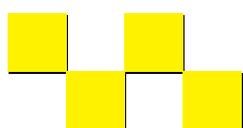


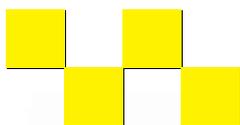
# NIIT MindChampions Academy

## Chess Master 2008



**The NIIT  
MindChampions'  
Academy**

*A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand*



**NIIT**

**Media Coverage Report**

# Snapshots of NIIT MindChampions Academy - Chess Master 2008



Seen here: Vishy interacting with the school children and dignitaries during his visit to Chennai, Pune, Guwahati, Jaipur and Delhi for NIIT MindChampions Academy- Chess Master 2008.

## **NIIT MindChampions Academy**

### ***Chess Master 2008 winners felicitated by World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand***

- Bhakti Juikar from Mumbai adjudged as the winner and Tejas Arora from Amritsar and Tonsen Mongwang from Dibrugarh, Assam declared as first and second runner up

New Delhi, January 17, 2009: NIIT MindChampions Academy-Chess Master 2008, a joint initiative of NIIT, a leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's No. 1 Trainer and World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand, witnessed a grand closing. Sh. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Communications and IT, Govt of India, joined World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand, Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd., Padma Bhushan, Dr. (Mrs.) Shayama Chona, Principal, DPS, R K Puram and Mr. Ashok Chandra, Chairman, DPS Society, as the Chief Guest to give away prizes to the winners in a glittering ceremony held in the Capital.

The winner trophy of NIIT MindChampions Academy- Chess Master 2008 was bagged by Bhakti Juikar, a student from I E S V.N Sule School, Mumbai. While Tejas Arora, a student from Springdale Senior Secondary School, Amritsar, Punjab was adjudged as the 1st Runner-Up, Tonsen Mongwang, from Joypore H S School, Dibrugarh, Assam was announced as the 2nd Runner-Up for the national level chess contest.

At the award ceremony, Karthikeyan Murali, the International Fide Rated Player with the rating of 1780, was also honoured. Karthikeyan Murali, the State Champion during the year 2008 in the Under-11 age category was sponsored by the MindChampions Academy for the All India Chess Finals at Ahmedabad in August 2008 and other competitions to improve his FIDE rating. Currently, he stands 40th out of the 210 participant at the national level.

Sh. Jyotiraditya Scindia, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Communications and IT, recognized the commendable performance of the young MindChampions in the game of Chess and encouraged them to continue to exhibit the same zeal and brilliance. He said that the budding talent needs to be mentored and guided and that NIIT MindChampions Academy is offering the aspiring young Chess players a perfect platform to learn and grow.

According to Mr. Rajendra S Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd., "Chess improves academics and mental development. The NIIT MindChampions Academy will popularize Chess in India's Schools."

The nationwide chess contest witnessed widespread participation by over 2,00,000 students from over 3400 Government and Private Schools spread across 24 states and Union Territories. The record participation was made possible due to matches being played over the internet from district level onwards across the nation. This allowed schools even from the remote areas where NIIT has been working with state government schools as well as private schools to educate and train the kids in use of ICT, to enroll for Chess Master 2008.

The grand finale of MindChampions Academy Chess Master 2008 saw winners from North, East, West and South zones vying for the National Level Honour of Chess Master 2008. The winners from the four zones also got an opportunity to play simultaneous Chess with the World Chess Champion, Viswanathan Anand.

Felicitating the winners of NIIT MindChampions Academy- Chess Master 2008, Viswanathan Anand said, "It is a proud feeling to see these young children actively take part in NIIT MindChampions Academy-Chess Master 2008. I congratulate the winners and wish them a bright future ahead."

"I am confident that the excellence and determination that these young children have displayed will help them perform well in academics as well. It is heartening to see that NIIT MindChampions Academy has reached huge number of children across the country to initiate them into the game of Chess," he added.

Launched in 2002 with an objective of initiating students into the world of Chess, NIIT Mind Champions Academy has today fostered nearly 6351 chess clubs with more than 7,45,000 students cumulatively since inception, as its members in schools where NIIT offers computer education. World Chess Champion Vishwanathan Anand has personally travelled to Agartala, Guwahati, Raipur, Patna, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and other cities across India, spreading the message and motivating the school students to start playing. NIIT MindChampions Academy conducts an Annual Chess Tournament, known as Chess Master for these school children across 16 states in the NIIT network. Chess Master 2008 was flagged off by NIIT Mind Champion Viswanathan Anand in New Delhi and simultaneously in 11 other cities through NIIT Imperia's Synchronous Learning Technology in May last year.

# Never quit school: Anand

Mandar Deshpande

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Pune:** In 1987 V. Anand became the first Grand Master (GM) of chess in Asia. Today, there are 18 GMs in India alone. Indeed, chess is attracting more and more young blood and attaining a GM title before turning 16 isn't extraordinary anymore.

Amidst this rosy picture are many players in India who are a rung below GM level. Some jobless and some who have chosen soft academic options vulnerable to the future unknown — if a GM title, job and sponsorship don't materialise.

Anand, though quells such fears. "The scene is not that bad. The system is stable with many players having jobs," said the 39-year-old World champion Anand at Nehru memorial hall on Tuesday. He was speaking after the award ceremony of NIIT MindChampions Academy.

"In any sport, there is a cut off between when you make it and when you don't," said Anand. "When you decide on a career, apart from the game you have to ask yourself whether you like the lifestyle. It's a personal decision. I would advise

people to keep their options open till they are 20 or so. And never quit school (for chess)."

## On sports ministry's decision to allow only Indian passport holders to represent the country...

"It's amazing how many phone calls I have got asking if I can play for India now. In fact, I have never held a Spanish passport so I don't know how people think that. What the Indian government has decided is a common enough rule. I have seen it in quite a few countries. If the govt is going to announce such a rule, probably it should be announced a year in advance so people who want to make a choice have time on hand."

## On whether chess will lose out to the might of other sports at Olympics...

"The Olympics have already got pretty unmanageable. And there are many other sports on the sidelines (waiting for inclusion in Olympics). And then Ivanchuk has.... (referring to doping controversy at the chess Olympiad) ... there are other issues as well. It will be good if chess gets into the



V. Anand hands over West Zone winner award to Bhakti Juikar of Mumbai at Nehru memorial hall on Tuesday. Anand (right) was also felicitated by Pune District Chess Association in traditional style. He said later: "I would advise people to keep their career options open till they are 20 years or so"

Games. But then, even if it is included, it will happen only after seven-eight years. So, it's a long way off."

## On whether it's easier for communist countries to produce sporting champions

"I don't know many communist countries anymore! But clearly, Russia and China do something very special. Still, it's not a communist/capitalist thing. It simply boils down to facilities... whether sporting culture is there and children are encouraged."

## On whether the gap between world No. 1 and No. 10 is reduced because of Kasparov's retirement

"It was happening anyway Kasparov's peak was in 2002. Since then he wasn't dominating quite

the same way... a great player no doubt... but this new wave of Karjakin, Carlsen and others was starting to come in. I don't think it was entirely connected to Kasparov's retirement."

