

About NIIT

NIIT Limited, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, offers learning and knowledge solutions across 40 countries.

Leading IT magazine Dataquest has conferred upon NIIT, the 'Top IT Training Company' award successively for the past 18 years, since the inception of this category. Rated among India's Business Superbrands 2008, NIIT's Individual Learning Business offerings include industry-endorsed programs for students seeking careers in IT - GNIIT, Edgeineers and Global Net Plus for IT professionals.

NIIT has provided computer-based learning to over 15,000 government and private schools. The futuristic NIIT NGuru range for schools is a holistic education package that comprises Interactive Classrooms (an embedded Teaching Learning Material, that uses elements of interactivity, automation and web links library); Math lab (technology tools that enable school students to learn and explore mathematical concepts); IT Wizard (equips the students with core computer knowledge and IT skills); and Quick School (an Education Resource Planning solution for school management).

For working professionals, NIIT Imperia, Centre for Advanced Learning, offers Executive Management Education Programs in association with IIM Ahmadabad, IIM Kolkata, IIM Lucknow, IMT Ghaziabad and IIFT Delhi. NIIT Imperia also offers specialized courses in Finance in association with KPMG and on Digital Marketing with Google India and Internet and Mobile Association of India(IAMAI).

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 Limited, 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.

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

NIIT's innovative HR practices have been felicitated by **Aon Hewitt** as amongst '**Top 25 Best Employers in India- 2011**'; Indian Education Awards 2011 as 'Best Education Company to Work with'; by **Great Places to Work Institute** as amongst 'Top 25 India's Best Companies to Work for' and First in Training & Education Industry, 2011.

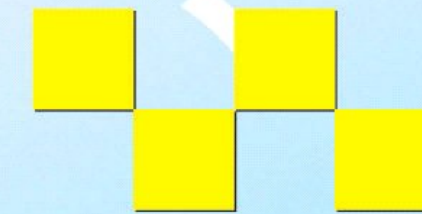


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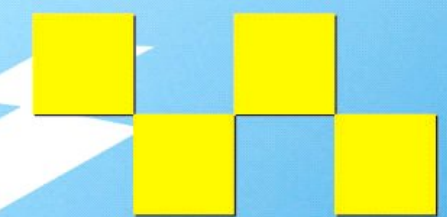
NIIT Mind Champions' Academy

Chess Master 2011



**The NIIT
MindChampions'
Academy**

A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



Highlights of Chess Master 2011



Memorable Moments



**The NIIT
MindChampions'
Academy**
A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



NIIT MindChampions' Academy 2011

The MindChampions' Academy, a not-for-profit initiative was set up as a joint initiative with Grand Master Viswanathan Anand and NIIT Ltd, with the objective of promoting Chess in schools to enable development of young minds, subsequently help them to think logically and improve their analytical skills.

The MindChampions' Academy introduced chess to the thousands of school children across rural India. From schools among the Himalayas to the southern tip of the country, we have kids playing the game.

Born in 2002, the Academy has fostered over 11,500 Chess clubs with over 10,50,000 students as its members, in schools across the country. GM Viswanathan Anand has personally traveled to Agartala, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi, Jaipur, Patna, Raipur, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Bangalore, Trivandrum, Shimla, Shillong and other cities across India, spreading the message and motivating the school students to start playing Chess. NIIT Mind Champions' Academy conducts an Annual Event around the months of December to June, known as Chess Master for these school children across India in the NIIT network.

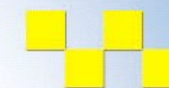
As part of the academy, NIIT provides every school an MCA login to the website. The MCA site consists of Video on Chess Fundamentals, Computer Based Tutorials (CBT) enabling the students to learn the game, Videos on Mentoring session by GM Viswanathan Anand, Chess software to play with the computer, Validated web links on Chess, Details about famous players, Explanations on some of the most useful tactics to win a match, Software that enables children to play matches over the internet, Process manual on how to form a club with functionalities and responsibilities explained, Finally, the chess puzzles which help children analyze various moves.

NIIT MindChampions' Academy exposes students in the age group of 7 - 17 years to the world of Chess.

