figure out what he might be aiming for before he took the path to equality. —V Anand

Chess fever grips Chennai; hundreds through match venue

Chennai: It was a dream come true for several chess fans, who watched their icon Viswanathan Anand in action against challenger Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the World Chess Championship which began here on Saturday.

Hundreds of passionate sports followers, including many children, thronged the Hyatt Regency hotel, the venue of the world championship, to watch the first of the 12 matches.

Chess fans, parents, youth, school students kept thronging the hotel's sprawling campus and watched the keenly-contested tie. [JF7](#)

THE MOVES

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. e4 c6 | 14. O-O-O O-O |
| 2. d4 d5 | 15. Ne4 Nxe4 |
| 3. Nc3 dxe4 | 16. Qxe4 Nxe5 |
| 4. Nxe4 Bf5 | 17. fxe5 Qd5 |
| 5. Ng3 Bg6 | 18. Qxd5 cxd5 |
| 6. h4 h6 | 19. h5 b5 |
| 7. Nf5 e6 | 20. Rh5 a5 |
| 8. Ne5 Bb7 | 21. Rh5 Bxc8 |
| 9. Bd3 Bxd3 | 22. Rg3 Kh7 |
| 10. Qxd3 Nd7 | 23. Rg3 Kg8 |
| 11. f4 Bb4+ | 24. Rg3 Kh7 |
| 12. c3 Be7 | 25. Rg3 Kg8 |
| 13. Bd2 Ng6 | |

Sakal Times, Chennai, November 11, 2013



Fifth game crucial for Anand

VISHAL SAREEN
Chennai

World champion Viswanathan Anand will look forward to another positive game with black pieces before he gets a double white against challenger Magnus Carlsen of Norway in the 5th round of their World Championship match here on Friday.

With the first four games ending in draws, there has been a certain replication about this world championship that has never been seen before in a match. After the next black game Anand is due to get two white's in a row as per regulations and the Indian maestro can look forward to putting more pressure in the sixth and seventh game. If the first game showed Anand in great spirits and giving nothing away in a 16-moves draw, Carlsen bounced back with a remarkable show of preparation when Anand could do little against his Caro Kann defense in the second game. Anand yet again showed better skills as black and pressed hard for a victory in the third game without



any real success. In the fourth game Carlsen came close to winning before throwing it away in Anand's time pressure. Both players are coming out with some very smart work.

Carlsen's jump from Caro Kann to Berlin is quite suggestive for the chess buffs. The Norwegian wants to keep the Indian ace guessing. One wouldn't be surprised if he comes up with a Sicilian in the next and a French in the seventh game when he is black.

Being an all round player, this could be an important part of the strategy for Carlsen who has kept Anand guessing in the first two black games.

The black pieces in chess are considered a slightly unfavourable colour in the game. Anand is obviously happy to get some forcing variations thus far and this is a cause for worry for Carlsen who has not got things to his liking as far as his first two white games are concerned.

PTI

Daily Post, New Delhi, November 15, 2013



Baton passes, officially

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: The baton passed as the new king of world chess Magnus Carlsen officially took over the reins from the dethroned master Viswanathan Anand in his home turf. In the same venue where the Norwegian had beaten Anand a couple of days back, Tamil Nadu chief minister J Jayalalitha coronated Carlsen. The prize money of Rs 9.9 crore must have made Carlsen happy, but it was more about the pride of realizing a childhood dream.

"The monkey of not winning the world title is off my back now...I haven't yet decided how I am going to spend the prize money," a smiling Carlsen said. There was also an olive garland from the Nilgiri hills on offer, while the Fide president Kirsan Il'yumzhinov presented him with a gold medal weighing 103.5 grams.



Viswanathan Anand at the prize distribution ceremony in Chennai on Monday

Anand received the runner-up's cheque of Rs 6.03 crore along with a silver medal and a plaque.

Unlike the elaborate opening ceremony, the closing didn't take more than 15 minutes to get over. There was a Norwegian contingent expecting probably a longer event, but the organizers chose to keep it short.