## On life at the top

"In 2001 when I had this bad patch, I lost around 50 points and I went from world No. 2 to world No. 3. Last September, I lost 16 points and went from No. 1 to No. 6. It just goes to show the intense fight at the top. People may change places but the trend is dominant and the gap has got thinner."

## On the inflation of Elo rating

"I'm personally worried about the inflation of the rupee! On a serious note, this inflation in rating is quite normal. Probably, Elo 2850 today is



of the same strength as 2750 twenty years back."

## On whom would he prefer in the World championship final. Topalov or Kamsky...

"I always end up getting the other guy. I prefer not to comment."

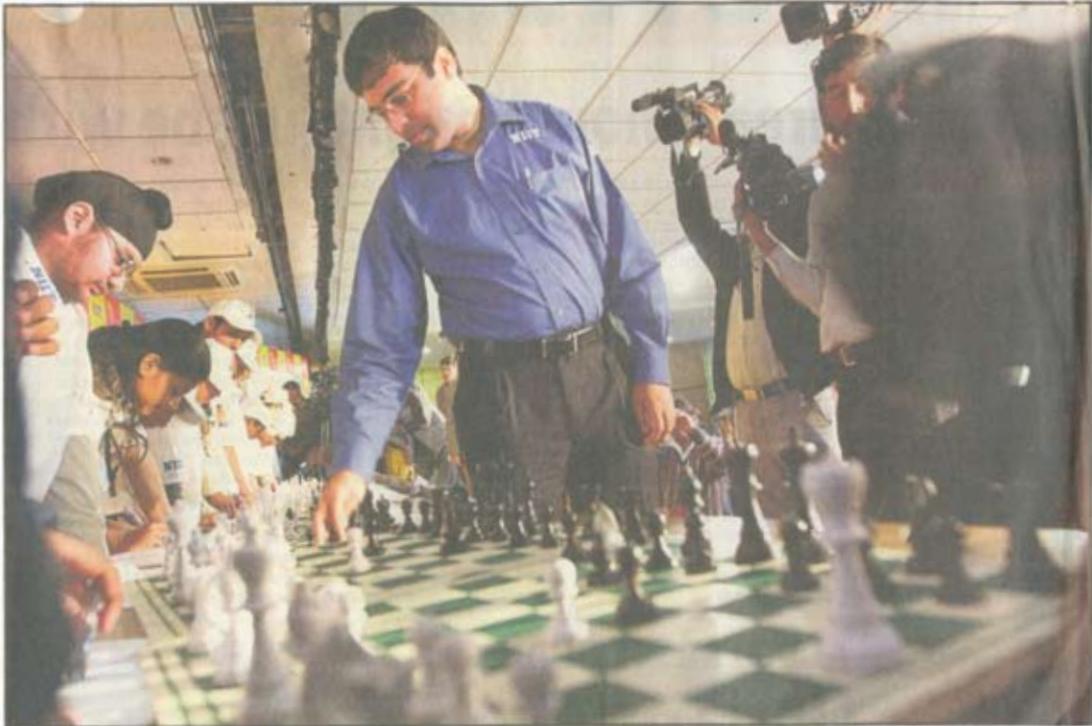
## 'Reaching numbers is gratifying'

During the function which lasted for more than two hours, Anand also played simul chess against six players from the academy. "Board No. 2 (Om Sabnis) and No. 4 (Bhakti Juikar) had excellent positions. I have noticed that over the last few years the level is going up consistently," said Anand.

Anand said his venture is going places and has reached remote areas in Assam, Chattisgarh and Tripura. "Chess belongs to schools. We have to go to those parts of India where chess doesn't have strong roots. These numbers — 2.5 million students and 6,000 schools — are gratifying," he said. "Everyone wants to leave a legacy. In my case that legacy would be this academy."

World No. 2 Anand would attend more such functions in Guwahati, Jaipur and Delhi before going back to Europe and prepare for Lianres Super GM event.

The Indian Express  
New Delhi  
January 18, 2009



### **That's how you do it**

Chess Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand plays with more than a dozen schoolchildren at the NIIT Mind Champions Academy-Chess Master, 2008 Award ceremony, held at the Delhi Public School, R K Puram, on Saturday. *Photo by Tashi Tobgyal*

The Hindu  
New Delhi  
January 18, 2009

### *A date with the Grandmaster*



**"HELLO, SIR":** World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand enjoying a session of simultaneous games with children who won the NIIT Mind Champions' Academy -- Chess Master 2008 in Delhi on Saturday. PHOTO: S. SUBRAMANIAM

# When 'humbled' Anand meets his foe

## Greets Vikram Singh Who Beat The World Champion Many Years Ago

Avinash Kalla | TNN

**Jaipur:** When someone asked Viswanathan Anand while seeking his autograph, if he remembers that a local lad defeated him many years back when he played on 35 boards simultaneously, Vishy winked and said, "Hope you are not the guy." But when someone from the crowd introduced Vikram Singh, who managed to beat him, Vishy was more than gracious.

Recollecting the incident, he greeted Vikram, asked about his well being, wished him luck and moving ahead he said, "A defeat in any game is hard to swallow, but I still remember him emerging winner then."

His act floored onlookers who couldn't believe what they saw, and though that loss didn't make any difference to Anand, but it did shape up Vikram's career and helped him secure a job through sports quota.

"It's the biggest achievement in my CV," says Vikram, who feels that the win helped him in getting a job with the small scale industries.

In the town to felicitate young chess players, Vishy was game for anything that the kids wanted. Be it a rap-



**KING ON THE MOVE:** Viswanathan Anand playing with 15 kids simultaneously at a school on Friday

id fire session of questions, playing with 15 of them simultaneously, posing for innumerable photo requests or signing autographs, the grandmaster did it all with élan that he displays on the 64 squares.

The kids were well prepared, from sports related questions to personal queries, business bearings of chess and even philosophical volleys they threw all sorts of questions at him and the grandmaster didn't disap-

point. In a layman's word, he explained the difference between being an international master and a grand master; shared his meeting with his icon, the legendary Bobby Fisher roaming in a car around Reykjavik, capital of

Iceland, as Bobby was finicky about meeting people at his residence.

He was amazed when someone asked him about his unbeatable win record on December 11, his birthday. Responding to it, he said, "Yes. I haven't lost on my Birthdays and at times have been plain lucky. In 2000, I was on the brink of losing the winning streak, but my opponent failed to capitalize."

The chess ace feels despite the game having its origin in India, it will take us at least a decade to come close to Russia, which dominates the game.

"The only way to produce more champions is by taking the sport to the grassroots level in smaller towns and identifying the talent that lies unexplored," says Anand.

When asked why he's choosy about endorsements and has stayed with only one IT brand before recently signing for his second endorsement, "I am not comfortable endorsing multiple brands as it demands a lot of time, which I can't afford. I feel for professionals sports should come first and everything else later," said Anand.

Hope other sporting icons are listening?