The initiative consists of Formation of Chess clubs at Schools, Chess coaching, Chess playing, empowering young minds towards making a positive impact on behavior and academics.



**The NIIT
MindChampions'
Academy**
A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



Grand Finale of NIIT MindChampions' Academy – Chess Master 2011

NIIT NGuru set to redefine school education in India

- *The holistic school learning solution which enhances teaching and learning experience, now offers ICT enabled teacher training programs and programs on accreditation*
- *World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand felicitates the National Level Winner of MindChampions Academy – Chess Master 2011, Mahasweta Kumar from Mangaldoi Govt School, Darrang, Assam*
- *First Runner Up Mukul Kumar from GD International School, Muzaffarpur also felicitated by Anand*

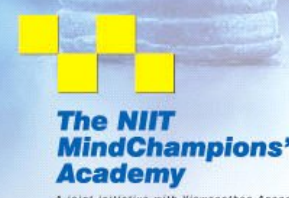
Patna, July 08, 2011: NIIT Limited, leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT trainer, announced the launch of cutting edge ICT enabled solutions for the schools of tomorrow, under the aegis of 'NIIT NGuru'. World Chess Champion & NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand unveiled these solutions, which aim to improve the efficacy of the teaching learning experience for school administration, teachers and students alike. Shri Sushil Modi, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar graced the event as Chief Guest. Hemant Sethi, President, School Learning Solutions, NIIT Limited was also present on the occasion.

NIIT NGuru launched Accreditation Standards for Quality School governance, which enables schools to deliver quality education for overall development of students. Accreditation establishes the School's competence in delivering requisite elements of education covering curriculum, faculty, administration, student services, training, consultancy and evaluation.

The program has been designed in consultation with academicians, parents, administrators and quality professionals with a view to define and implement systems to provide educational services that aim to enhance satisfaction levels of all interested parties – be it students, parents, society or regulatory authorities.

NIIT NGuru also announced the launch of a new-age International Pedagogical ICT Teacher Training Programs, to upgrade the existing skills of the teachers by leveraging ICT. These certification programs would help in empowering teachers with the latest technology and pedagogic skills and encourage collaborative peer learning. This would also encourage teacher-student participation in the classroom and make learning more fun for students. The courses on offers are – International Pedagogical ICT Certification and training program on Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation.

Mr. Hemant Sethi, President, School Learning Solutions, NIIT Ltd., said, "Over the years, NIIT has redefined the school education system by offering comprehensive range of innovative ICT enabled teaching & learning solutions to make the present curriculum in Schools interesting and interactive, thereby bringing back the joy of learning. We now introduce cutting edge training programs for the school administration and teachers to help set unparalleled standards in education and further augment the teaching learning experience."



On this occasion, World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand, felicitated the National level winners of NIIT MindChampions Academy (MCA). Mahasweta Kumar from Mangaldoi Govt School, Darrang, Assam was adjudged as the National level winner of the NIIT MindChampions Academy – Chess Master 2011. Mukul Kumar from GD International School, Muzaffarpur was the runner up. The winners for East and North zone finals were also felicitated by World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand.

At the National Finals of the NIIT MindChampions Academy Chess Master 2011, the winners of each Zone – South, East, North and West, vied for the coveted Chess Master 2011 title. Ashotosh D Bawankar from Saraswati Vidyalaya, Amravati and Arshil Syed from Ryan International, Chembur, Mumbai represented the West Zone; Mukul Kumar from GD International School, Muzaffarpur and Mahasweta Kumar from Mangaldoi Govt School, Darrang, Assam represented the East Zone; the South Zone was represented by Kumaran D from Shankara School, Chennai and Siva Shankar Ramarao from Govt High School, Gowda Peta, Samalkot; while Tarang Mittal from Chabildass School, Gurgaon and Dudani Devarshi Ghanshyambhai from Arbuda Sanskar Vidhyalaya, Ahmedabad represented the North Zone. The zonal winners also got an opportunity to play Chess with the Chess Champion, Viswanathan Anand.

Commenting on the success of NIIT MindChampions Academy, World Chess Champion and NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand remarked, "It is heartening to note that young children are taking up chess enthusiastically and mastering the strategies of the game. I heartily congratulate both the winners and wish them a bright future ahead."