Later, speaking to TOI, Anand's parents, Vishwanathan and Susheela congratulated Carlsen. "He has done a good job...But let's not forget, Anand has proved himself five times. I don't have anything more to say," Susheela said. Viswanathan believes it's not over and his son can still stage a comeback. "Anand tried his best...Probably next time," he said.

Anand is the brand ambassador of NIIT and the institute confirmed that the Indian will continue to be a part of their family. "NIIT and Anand would continue to work towards taking Indian chess to greater heights. Anand has made chess a national movement by initiating 1.65 million students into the game through our joint initiative — the NIIT Mind Champions' Academy," Rajendra S Pawar, chairman of NIIT, said.

The Times of India, Kolkata, November 26, 2013



NIIT sticks with Anand

New Delhi, Nov. 25

His failure to defend the world title notwithstanding, Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand will continue to be the brand ambassador of education institute



Viswanathan Anand

NIIT. Anand, a five-time world champion, lost the crown to Norwegian prodigy Magnus Carlsen last week in the match conducted in Chennai. The setback triggered speculation that Anand would be dropped as brand ambassador of NIIT, a brand he has promoted for quite a few years. But NIIT Chairman Rajendra S Pawar said the iconic Grandmaster would remain on board. "We salute Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, for placing India prominently on the world chess map. A true sporting legend and a national hero, Anand continues to inspire young Indians to embrace the game of chess," he said in a statement. — PTI

Hindu Business Line, New Delhi, November 26, 2013



एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी ने 100 प्रतिशत छात्रों को नौकरी दिलाने का रिकॉर्ड कायम किया

नीमराणा। ज्ञान समुद्र के उपरते धेरों में उत्कृष्ट शिक्षा तथा शिक्षण में नवीनता लाने की दृष्टि से सोच के साथ स्थापित असाधारण एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी ने डॉ. करन सिंह, अध्यक्ष, एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी तथा या. संसद सदस्य द्वारा 500 वार्षिक व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया। एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी परिसर, नीमराणा में आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में डॉ. किरण मजूमदार-शर्मा, बेरारमैन तथा एमडी, चायोकॉन लि. द्वारा 'यू कैम को द डिसेंस' के तहत इस बारे में प्रेरक टीका व्याख्यान दिया गया कि युवा किस प्रकार समाज में परिवर्तन ला सकते हैं। कार्यक्रम के दौरान डॉ. करन सिंह ने कोर्टेज और एमबीए छात्रों को डिजी प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान किए। 2013 में प्रबुद्ध करने वाले यू कैम को आज आयोजित टीका समारोह से पहले ही 'नीक'ियां प्रस्तावित कर दी गई थीं जो उद्योग जगत में प्रबल स्वीकार्यता का चिह्न है। इसे महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर शिक्षा, उद्योग जगत की अग्रणी कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधि तथा छात्र, उद्योगों को गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करने में तकनीक की भूमिका पर चर्चा करने के लिए इ ने पकड़ हुए। तकनीक सक्षम शिक्षण-अधिगम कार्यक्रम को रक्षता भी रेखांकित की गई। उन्होंने इस पर भी चर्चा की कि उत्कृष्ट शिक्षा प्रदान करने वाले संस्थान, छात्रों को वास्तविक जीवन की चुनौतियां हल करने के लिए उनके ज्ञान व तकनीकी कौशलता को प्रयोग करने में किस