# Chess helps solve problems: Vishy

Syed Intshab Ali, Jaipur

The chess grandmaster who seldom failed to checkmate his adversaries, Viswanathan Anand on Friday defended himself against accusations of acquiring a Spanish citizenship. "How can people think I'm Spanish? I have an Indian passport," said Anand, showing his passport when asked why he spends more time in Spain than in his home country.

The three-time world champion, who was in Jaipur to encourage the young minds to take up chess, felicitated the winners of the north zone finals of the NIIT Mind Champions Academy-Chess Master 2008 at the Step By Step School.

Talking to *DNA*, Anand said now he has taken up the job to churn out more professional chess players from India. "People talk about chess as a spectators' game. But chess, like any other game, is difficult to follow when you don't know the rules. Even if the children learn the rules, they would become good spectators. That will definitely benefit the game."

Elaborating more on attracting people towards the



Viswanathan Anand in Jaipur on Friday —Santosh Sharma.DNA

mind game, he said, "Like Twenty20 cricket, chess has a shorter version of rapid and bullet chess. "We have made chess slightly shorter. Rapid chess has a time limit of one hour,

which is more interesting for the spectators than the conventional chess of seven hours."

The world champion has not only inspired former Indian

## Chess helps solve...

skipper Saurav Ganguly, but has become a role model of the Pink City students. In an interactive session with students, Anand said, "Chess helps in developing critical thinking and solving problems." When asked about Ganguly's comment that "Anand is a role model for team India", he said, "I feel honoured. It is a great compliment and it cannot get better coming from a cricketer like Ganguly." The master of the chessboard doesn't confine himself to the game. Though he wishes that chess would become as popular as cricket in India, he expressed his concern about three-time Olympian Limba Ram who has been forced to take shelter in a garage. "I have heard about him. It's sad that sports icons like him are facing such problems in the country." Anand expressed his concern over the financial condition of players in India, other than the cricketers, who are living in an absolute state of penury.

TURN TO P6

## That's how World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand keeps himself motivated despite all the highs he has achieved in the sport

SALIL KULKARNI

**PUNE:** When a sportsperson has achieved nearly everything in the world of chess, staying motivated can be a 'challenge' if not anything else. But not in the case of World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand, who still has the same passion and love for the game no matter what heights he scales.

### ENJOYMENT FACTOR

In fact, it is his sheer enjoyment that keeps him going and spurs him on to pursue bigger things in the sport. "I enjoy the game and don't think too much of the result. That's what chess is all about. I don't think too much about

winning," said Anand, who was in the city for a promotion event.

Fittingly, he got a huge welcome from the school children, something which is rare for a sportsperson apart from cricket. Anand is actually happy to be in Pune, a place where he won his first national rapid chess title.

The thirty-nine-year-old also admitted that chess has become more competitive than what it was ten years back, and maintaining the top spot is not a piece of cake as the points difference between all the top ten players is very slim. "See, chess has become competitive best, the competition is getting stiffer and stiffer all the time, that's what is really one wants," opined Vishy. So, what's his take on chess get-

ting Olympics status? "Yes, I would definitely like to see chess being part of the Olympics, but I guess it will take some time. Let's see what happens," Anand said with a tone of optimism.

The chess legend also had a strong message for young and budding players and their parents. "Don't leave education, it's always good to have a second option. Today, chess players are well-paid and given jobs in various sectors, but I still feel, one should always have a second option to fall back on," he said. He spoke highly of Pune's contribution to chess, especially to women's chess. "Krutika Nadig, Swati Ghate are both great players, Pune has got a lot of potential to do well in the future," he added.

# JUST ENJOY!

"I enjoy the game and don't think too much of the result. That's what chess is all about. I don't think too much about winning

—Viswanathan Anand

PICS: SANJEEV NAIK

## MEMORABLE DAY



ALL CONCENTRATION: Viswanathan Anand plays chess with budding whiz kids

SALIL KULKARNI

Six players from different parts of the country got an opportunity of lifetime — that is to play with the world champion Viswanathan Anand.

Six players were selected on their basis of their performance in the recently concluded NIIT Mind Champions Academy's Chess Master 2008. The players were also felicitated by the Viswanathan Anand. But for the players, the biggest prize was playing

with their idol. Vishy played with all of them simultaneously and before finishing his public speech he candidly said, "I have got some tough games ahead."

As expected, he won all the matches with ease but for the players it was dream come true. For Bhakti Juikar, the day was something that she will never forget, "I was told yesterday itself I would be playing with him. The entire night I couldn't sleep," she said. Jui after every move meticulously jotted down certain things, and when probed more said, "I wrote about the moves that he made and also the moves I made. It's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that you play against a World Champion, and hence I have written everything that I did while playing against him. Even Om Sabnis, another player from Mumbai, also echoed Bhakti's sentiments and described the day as a memorable one. "He told me to play an attacking game. In one move I was in strong position but hesitated to play attacking game. After the move, he told me that once you are in strong position always go for the gamble and don't think too much about the result," said the twelve-year-old from Mumbai.

## ANAND PLAYS SIMULTANEOUS CHESS

It was dream come true for the winners of NIIT Mind Champions Academy - Chess Master, 2008 as they got a chance to play chess game with none other than grand master Vishwanathan Anand on Tuesday. Seven winners from Maha-

RAVINDRA JOSHI.DNA



rashtira, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhatisgarh displayed their playing skills while competing with the grand master. "It was a memorable day for me, as I played against my idol," said Abhishek Jagtap of Baroda. Anand played simultaneously with all the players for almost 30 minutes. Though, it was obvious that Anand was going to win the games, but the kids gave him a tough fight. "Some of them were really good and at one point they were in a strong position," said Anand, while speaking to the media. Sunil Gundel from Madhya Pradesh was hopeful of winning the game against the grand master, but he lost. This didn't affect his confidence, as the joy of playing with the master was more than anything for him. "I wanted to beat him, but it is not an easy task as he has a lot of experience. But I am glad that I got an opportunity to play with him," said Sunil.

## 'Pune has played a big role in promoting chess'



Vishwanathan Anand while playing —RAVINDRA JOSHI.DNA

### Feels grand master Vishwanathan Anand who was in the city

Tushar Dutt

He is undoubtedly the king of International chess and he has proved his mettle time and over again. Grand master Vishwanathan Anand, who was in town to felicitate the winners of the NIIT Mind Champions Academy - Chess Master, 2008, spoke to the media on various issues.

When asked if chess academies are helping the game to grow, the grand master said the academies are actually required to develop the game in the country. "Chess academies can play a very important role in promoting the game. There are very few academies in India, which promotes chess and NIIT Mastermind Chess Academy

is one of them. Through it, we are trying to take the game to the grass root level, so that it spreads through proper channel," said the champion.

Recently, Hetul Shah created history defeating Grandmaster Nurlan Ibrayev of Kazakhstan in the 7th Parsvnath International Open chess tournament. So, what does Anand feel about the youngsters' game? Chess is getting younger not only in India but also internationally. It is a good sign as players from the age group of 8-14 are coming up well," he said.

Ask him about how does he look at Maharashtra's contribution towards the game and he replies, "Maharashtra has played a very big role in promoting the game. There are many heavyweights from the field of chess, who have come up from the state and especially from Pune. And I am sure in the coming days many more players will come up from the city and the state."



World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand with participants of Chess Master 2008 in city on Tuesday. Arul Horizon

## Vishy's mission: taking chess to the masses

KABIR MANDREKAR  
JANUARY 13

THE success mantra for three-time world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand lies in enjoying each game, rather than trying to win them. When victories come – and they do with an amazing bit of regularity for this smiling assassin – it's always a bonus.

Thus, when he pursues a project that was kick-started in 2002 – to take chess to the masses – Anand does it with a similar mindset. He enjoys what he is doing. The NIIT Mind Champions Academy, has managed to add over 6,350 chess clubs with around 7,45,000 students since inception. And Anand is indeed happy about this achievement. "Our plan is to bring the game of chess to the masses. We want the people from the remotest of places to actively participate in the game of chess. Our aim is to teach the game of chess to as

many students as possible within the country as it also helps develop the memory and concentration skills of the children. Hence efforts are being undertaken to involve more



schools in this course," said Anand.

When Anand made his first stopover in Pune this year on Monday, he said the time was ripe to emulate Russia and China by broad-basing sporting activities, so that champions could be nurtured in various events.

The results are already there for all to see. The academy has groomed young prodigies like 14-year-old Karthikeyan Murali whose current FIDE rating is 1780 and he was placed

40 out of the 210 participants at the national level last year.

Anand has personally travelled to Agartala, Guwahati, Raipur, Patna, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and other cities across India, motivating schools to actively take up chess as a sporting activity. Anand, who was in the city to felicitate youngsters who took part in Chess Master 2008, said he saw a bright future for a number of them. He had special words of praise for the zonal winners of 2008 – Bhakti Juikar and Prabha Rajwade. "I am confident that the excellence and determination that these young children have displayed will help them perform well in academics as well. It is heartening to see that NIIT Mind Champions Academy has reached huge number of children across the country to initiate them into the game of chess," he said.

Chess Master 2008 was flagged off by Anand in New Delhi and simultaneously in 11 other cities in May last year.

# World champion claims he 'opted out' of Corus No cash crunch in chess, says Anand

By **Shweta Thampan**  
in New Delhi

**WORLD** champion Viswanathan Anand on Saturday quashed rumours of an economic crisis affecting chess. He said he was not playing the Corus tournament this year, by choice.

Anand and Vasilin Topalov are missing the prestigious tournament that started on Saturday in Wijk Aan Zee, Amsterdam, and there were rumours that they were not invited to the tournament because of a cash crunch.

"I had decided long back to give Corus a miss as it was too close to the World Championships in Bonne. Also, I have played in 10 of the 11 editions of the event and I am a bit tired now. I will definitely play next year," Anand said.

Resultantly, K Sasikiran, D Harika and Abhijeet Gupta will make their debut in the tournament. "I hope it is a breakthrough event for the players, since it was for me," Anand said.

Sasikiran starts as top seed in Group B, while Abhijeet and Harika will play in Group C.

The world champion once again emphasised the need for the All India Chess Federation (AICF) to do a lot more for the game in India, though he remained politically correct.

"I think they should make sure they organise more top level tournaments to give Indian players a chance of getting Grandmaster norms," he said.

Anand felt the AICF had not taken advantage of his becoming the world champion. "I think this is the time when the Federation can work on popularising chess in the country," he said.

Interestingly, Anand had talked about getting top level tournaments to India after his win at the World Championship



Viswanathan Anand plays with young fans at a promotional meet in New Delhi on Saturday

in Mexico in 2007, but not much has been done since then. Asked if he was satisfied with the progress, Anand steered away from controversy by saying, "It's the Federation's job, not mine. So I don't know the specific details of how many tournaments should be held or what should be done."

Anand also did not divulge the details of the new format of the World Championship that FIDE is contemplating.

"I don't think the current cycle of events should be broken. The FIDE, along with

players, is thinking of introducing a new system of electing a world champion. But that will take time," the 39-year-old said.

The Grandmaster will be back in Europe next week to train for the Linares tournament starting February 18 in the Spanish city of Linares.

"It's a strong event and one of my favourites. It will be my first event this year, and I want to do well," he said.

Anand said he was in favour of chess becoming an Olympic sport and was hopeful it will

happen soon. "Many countries now recognise chess as a sport and that is a big step towards its inclusion in the Olympics," he said.

With several young players doing well, the depth of Indian chess has been talked about much recently. But Anand feels India is still quite behind Russia as a chess-playing nation.

Anand said he still has an unfulfilled dream. "I always dreamt of leaving a legacy of chess behind. I am still working on that," he said.

*shweta.thampan@mailtoday.in*

QAMAR SIBTAIN

The Free Press Journal  
Mumbai  
January 15, 2009

## Anand looks for more

GUWAHATI

There's still more to come from the world chess champion Viswanathan Anand who today said he was not thinking of his successor yet but looking in terms of opponents.

Here to felicitate the East Zone winners of the NIIT Mindchampions Academy's Chess Master 2008, Anand shot back when asked whom is he considering as his successor.

"I am not thinking of my successor but looking in terms of opponents. I am working for big games (ahead)," he said.

The world champion suggested that chess should be introduced in schools curriculum as the mindgame help students improves concentration and perform better.

"Chess has a healthy quality as it helps students to perform better in school and in concentration... Thereby they do well in studies," said the Grandmaster. "I am confident that the excellence and determination that these children have displayed will help them perform well in academics as well. Therefore, chess should be introduced in schools. The level of chess playing is going up and the number of children playing is also going up."

Mid Day  
Pune  
January 14, 2009

# ‘Maharashtra has to play a big role in promoting chess’

**Kaumudi Gurjar**

*kaumudi.gurjar@mid-day.com*

“MAHARASHTRA is a heavy weight state in chess and has to play a big role in promoting the game in India,” said world chess champion Viswanathan Anand.

A hero to many chess-crazy kids in the city, Anand promised to visit the city more often to encourage them.

The chess champion was in Pune to felicitate the winners of the West Zone finals of NIIT Mind Champions Academy – Chess Master 2008.

Bhakti Juikar of Mumbai and Prabha Rajwade of Chattisgarh emerged as the West Zone winners and were rightly rewarded by Anand.

The children were all ears when Anand spoke about his desire to encourage and promote chess in Pune.

He said Mind Champions



**GRAND MASTER:** Anand felicitated the winners of the West Zone finals of NIIT Mind Champions Academy - Chess Master 2008. PIC/ANIL NAIK

Academy — a joint initiative by NIIT and Viswanathan Anand — would do everything to promote the game in Pune.

“NIIT Mind Champions Academy has a student base of 6,000 schools and 25 lakh students and it is growing,” he said.

He praised Kruttika Nadig and Swati Ghate, the two

chess champions from Maharashtra, for their game.

When asked about his future plans, Anand said, “I will focus on chess and I am sure results will follow. If I am not enjoying the game I will look to something else, but right now I am enjoying the game and looking forward to play in the Linares Chess tournament in Spain.”