तरह मदद कर सकते हैं और इस तरह छात्रों के लिए रोजगार व उद्योगों के मार्ग प्रशस्त कर सकते हैं, तथा ऐसे अग्रणी लोगों को निहार सकते हैं जो अपने असा-पसा के समाजिक तथा आर्थिक परिवेश से सामंजस बनना जानते हैं। शिक्षण-अधिगम प्रक्रियाओं में तकनीक का उपयोग करने वाली सर्वश्रेष्ठ यूनिवर्सिटी के रूप में एसोसिएट एडवेंस एजुकेशन एक्सप्लोरेस अवार्ड्स 2013 में सम्मानित एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी में तकनीक, जीवन का अधिभंग है। केएम में अग्रुत एजुकेशन टेक्नोलॉजी इन्वेंशन सेंटर (एनआईआईटी) स्थित है जो कि अनुसंधान कार्यक्रमों में सहयोग के लिए उद्योगों व समर्थन हेतु उच्च अग्रणी तकनीक आधारित संस्थाएं हैं। यह सेंटर, इ में नए प्रतिभाशाली अनुसंधान अध्येताओं के लिए एक प्लेडमार्क है जो यहां चुनौतीपूर्ण तथा रोमांचकारी परियोजनाओं में भागीदारी करते हैं। एक अन्य उद्योगीय प्रगति के रूप में, एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी अपने केएम में मीडिया/सॉल्यूट इन्वेंशन सेंटर शुरू करने को तैयार है जिसका अर्थ यूनिवर्सिटी के छात्रों के बीच नवप्रवर्तन व दक्षिणा की धारणा को मजबूत बनाना है। इस वर्ष अर्ध में एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी ने ऑटोटेक से साझेदारी करते हुए कोर्टेज कार्यक्रमों के सरो विद्यार्थियों में एक कोर्स के रूप में 'डिजाइन थिंकिंग' को बढ़ावा दिया था।

Mahaka Bharat, Jaipur, November 17, 2013



स्टूडेंट्स को मिली डिग्रियां

जयपुर। एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी का 5वां वार्षिक व्याख्यान शनिवार को यूनिवर्सिटी परिसर में आयोजित किया गया। इस अवसर पर विद्यार्थियों को भी डिग्रियां प्रदान की गईं। कार्यक्रम के दौरान बायोकोन की चेयरपर्सन डॉ. किरण मजूमदार-शॉ ने युवाओं को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि युवा चाहें तो समाज में बदलाव ला सकते हैं। सांसद डॉ. करन सिंह ने अपने उद्बोधन में कहा कि ज्ञान की खोज शाश्वत है तथा सच्चा ज्ञान वही है जो नए प्रतिभागियों को ऐसे 'कर्मयोगियों' के रूप में रूपांतरित करने में सहायता करे जो समाज की बेहतरी के लिए तत्परतापूर्वक कार्य करें।

यूनिवर्सिटी के संस्थापक राजेन्द्र एस. पवार ने इस दौरान यूनिवर्सिटी की ओर से संचालित किए जा रहे कोर्स की जानकारी दी। उनका कहना था कि 'हमारे युवाओं को प्रवर्तन और उद्यमिता के माध्यम से एक रूपांतरण की अगुवाई करनी है। मुझे विश्वास है कि एनयू के छात्र, राष्ट्र निर्माण की दिशा में अपना उल्लेखनीय योगदान करते हुए अपनी इस संस्था को गौरवान्वित करेंगे। दीक्षांत समारोह के दौरान डॉ. करन सिंह ने गजेन्द्र राठी व अमन साहनी को एमबीए प्रोग्राम के लिए तथा पोंगसाकोर्न सुकजुनिमिट को बीटेक प्रोग्राम के लिए स्वर्ण पदक और बीटेक प्रोग्राम के यजुर महेन्द्र ने राम राजेन्द्र मल्होत्रा पदक प्रदान किया।



Daily News, Jaipur, November 17, 2013

'आज के शिक्षा तंत्र में नवीनता जरूरी'

दीक्षांत समारोह में बीटेक और एमबीए छात्रों को डिग्री प्रदान की

जयपुर, (कासं)। ज्ञान समुदाय के उभरते क्षेत्रों में उच्चतर शिक्षा तथा शिक्षण में नवीनता लाने की दूरदर्शी सोच के साथ स्थापित अलाभकारी एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी (एनयू) ने आज डॉ. करन सिंह, अध्यक्ष, एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी तथा संसद सदस्य द्वारा 5वें वार्षिक व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया।