# Anand felicitates young champions

**Express News Service  
Chennai, January 12**

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

J MANOHARAN

News Today  
Chennai  
January 19, 2009



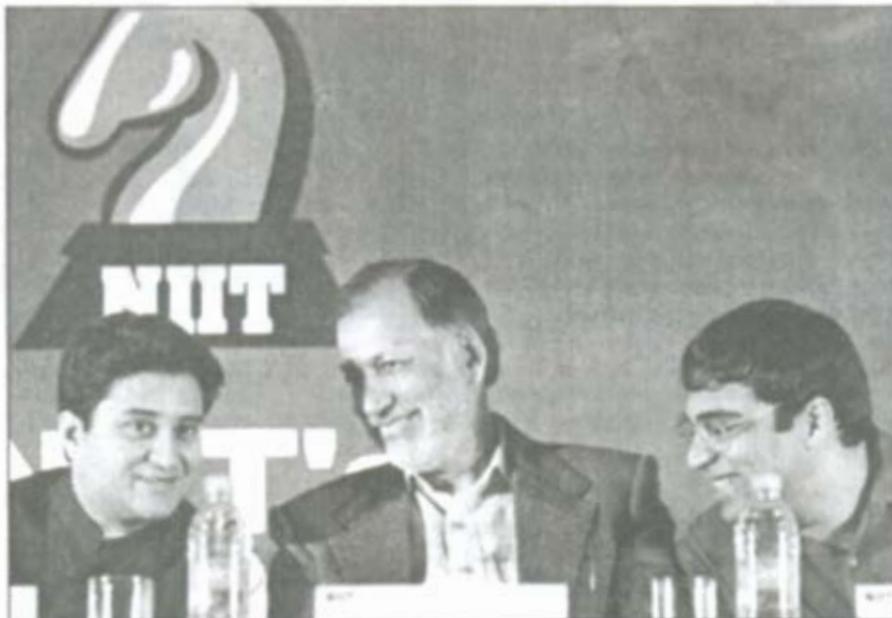
**World champion Vishwanathan Anand with the South Zone winners of NIIT Mind Champions Academy-Chess Master 2008 at a felicitation function in Chennai recently.**

The Sentinel  
Guwahati  
January 16, 2009



*World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand inaugurating the NIIT's Chess Master 2008 East Zone winners felicitation programme at Pragjyoti ITA Centre for Performing Art in Guwahati on Wednesday. (Sentinel)*

Mahamedha  
New Delhi  
January 18, 2009



नई दिल्ली : 'चेस मास्टर 2008' समारोह में उपस्थित सूचना एवं प्रौद्योगिकी राज्य मंत्री ज्योतिरादित्या सिंधिया (बाएं), एआईआईटी के अध्यक्ष राजेन्द्र पवार (मध्य) व विश्व चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन आनन्द।  
प्रेट्ट



नई दिल्ली में एनआईआईटी माइंड चैम्पियन चैस मास्टर के विजेताओं के साथ एक मुकाबला करते विश्व चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन आनंद।

## लिनारेस में होंगे दिलचस्प मुकाबले : आनंद

18 फरवरी से होगा टूर्नामेंट : आनंद के पास हैट्रिक बनाने का मौका

नई दिल्ली, (वार्ता): विश्व चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन आनंद ने कहा कि अगले महीने होने वाले लिनारेस शतरंज टूर्नामेंट में मुकाबला रोमांचक होगा। आनंद ने यहां 'एनआईआईटी माइंड चैम्पियंस एकेडमी चैस मास्टर 2008' के विजेताओं को पुरस्कृत करने के बाद संवाददाताओं से बातचीत में कहा- लिनारेस में दुनिया के शीर्ष आठ खिलाड़ियों के बीच दिलचस्प मुकाबला होगा और इसमें मुझे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने का विश्वास है। लिनारेस टूर्नामेंट 18 फरवरी से आठ मार्च तक लिनारेस (स्पेन) में होगा।

आनंद इस टूर्नामेंट के गत चैम्पियन हैं और वह इस खिताब को कुल तीन बार 1998, 2007 और

2008 में जीत चुके हैं। बोन (जर्मनी) में विश्व खिताब जीतने के बाद आनंद का 2009 में यह पहला बड़ा टूर्नामेंट होगा और वह इस बार खिताबी हैट्रिक बनाने के इरादे से उतरेंगे।

विश्व चैम्पियन ने कहा- इस बार लिनारेस में मुकाबला कुछ अलग होगा। टूर्नामेंट में इस बार दो ऐसे खिलाड़ी होंगे जिनके साथ मैं पहले कभी नहीं खेला हूँ। मुझे इन दो खिलाड़ियों वांग यू और लेनियर डोमिनगोज के खेल का पहले अध्ययन करना होगा।

उन्होंने साथ ही कहा कि जिन खिलाड़ियों से आप पहले खेले हों तो उनके खिलाफ उतरते समय आपको परेशानी नहीं रहती। लेकिन किसी नये खिलाड़ी के खिलाफ

खेलते समय सतर्क रहना पड़ता है। लिनारेस में गत चैम्पियन आनंद के सामने मैग्नस कार्लसन, वैसिली इवांचुक, लेवोन एरोनियन, तैमूर रादजाबोव, वांग यू, अलैक्सान्द्र ग्रिस्चुक और लेनियर डोमिनगोज की चुनौती रहेगी।

आनंद लिनारेस टूर्नामेंट में शीर्ष वरीयता प्राप्त खिलाड़ी होंगे क्योंकि वेसेलिन तोपालोव 16 से 28 फरवरी तक सोफिया में गाटा कामास्की के साथ होने वाले मुकाबले के लिए लिनारेस से हट गये हैं। लिनारेस के लिए अपनी तैयारी के बारे में पूछने पर आनंद ने कहा कि वह अगले सप्ताह फ्रैंकफर्ट रवाना हो रहे हैं जहां वे इस टूर्नामेंट की तैयारी शुरू करेंगे।

## ...और आनंद का आना

नई दिल्ली (खे.सं.)। सफेद रंग की होंडा सिटी कार मॉडर्न स्कूल के अंदर आकर रुकती है। इसमें से उतरते हैं विश्व चैंपियन विश्वनाथन आनंद। उनके साथ अरुणा भी हैं, उनकी पत्नी। सीधे उन्हें उस हॉल में ले जाया जाता है जहां पार्श्वनाथ शतरंज टूर्नामेंट चल रहा है। थोड़े समय के लिए घड़ियां रोक दी जाती हैं। हॉल में घुसते ही आनंद का तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट के साथ स्वागत होता है। लगभग 15 मिनट के लिए मुकाबले रोक दिए जाते हैं। हर कोई आनंद की एक झलक पा लेना चाहता है। ऐसा हो भी क्यों न? अपने हीरो को करीब से देखने का मौका जो उन्हें मिल गया। आनंद स्टेज पर पहुंचते हैं। उन्हें गुलाब के फूलों की माला पहनाई जाती है। अरुणा को भी बुके दिया जाता है। आनंद कहते हैं, 'मैं तो चाहता था कि कुछ बोर्ड का खेल देखूं। लेकिन यहां तो खेल ही रुक गया।' मॉडर्न स्कूल की प्रिंसिपल लता वैद्यनाथन और दिल्ली शतरंज संघ के सचिव भरत सिंह चौहान विश्व चैंपियन का स्वागत करते हैं। लगभग 10 मिनट के स्टे के दौरान आनंद शतरंज के युवा स्टार