यूनिवर्सिटी परिसर, नीमराणा में आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में डॉ. किरण मजूमदार-शॉ, चेयरमैन तथा एमडी, बायोकोन लि. द्वारा 'यू कैम बी डिफरेंस' के तहत इस बारे में प्रेरक दीक्षांत व्याख्यान दिया गया कि युवा किस प्रकार समाज में परिवर्तन ला सकते हैं। उन्होंने आज के शिक्षा तंत्र में नवीनता लाने पर भी जोर दिया। उन्होंने इस पर भी चर्चा की कि उच्चतर शिक्षा प्रदान करने वाले संस्थान, छात्रों को वास्तविक जीवन की चुनौतियां



एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी के नीमराणा स्थित परिसर में शनिवार को आयोजित दीक्षांत समारोह का संसद सदस्य और यूनिवर्सिटी के अध्यक्ष डॉ. करन सिंह ने उद्घाटन किया। इस अवसर पर यूनिवर्सिटी के संस्थापक एल. आर. राजेन्द्र पंवार और डॉ. किरण मजूमदार-शॉ, चेयरमैन तथा एमडी, बायोकोन लि. मौजूद थे।

हल करने के लिए उनके ज्ञान व तकनीकी कुशलता को प्रयोग करने में किस तरह मदद कर सकते हैं और इस तरह छात्रों के लिए रोजगार व उद्यमिता के मार्ग प्रशस्त कर सकते हैं, तथा ऐसे अग्रणी लोगों को निखार सकते हैं जो अपने आस-पास के सामाजिक तथा आर्थिक परिवेश से तालमेल बनाना जानते हों।

संसद सदस्य और एनआईआईटी यूनिवर्सिटी के अध्यक्ष, डॉ. करन सिंह ने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि, "ज्ञान की खोज शाश्वत है तथा सच्चा ज्ञान वही है जो नए प्रतिभागियों को ऐसे 'कर्मयोगियों' के रूप में रूपांतरित करने में सहायता करे जो समाज की बेहतरी के लिए तत्परतापूर्वक कार्य करें। कार्यक्रम के दौरान डॉ. करन सिंह ने बीटेक और एमबीए छात्रों को डिग्री प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान किए। 2013 में ग्रेजुएट करने वाले पूरे बैच को आज आयोजित दीक्षांत समारोह से पहले ही नौकरियां प्रस्तावित कर दी गईं जो उद्योग जगत में प्रबल स्वीकार्यता का द्योतक है।

Samachar Jagat, Jaipur, November 17, 2013



INNOVATION CENTRE

NIIT University (NU) has announced the launch of a Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC) on its campus in Neemrana. A 'Collaboration Agreement' was signed to formalise the partnership between Microsoft and NIIT University in the presence of Vijay Thadani, co-founder, NIIT University, Rajendra Pandey, president, NIIT University and Bhaskar Pramanik, chairman, Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Limited. Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Thadani, co-founder, NIIT University, said, "The unified purpose of promoting a research centric approach, for developing skilled manpower for the Global IT industry has brought NIIT University and Microsoft together, to launch Microsoft Innovation Centre at our University campus in Neemrana. Through this initiative we aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our students."

The Times of India, New Delhi,
November 18, 2013

NIIT University announces the launch of MS Centre

The not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) has announced the launch of a Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC) on its campus in Neemrana near Delhi. A collaboration agreement was signed last week to formalise the partnership between Microsoft and NU in the presence of Vijay Thadani, co-founder, NU; Rajendra Pandey, president, NU; and Bhaskar Pramanik, chairman, Microsoft India. Under this agreement, Microsoft will collaborate with NU to facilitate setting up MIC with an aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst university students, by helping them apply their knowledge and technological know-how to real life problems and thus open employment and entrepreneurship avenues for the students.