परिमार्जन नेगी से भी गुफ्तगू करते रहे। वापस जाते हुए आनंद टॉप बोर्ड पर सूर्यशेखर गांगुली और पेत्र कोस्तेन्को का खेल देखने रुके, थोड़ा मुस्कराए, फिर चल दिए। इस दौरान आनंद अपने चाहने वालों को ऑटोग्राफ भी देते रहे। चौहान कहते हैं, 'आनंद आ गए। मेरा तो टूर्नामेंट सफल हो गया।'

इससे पूर्व आनंद ने एनआईआईटी मांडड चैम्पियंस एकेडमी चैस मास्टर

2008 के विजेताओं को पुरस्कृत किया। उन्होंने संवाददाताओं से कहा, लिनारेस में दुनिया के शीर्ष आठ खिलाड़ियों के बीच दिलचस्प मुकाबला होगा और इसमें मुझे अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने का विश्वास है। लिनारेस टूर्नामेंट 18 फरवरी से आठ मार्च तक लिनारेस (स्पेन) में होगा। आनंद इस टूर्नामेंट के गत चैम्पियन हैं और वह इस खिताब को कुल तीन बार (1998, 2007 और 2008) में जीत चुके हैं।



Punjab Kesari  
Pune  
January 14, 2009



एनआयआयटी मांडड चैम्पियन्स अकॅडमीतर्फे घेणयात आलेल्या स्पर्धेतील विजेत्यांबरोबर विश्वविजेता बुद्धिबळपटू विश्वनाथ आनंद यांनी मार्गदर्शन केले.



लढा  
जगज्जेत्याशी

■ नेहरू मेमेरियल हॉल येथे एनआयआयटीच्या वतीने आयोजित करण्यात आलेल्या माईड चॅम्स स्पर्धेच्या पारितोषिक वितरण समारंभाच्या वेळी युवा खेळाडू बरोबर खेळताना ६४ घरांचा राजा विश्वनाथन आनंद.

## '९० लाख बुद्धिबळपटू तयार करण्याचे लक्ष्य'

पुणे, दि. १३ (क्रीडा प्रतिनिधी) : कोणत्याही स्पर्धेत समोर कितीही मोठा खेळाडू माझ्या विरुद्ध खेळत असला तरी मी मनावर कोणतेही दडपण न घेता खेळत असतो व खेळाचा पूर्ण आनंद घेतो. निकालाची काळजी कधीच करत नाही. त्यामुळे मी नेहमीच हसतमुख असतो, असे विश्वविजेता विश्वनाथन आनंदने पत्रकारांना सांगितले. एनआयआयटीच्या वतीने आयोजित करण्यात आलेल्या माईड चॅम्स बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेच्या पारितोषिक वितरणासाठी ६४ घरांचा हा राजा पुण्यात आला असता त्याने वरील वक्तव्य केले. आनंद पुढे म्हणाले, विश्वविजेतेपद राखण्यासाठी खूप कष्ट करावे लागतात. आंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरावरील पहिल्या १० अव्वल खेळाडूंमध्ये जे मानांकनाचे गुण आहेत त्यातील फरक खूप कमी आहे. आंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरावरील स्पर्धा वाढल्यामुळे विविध देशांमधून खेळाडू येण्यास सुरुवात झाली आहे.



■ विश्वनाथन आनंदचा जिल्हा बुद्धिबळ संघटनेच्या वतीने अध्यक्ष लक्ष्मिकांत खाबीया यांनी मंगळवारी सन्मानचिन्ह देऊन सत्कार केला.

आंतरराष्ट्रीय मास्टर किंवा ग्रॅण्डमास्टर होण्याची ज्या बुद्धिबळपटूंची इच्छा असेल त्यांनी शिक्षणावरील आपले लक्ष कमी करू नये. शिक्षण पूर्ण करून तो एक पर्याय जवळ ठेवावा. कारण बुद्धिबळामध्ये पूर्वीसारखी परिस्थिती राहिलेली नाही. स्पर्धाबरोबर बुद्धिबळपटूंमध्येसुद्धा वाढ झालेली आहे. या बुद्धिबळपटूंच्या संख्येच्या वाढीमुळे या खेळाला पुढील काळात उज्वल भवितव्य आहे. एनआयआयटी व माईड चॅम्स संस्थेच्या माध्यमातून आम्ही २२ राज्यांत ६ हजार शाळांमधून बुद्धिबळाचे प्रशिक्षण खेळाडूंना देत आहोत. सध्या आम्ही २ लाखांचा पल्ला पार केला आहे. गुवाहाटी, इटानगर, छत्तीसगड, अरुणाचल, आसाम येथेसुद्धा आम्हाला खूप प्रतिसाद मिळालेला आहे. आम्ही लवकरच १० लाखचे आमचे लक्ष पूर्ण करू, असा विश्वास विश्वनाथन आनंद यांनी शेवटी व्यक्त केला.

Prabhat  
Pune  
January 14, 2009



## ग्रामीण 'टॅलेंट' मुळे देशात बुद्धिबळाचे भवितव्य उज्वल

पुणे, दि. १३ (प्रतिनिधी) - ग्रामीण 'टॅलेंट' मुळे बुद्धिबळात भारताला उज्वल भवितव्य आहे, असा विश्वास जगज्जेता विश्वनाथन आनंद याने मंगळवारी येथे व्यक्त केला. खेळाबरोबरच अभ्यासाकडेही लक्ष द्या, असा सल्लाही त्याने युवा खेळाडूंना दिला.

एन.आय.आय.टी. माईड चॅम्पियन अकॅडमीच्या वतीने आयोजिलेल्या पश्चिम विभागीय बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेतील विजेत्यांना आनंदच्या हस्ते पारितोषिकांचे वितरण करण्यात आले. त्यानंतर तो पत्रकारांशी बोलत होता.

देशात बुद्धिबळाचा विकास झपाट्याने होत आहे. त्यात महिला खेळाडूही आघाडीवर आहेत. विशेष म्हणजे या खेळात आता ग्रामीण टॅलेंट मोठ्या प्रमाणात चमकू लागले आहे. देशातील बुद्धिबळाच्या विकासाच्या दृष्टिने हे निश्चितच महत्त्वाचे आहे. बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धांचे प्रमाण देशात वाढत असले तरी नियम व अटींचे योग्य पालन होत नाही. त्यामुळे खेळाडूंच्या पुढील वाटचालीस मर्यादा येतात. त्यादृष्टिने याकडे लक्ष देणे गरजेचे आहे.