Financial Express, Mumbai, November 18, 2013

बीटेक और एमबीए छात्रों को डिग्री प्रदान की

नीमराणा। ज्ञान समुदाय के उभरते क्षेत्रों में उच्चतर शिक्षा तथा शिक्षण में नवीनता लाने की दूरदर्शी सोच के साथ स्थापित अलाभकारी NIIT यूनिवर्सिटी (NU) ने आज डॉ. करन सिंह, अध्यक्ष, NIIT यूनिवर्सिटी तथा मा. संसद सदस्य द्वारा 5वें वार्षिक व्याख्यान का आयोजन किया। NIIT यूनिवर्सिटी परिसर, नीमराणा में आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में डॉ. किरण मजूमदार-शॉ, चेयरमैन तथा एमडी, बायोकोन लि. द्वारा 'यू कैम बी डिफरेंस' के तहत इस बारे में प्रेरक दीक्षांत व्याख्यान दिया गया कि युवा किस प्रकार समाज में परिवर्तन ला सकते हैं।



कार्यक्रम के दौरान डॉ. करन सिंह ने बीटेक और एमबीए छात्रों को डिग्री प्रमाणपत्र प्रदान किए। 2013 में ग्रेजुएट करने वाले पूरे बैच को आज आयोजित दीक्षांत समारोह से पहले ही नौकरियां प्रस्तावित कर दी गईं जो उद्योग जगत में प्रबल स्वीकार्यता का द्योतक है। इस महत्वपूर्ण अवसर पर

शिक्षाविद्, उद्योग जगत की अग्रणी कंपनियों के प्रतिनिधि तथा छात्र, युवाओं को गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा प्रदान करने में तकनीक की भूमिका पर चर्चा करने के लिए NU में एकत्र हुए। तकनीक सक्षम शिक्षण-अधिगम पाठ्यक्रम की दक्षता भी रेखांकित की गई। उच्चतर शिक्षा प्रदान करने वाले संस्थान, छात्रों को वास्तविक जीवन की चुनौतियां हल करने के लिए उनके ज्ञान व तकनीकी कुशलता को प्रयोग करने में किस तरह मदद कर सकते हैं और इस तरह छात्रों के लिए रोजगार व उद्यमिता के मार्ग प्रशस्त कर सकते हैं, तथा ऐसे अग्रणी लोगों को निखार सकते हैं जो अपने आस-पास के सामाजिक तथा आर्थिक परिवेश से तालमेल बनाना जानते हों। 'शिक्षण-अधिगम प्रक्रियाओं में तकनीक का उपयोग करने वाली सर्वश्रेष्ठ यूनिवर्सिटी' के रूप में एसोसिएम नेशनल एजुकेशन एक्सलेंस अवार्ड्स 2013 में सम्मानित NIIT यूनिवर्सिटी में तकनीक, जीवन का अभिन्न अंग है।

Raj Vaibhav, Jaipur, November 18, 2013



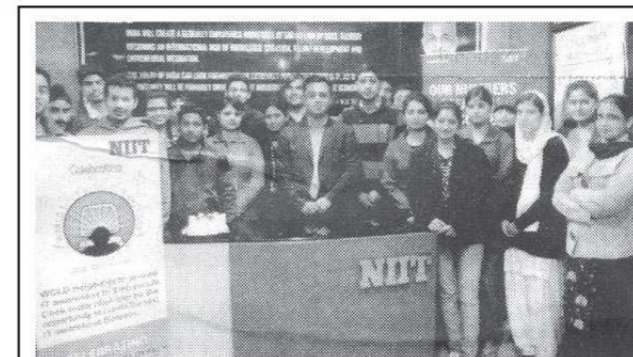
MICROSOFT INNOVATION CENTRE

Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) has announced the launch of a Microsoft Innovation Center (MIC) on its campus in Neemrana. A collaboration agreement was signed recently to formalise the partnership between Microsoft and NIIT University in the presence of Vijay Thadani, co-founder, NIIT university, Dr. Rajendra Pandey, president, NIIT university and Bhaskar Pramanik, chairman, Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Limited.

Under this agreement, Microsoft will collaborate with NU to facilitate setting up MIC with an aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst University students, by helping them apply their knowledge and technological know-how to real life problems and thus open employment and entrepreneurship avenues for the students.

MICs are state of art technology facilities for collaboration on innovative research, technology or software solutions, involving a combination of Government, academic and industry participants. While each center tunes its programmes to local needs, they all provide similar content and services designed to accelerate technology advances and stimulate local software economies through skills and professional training, industry partnerships and innovation. Since the launch of the programme a total of 29 MICs have been set up in India.

*The Pioneer, New Delhi, November 20, 2013
/ Lucknow, November 26, 2013*



NIIT celebrating World Computer Day at Jammu on Monday.

NIIT celebrates World Computer Day

Excelsior Correspondent: it introduced the unique Franchise business model which not only led to opening of many new channels for providing quality computer education but also ignited the fire entrepreneurship across the country.

JAMMU, Dec 2: NIIT Jammu celebrated December 2 as World Computer Literacy Day which also is the foundation day of NIIT Ltd.

A function was held in this connection in which the students and entire staff of all NIIT centres participated.

The NIIT was conceived and stated on December 2, 1981 by three IIT -ians one among whom was Rajinder S Pawar a Jammuite. The Company which started its first computer education centre in Mumbai in 1981 when IT Industry was just picking up but shortage of manpower was one of the biggest problem.

The idea of these three IIT-ians was to train and provide power to the fast expanding IT industry in India. Seeing success

In nineties it introduced the GNIIT program which shaped the careers of tens of thousands of graduates in India.

Continuing its traditions of innovations, it diversified into various other sectors such as banking, finance and insurance, professional life skills, BPO, executive management education and ICT solutions of schools.

Rahul Sharma Director of the Jammu NIIT Franchise Company on this occasion said whole December month will be celebrated as Computer Literacy Month in which NIIT will be offering computer literacy programs at very nominal price.

Daily Excelsior, Jammu, December 3, 2013



ICICI Academy for Skills for vocational training launched in Bangalore

ICICI Academy for Skills (ICICI Academy) announced the launch of a centre in Bangalore to provide vocational training to youth from economically weaker sections to help them earn a sustainable livelihood. The centre will offer courses in two disciplines — office administration and web designing — for graduates. ICICI Academy has formalised the content for the courses in consultation with Tally Solutions and NIIT respectively. The duration of the course is about eight-12 weeks. The centre will train a total of around 300 students annually. ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth started the ICICI Academy in line with its plan to promote inclusive growth. ICICI Academy aims to train 5,000 youth at its nine training centres across the country in the first year of operation. It aims to train 15,000 youth across the country by 2016. Rajiv Sabharwal, executive director, ICICI Bank, was present at the launch. After launching its maiden centre in Jaipur last month, ICICI Academy is setting up centres in Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune. It has also firmed up plans for centres in Coimbatore, Sangli, Patna and Guwahati. In addition to offering training free of cost, ICICI Academy will provide uniforms, meals and all relevant course material to students. Each centre will also have a library for students to use. ICICI Foundation will also create an online job portal where trained youth can register themselves.

Indian Express, Bangalore, December 9, 2013



Programme in Business Analytics

NIIT, recently announced the launch of a comprehensive “Programme in Business Analytics” to develop the next generation of data scientists and business analytics professionals. As the need for analysing huge volumes of data presents immense opportunity for businesses today, there has been a growing demand for analytics professionals across various sectors. To cater to this emerging trend, apart from some of the leading business schools, NIIT is the first to introduce a cutting-

edge program in Business Analytics.

Given the large amounts of new data created every single minute, analytics skills are no longer just an extension of the IT professional, they are becoming increasingly important for businesses. Business Analytics is emerging as an industry in its own right.

According to a study by IDC, it is estimated that global enterprises will invest ₹12,000 crores by 2015 to capture the business impact of analytics

across hardware, software and services. The study also estimates a five-year compounded growth of 16 per cent for the Indian analytics market. NASSCOM has also estimated that from 50,000 today, the demand for Analytics professionals in India will grow to 2,50,000 by 2015. The six months programme has been developed by industry experts with inputs from several leading analytics companies and offers a fine balance between concepts and hands-on practice.