बुद्धिबळाचा जगभर प्रसार होत असून या खेळाचा ऑलिम्पिकमध्ये समावेश होणे आवश्यक आहे. मात्र असे अनेक खेळ या प्रतीक्षेत असल्याने बुद्धिबळ ऑलिम्पिकमध्ये समाविष्ट होण्यास वेळ लागेल, असे सांगून आनंद म्हणाल्या रशियामध्ये आपल्यापेक्षा जास्त क्रीडा संस्कृती रुजलेली आहे. तेथे खेळाडूंना लहानपणापासून प्रोत्साहन दिले जाते, म्हणूनच या खेळामध्ये रशियन खेळाडूंचे वर्चस्व दिसते. जागतिक क्रमवारीत दुसऱ्या स्थानावर घसरल्याबद्दल बोलताना तो म्हणाला की, बुद्धिबळात अधिक काळ अज्वल स्थानी राहणे ही तारेवरची कसरत असते. कारण पहिल्या दहा खेळाडूंमध्ये फक्त एक-दोन गुणांचा फरक असतो. त्यामुळे त्यांच्यात एकमेकांना खाली खेचण्यासाठी जबरदस्त स्पर्धा असते.

यावेळी स्पर्धेतील विजेत्या सहभागी खेळाडूंनी आनंदने आनंद लुटला. हे सर्व खेळाडू त्यांच्याकडून पराभूत झाले, मात्र तरीही ते खुश होते. आनंदबरोबर खेळायला मिळाल्याचा आनंद त्यांच्या चेहऱ्यांवर झळकत होता.

बुद्धिबळाचा बादशहा विश्वनाथन आनंदचा पुणे जिल्हा बुद्धिबळ संघटनेतर्फे जगतगुरु संत तुकोबांची पगडी घालून सत्कार करण्यात आला.

# बुद्धिबळ खेळा; पण शिक्षण सांभाळून



छाया : धनंजय हेलवाडे

## प. विभागीय बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेतील विजेत्यांशी एकाच वेळी खेळताना विश्वनाथन आनंद.

पुणे : खेड्या-पाड्यातूनही अनेक चांगले युवा खेळाडू पुढे येत असल्याने बुद्धिबळ खेळात हिंदुस्थानला उज्वल भविष्य आहे. मात्र, या खेळात कारकीर्द घडविताना शिक्षणाकडे आजिबात दुर्लक्ष करू नका, असा सल्ला हिंदुस्थानचा जगज्जेता बुद्धिबळपटू विश्वनाथन आनंदने युवा खेळाडू व त्यांच्या पालकांना दिला.

एनआयआयटी माईड चॅम्पियन्स ॲकॅडमीने आयोजित केलेल्या पश्चिम विभागीय बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेतील विजेत्यांसाठीच्या पारितोषिक वितरण कार्यक्रमासाठी आनंद आज पुण्यात आला होता. पारितोषिक वितरणानंतर पत्रकारांशी त्याने दिलखुलासपणे गप्पा मारल्या. आनंद म्हणाला की, आपल्या देशातही बुद्धिबळाचा झपाट्याने विकास होत असून, यात महिला खेळाडू आघाडीवर आहेत. क्रीडा खात्याच्या पुढाकाराने आता आपल्याकडेही बुद्धिबळाच्या विविध स्पर्धा होत आहे. पुण्यातूनही अनेक युवा बुद्धिबळपटू पुढे येत असून, हे शहर या खेळासाठी चांगले सेंटर आहे. मात्र, सरावात सातत्य असल्याशिवाय चांगला बुद्धिबळपटू घडू शकत नाही, असेही तो म्हणाला. आपल्या देशात बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेचे प्रमाण वाढले असले

तरी, नियम व अटीचे योग्य पालन होत नसल्याने खेळाडूंच्या पुढील वाटचालीस मर्यादा येतात, अशी खंतही आनंदने व्यक्त केली.

आनंद म्हणाला की, बुद्धिबळ या खेळाचा आता जगभरातही प्रसार होत आहे. त्यामुळे या खेळाचा ऑलिम्पिकमध्ये समावेश होणे गरजेचे आहे. मात्र, अनेक खेळ ऑलिम्पिकमध्ये समाविष्ट होण्यासाठी प्रतीक्षेत असल्यामुळे असे होण्यास जरा कालावधी लागेल, असेही आनंदने सांगितले. जागतिक क्रमवारीतून दुसऱ्या स्थानी घसरल्याबद्दल छेडले असता आनंद म्हणाला की, बुद्धिबळामध्ये जास्त काळ अवलस्थानी राहणे म्हणजे तारेवरची कसरत असते. कारण पहिल्या दहा खेळाडूंमध्ये फक्त एक-दोन गुणांचाच फरक असल्याने एकमेकांना खाली खेचण्यासाठी जबरदस्त स्पर्धा आहे. बुद्धिबळातील रशियन वर्चस्वाबद्दल बोलताना आनंद म्हणाला की, तेथील क्रीडा संस्कृती आपल्यापेक्षा जास्त विकसित आहे. खेळाडूंना सुरुवातीपासून प्रोत्साहन मिळत असल्यामुळे बुद्धिबळाबरोबर ऑलिम्पिक खेळातही रशियन खेळाडू पुढे आहेत, असेही तो म्हणाला.

### आनंद विरुद्ध खेळताना...

पश्चिम विभागीय बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेतील विजेत्या खेळाडूंना आज प्रत्यक्ष त्यांचा हीरो विश्वनाथन आनंदशीच दोन हात करण्याची संधी मिळाली. आनंदविरुद्ध हे सर्व खेळाडू पराभूत झाले, तरी ते जाम खूश होते. जगज्जेत्या खेळाडूविरुद्ध स्वतःला अजमावताना मनामध्ये आनंद आणि दडपणही होते, अशी प्रतिक्रिया या खेळाडूंनी दै. 'सामना'शी बोलताना व्यक्त केली. आनंदशी सर्वाधिक वेळ झुंज देणारी भक्ती जुईकर म्हणाली की, लवकर पराभूत व्हायचे नाही या इराद्यानेच मी खेळ करत होते. स्वतः आनंदनेही माझ्या खेळाचे कौतुक केले. तू जर एक चूक केली नसती, तर अधिक वेळ लढली असतीस, असे आनंदने मला खेळ संपल्यावर सांगितले, असेही ती म्हणाली.