Pioneer, Chandigarh, December 11, 2013

NIIT Tech arm, MapmyIndia in pact

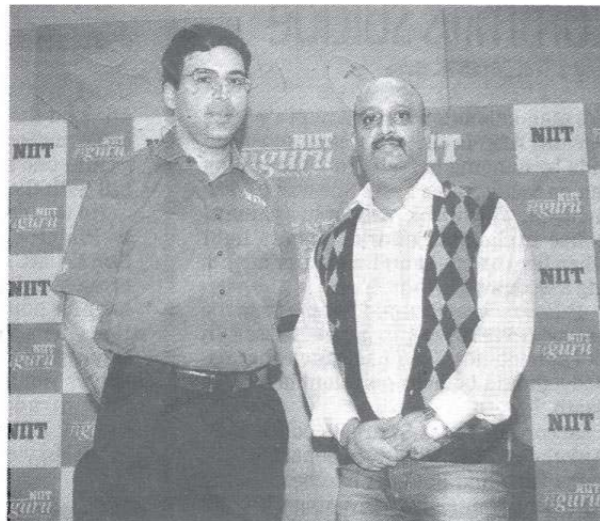
New Delhi, Dec. 11

Esri India, a joint venture between US-based geodatabase management applications firm Esri and NIIT Technologies Ltd, has entered into a partnership with MapmyIndia for offering geographic information system solutions to its clients, a joint statement said. The collaboration will also provide “rich” map data to enterprises as well as government agencies and departments, the statement said. As part of the pact, MapmyIndia maps will now be available through Esri’s cloud-based geographic information system platform – ArcGIS Online. MapmyIndia will be the authorised value-added reseller for Esri’s geographic information system software products, which will be bundled with MapmyIndiaMaps. — **Cogencis**

Hindun Business Line, New Delhi, December 12, 2013



CAMPUS CONNECT



Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand and Amit Gupte, Zonal Head, NIIT in Pune

Viswanathan Anand unveils NIIT prog

Chess Grandmaster, Viswanathan Anand, unveiled a unique technology enabled learning solution "Interactive Classrooms @ Home" (ICR@Home) recently in Pune. The unique concept designed by NIIT NGuru is aimed at making learning more engaging and meaningful.

The learning process provides every child the advantage of using multimedia content and interactivity from home. On the occasion 'Certificate of Association' were awarded to schools in Pune by Anand. He also felicitated the students who excelled in the game of chess, digital art and mathematics in the city.

DNA, Pune,
December 23, 2013



Anand not yet out of the mix

"I will be participating in Zurich in January and will take a decision on the Candidates tournament soon"

— Viswanathan Anand

By Soumalya Santikari
in New Delhi

LOSING his crown to Magnus Carlsen has had a telling effect on Viswanathan Anand. But the Indian chess wizard is not ready to call time on his glittering career.

With doubts lingering about his participation in the Candidates tournament, he is yet to take a decision on the way forward.

The Candidates tournament is the qualification event for the World Championship match and will be held in Russia, from March 12 to 30 next year.

"I will be participating in Zurich in January and will take a decision on the Candidates tournament soon. But apart from that match, this year has been horrible for me. But if I had won the World Championship match,

Chess wizard does not want to dwell too much on past

maybe I could have said that it's been a good one," Anand said. In the Capital to present awards to the NIIT Super Achievers, the 44-year-old expressed confidence about the future of Indian chess.

He said there will be comparisons with him but the young players should not be burdened by it.

"Parimarjan (Negi), Abhijeet (Gupta) and Sasikiran are all talented players but they will have to take it step by step. I believe Indian chess has a lot of depth but they need to perform consistently so that they can challenge the top players more often."

Anand admitted that age does have a role to play in the game. He, however, quashed reports of his quitting at 50, saying that he will continue playing as long as he enjoys.

"Age matters in chess and it can be seen in the way the average age of the players has come down drastically. It is now mid-20s. So age is a factor but I don't want to put a figure on my



Viswanathan Anand during an event in the Capital on Monday. PRAVEEN NESA

I believe Indian chess has a lot of depth but they [players] need to perform consistently

I am 44 now and I think it will be tough to play after 50 but that doesn't mean I will stop playing after I reach 50

retirement. I'm 44 now and think it will be tough to play after 50 but that doesn't mean I'll stop playing when I reach 50," he added. Anand said playing the World Championship match in his home city was a fascinating experience and was happy to see corporate houses backing young

talent in chess. "It's great to see corporate houses giving employment to chess players. Sponsorship is a very critical issue and the game has seen a lot of companies coming forward to support players in the last few years. "Chess has evolved a lot in the country and it was great to see

so many people in the country closely following the match, through the internet and TV. Having an event of that magnitude does give a huge boost to the game."

His loss to Carlsen has evoked a lot of questions about his motivation and the recent losses at the London Chess Classic have fuelled speculation about his motivation and form. But Anand is not ruffled by those barbs and is nonchalant about his game.

"There will be off-periods for any player. There is no need for over analysis regarding my current form. Sometimes it is not healthy to set targets. I would rather play some tournaments and get some good results. I don't think there's any need to see more to it."

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The 12th Edition of INFOCOM 2013 honours the 'INFOCOM 12 IT Gems of India'

Kolkata : India | Dec 05, 2013 at 10:49 AM PST

Kolkata, 5th December 2013: A pioneering signature initiative from the ABP group, one of India's foremost media conglomerates and Eastern India's top-most media house comes forth to recognize and acknowledge the contributions, made by noted IT visionaries through a first-of-its-kind award platform in Eastern India named the 'INFOCOM 12 IT Gems of India Awards'.

Commemorating the 12th glorious edition of INFOCOM, India's largest congregation of business and technology professionals, the 'INFOCOM 12 IT Gems of India Awards', is an exclusive tribute to the undying dedication and perseverance of those twelve leaders who have lead India towards a higher goal in the field of information technology through their vision, creativity and business acumen.

The curtain raiser of the award ceremony was initiated by a welcome note by Mr.D.D. Purkayastha, Managing Director and CEO, ABP Private Limited and Chairman, INFOCOM which highlighted the group's desire to build the event as the most coveted award in the information technology gamut. The opening keynote address on the 'Leadership of Indian IT industry in the global scenario' was presented by Mr. R. Chandrashekhar, President Designate, NASSCOM which showcased the role of Indian IT industry in assuming global leadership positions.

On the night of triumph, the top 12 IT Gems of India namely Mr. Ashok Soota, Executive Chairman, Happiest Minds; Mr. Azim Premji (represented by Mr. Partha Sarathi Guha Patra, VP & Head-Corporate Affairs, Wipro); Mr. Jaithirth 'Jerry' Rao, Founder and Former CEO, Mphasis and Chairman, Value and Budget Housing Corporation; Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan, Chief Executive Officer, Cognizant Technology Solutions; Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy (represented by Mr. C N Raghupathi, VP & India Head, Infosys); Mr. Nandan Nilekani (represented by senior delegate from UIDAI); Mr. P.R Venketrama Raja, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Ramco Systems; Mr. Pramod Bhasin, Founder and Vice Chairman, Genpact Mr. Rajendra Singh Pawar, Chairman and Co-Founder, NIIT Group; Mr. Rajesh Hukku, Former Chairman and CEO, iFlex Solutions; Mr. S Ramadorai (represented by Mr. Ajoyendra Mukherjee, Global Head-HR, TCS) and Shiv Nadar (represented by Ms. Bhaswati Chakravorty, Head-Corp Communication, HCL) gathered under one roof to celebrate IT excellence, innovation and best practice at IT industry.

<http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/16100327-the-12th-edition-of-infocom-2013-honours-the-infocom-12-it-gems-of-india>



<http://www.youtube.com/niitcareers>