विश्व शतरंज चैम्पियन विश्वनाथन का कहना

# 'आनंद' बेहतर प्रदर्शन में

जयपुर, 16 जनवरी (खेसं)

देश में शतरंज को विशेष पहचान देने वाले विश्वनाथन आनंद को सिर्फ बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने में ही आनंद मिलता है। वे कभी पुरस्कारों के लिए नहीं खेलते। उनकी कोशिश तो अच्छा प्रदर्शन करने की रहती है और कामयाबी के साथ साथ पुरस्कार भी खुद-ब-खुद उनकी झोली में आ जाते हैं। चुनौतियों का डटकर मुकाबला करने वाले आनंद शुक्रवार को एक निजी स्कूल में पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह में भाग लेने गुलाबीनगर आए। इस मौके पर आनंद ने शतरंज और उनसे जुड़े सबलों पर दिल खोलकर बातचीत की।

रूस को पीछे छोड़ने में बहुत लगेगा

आनंद ने कहा, इस खेल में हमें रूस को पीछे छोड़ने में अभी 10 से 15 वर्ष का समय और लगेगा। इसके लिए देश में शतरंज को लोकप्रिय बनाना बेहद जरूरी है। उन्होंने कहा, शतरंज ऐसा खेल है जिसे खेलने के लिए स्टेडियम की जरूरत नहीं होती। इसे किसी भी कोने में बैठकर खेला जा सकता है।

भारतीय शतरंज का भविष्य उज्वल

आनंद ने कहा कि सूर्येखर गांगुली, शशिकिरण, राजस्थान के अफिजीत गुप्ता, कोनरू हम्पी और तान्या सचदेव के प्रदर्शन को देखकर लगता है कि वे भारतीय शतरंज का उज्वल भविष्य हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हमारी और तान्या जैसी खिलाड़ियों के प्रदर्शन की बदौलत महिला व पुरुष शतरंज के बीच अंतराल काफी कम हुआ है।

ओलम्पिड में शामिल हो सकती है शतरंज

विश्वनाथन आनंद ने कहा कि शतरंज अब विशेष पहचान बना



पत्रिका

प्रतिद्वंद्वी की परवाह नहीं

भविष्य में मिलने वाली चुनौतियों के बारे में आनंद ने कहा, मुझे इससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता कि मेरा प्रतिद्वंद्वी कौन है। मेरा लक्ष्य तो बेहतर प्रदर्शन करना होता है।

जयपुर में खिलाड़ियों से मोहरे लड़ते विश्वनाथन आनंद।

चुका है। अब यह खेल बच्चों में भी काफी लोकप्रिय है। यह शारीरिक नहीं बल्कि मानसिक खेल है, लेकिन यह दो लोगों के बीच खेला जाता है इसलिए भविष्य में इसे ओलम्पिक में शामिल किया जा सकता है।

मां पहली कोच

आनंद ने बताया कि उन्होंने बचपन में अपनी मां से शतरंज खेलना सीखा था। वे ही उनकी पहली कोच हैं। उसके बाद से तो शतरंज उनका जुनून बन गया और छुट्टी का पूरा दिन वे शतरंज में ही डूबे रहते थे। आनंद ने कहा, पहले मेरे माता-पिता मेरे शतरंज खेलने के खिलाफ थे। वे मुझे पढ़ाई पर ध्यान लगाने को कहते थे। लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने मुझे बढ़ावा दिया और मैं यहां तक पहुंचने में कामयाब रहा।

याद है बाँबी फिशर से मुलाकात

आनंद ने कहा, यह एक सपने के सच होने जैसा था, जब मैं बाँबी फिशर जैसे दिग्गज शतरंज खिलाड़ी से पहली बार मिला। उन्होंने बताया कि हमारी मुलाकात फिशर की मृत्यु से ठीक डेढ़ वर्ष पहले हुई थी। आनंद माइकल टाल के भी प्रशंसक हैं।

स्कूल से करें शुरुआत

आनंद ने कहा, मेरा मकसद शतरंज को पूरे देश में लोकप्रिय बनाना है। इसके लिए जरूरी है कि हम भी चीन और रूस जैसी संस्कृति अपनाएं। यहां भी स्कूल स्तर से शतरंज खिलाड़ी तैयार किए जाएं जो आगे बढ़कर अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर देश का नाम रोशन करें।

तेजस व चकिल नॉर्थ जोन चैम्पियन

अमृतसर के तेजस अरोड़ा व हिमाचल प्रदेश के चकिल ठाकुर एनआईआईटी माइंड चैम्पियंस एकेडमी के चैस मास्टर टूर्नामेंट के नॉर्थ जोन विजेता बने। आनंद ने यहां स्टेप बाय स्टेप स्कूल में आयोजित एक समारोह में विजेता व उपविजेता खिलाड़ियों को पुरस्कृत किया।



## About NIIT MindChampions Academy

NIIT MindChampions Academy, a not-for-profit initiative was set up as a joint initiative with the GM Viswanathan Anand and NIIT Ltd, with the objective of promoting Chess in schools to enable development of young minds.

Launched in 2002 with an objective of initiating students into the world of Chess, NIIT Mind Champions Academy has today fostered nearly 6351 chess clubs with more than 7,45,000 students cumulatively since inception, as its members in schools where NIIT offers computer education. World Chess Champion Vishwanathan Anand has personally travelled to Agartala, Guwahati, Raipur, Patna, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and other cities across India, spreading the message and motivating the school students to start playing. NIIT MindChampions Academy conducts an Annual Chess Tournament, known as Chess Master for these school children across 16 states in the NIIT network. Chess Master 2008 was flagged off by NIIT Mind Champion Viswanathan Anand in New Delhi and simultaneously in 11 other cities through NIIT Imperia's Synchronous Learning Technology in May last year.

## About NIIT

NIIT, Asia's No. 1 IT trainer and leading Global Talent Development Corporation, offers learning and knowledge solutions to over 5 million students across 40 countries.

Leading IT magazine Dataquest has conferred upon NIIT, the Top IT Training Company Award 2008. Rated among India's Business Superbrands 2008, NIIT's Individual Learning Business offerings include industry-endorsed programs for students seeking careers in IT - GNIIT, Integrated ANIIT for Engineers (IAE), and Advanced Technology Programs for IT professionals.

NIIT offers turnkey IT integration program for schools. NIIT has provided computer-based learning to over 9,500 government and private schools.

For working professionals, NIIT Imperia, Centre for Advanced Learning, offers Executive Management Education Programmes in association with Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) at Ahmedabad, Indore and Kolkata.

NIIT Institute of Finance Banking & Insurance (IFBI), formed by NIIT with equity participation from ICICI Bank, offers programs for individuals and corporates in Banking, Financial Services and Insurance.

NIIT Uniqua, Centre for Process Excellence, addresses the increasing demand for skilled workers in the business and technology services industry by providing training programs in relevant areas. This is a part of NIIT Institute of Process Excellence, a NIIT-Genpact venture.

NIIT's Corporate Learning Solutions, offers integrated learning solutions (including strategic consulting, learning design, content development, delivery, technology, assessment and learning management) to Fortune 500 companies, Universities, Technology companies, Training corporations and Publishing houses.

Element K delivers learning solutions for customers and partners through a tailored combination of catalog learning products, technology, and services. The offerings include: vLab®: hands-on labs, instructor-led courseware, comprehensive e-reference libraries, technical journals, and KnowledgeHub™: hosted learning management platform.

NIIT together with Element K is now the first and the best choice for comprehensive learning solutions, worldwide.

# Snapshots of NIIT MindChampions Academy - Chess Master 2008



Seen here: Vishy interacting with the school children and dignitaries during his visit to Chennai, Pune, Guwahati, Jaipur and Delhi for NIIT MindChampions Academy- Chess Master 2008.

**NIIT**

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