To promote Chess in the country, NIIT, in partnership with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), has introduced the first of its kind joint certification Chess Program known as 'Chess as Mind Booster' for all the schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhigyan umbrella. The program aims to encourage young students to play Chess which would enable young minds to develop, and subsequently help them to think logically and improve their life skills.

Recent studies suggest that there is a strong correlation between the game of chess and academic excellence. It is evident that introduction of chess to the classroom environment through MCA Clubs has positively influenced the students by enabling them to experience holistic learning during the school hours.

NIIT MindChampions Academy is a joint initiative by NIIT, a leading Global Talent Development Corporation and Asia's largest IT Trainer, and World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand to initiate young minds into the World of Chess. Established in 2002, the Academy has fostered over 11,000 Chess clubs with more than 1 million students as its members, in schools across India.

NIIT NGuru is a holistic education solution for schools that utilizes appropriate technology as backbone and encompasses all the possible components required to service the present and future learning needs of a school. NIIT NGuru suite consists of 'Interactive Classrooms' for teachers, Math lab, Mobile Science Lab, IT Wizard, Learning lab for students and Quick School, an 'Education Resource Planning' solution for the school management.





Hindustan Times
Patna, July 9, 2011

Vishy launches NIIT Nguru

CHESSBOARD TALENT

The company initiates mind game activity in 400 schools in state

Anil Kumar
htletters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Friday advised youngsters to take up playing chess, in addition to outdoor games, as it helped in improving analytical skills and sharpness of mind.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function, organised to award the national winners of NIIT Mind Champions Academy—Chess Master 2011, Modi said, "It is a commonly held belief, that those who are good in physics and maths are also good in the game of chess, while those who are good in physics, chemistry and maths are good at computers. The reason behind it being, that both require analytical skills and sharpness of mind."

The game of chess, besides being interesting and absorbing, does not demand big space or money.

"It is within the reach of all," Modi said, while thanking NIIT for their pioneering effort in promoting the game in the backwaters of Bihar. He also



Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand with the winners of NIIT Mind Champions Academy-Chess Master 2011, in Patna on Friday. AP DUBE / HT PHOTO

welcomed world chess champion Viswanathan Anand and thanked him for sparing his time to inspire youngsters of Bihar.

Hemant Sethi, president, School Learning Solutions, NIIT Ltd, said the company had launched the MCA activity in 400 schools for which it had

tied up with the government to provide Information and Computer Training (ICT) education to students to hone their skills.

"After a seven month-long intensive programme, we have been able to form 11,000 chess clubs throughout the state. The response has been simply over-

whelming," he said.

Sethi said that the world class talent development corporation and the biggest Asian information technology provider, has now decided to launch its future-ready NIIT Nguru programme to provide holistic and end to end computer education solutions to

schools. NIIT provided ICT solutions to 9 million students in 14,000 public and private schools in the country, he added. "We are happy to announce the launch of NIIT Nguru at the hands of NIIT Mind Champion Viswanathan Anand in Bihar, which is a focus state for us," Sethi said adding, "Unlike our competitors, it will cater to the entire education needs of all stakeholders—students, teachers, schools and parents." To expand our reach, we will also reach out to private schools in tier 3 and tier 4 cities and select states for tying up with government schools, he said.

Modi and Anand, the special guest, handed over the prize to the national champion Mahasweta Kumar of Assam and Mukul Kumar, the runners up, a student of GD International School, Muzaffarpur.

But the award ceremony could not have been complete without an exchange of 'moves' between the deputy-CM and the World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand on the glass chessboard.

Grandmaster's special date with students of DAV School



The enthusiastic DAV students and guests click special moments with chess whiz Viswanathan Anand, in Patna on Friday. AP DUBE / HT PHOTOS

PATNA: He came, he inaugurated and he conquered.

The world chess champion had a special date with boys and girls of DAV BSEB on Friday.

Anand unveiled a Nguru interactive, state-of-art classroom at the school. "The programme launched by NIIT will help classroom study environment become

more interactive and enjoyable for both students and teachers alike. And at the same time it will ease the burden on children," said Anand, while talking about

the new programme at the school.

Nguru is a technology enabled classroom solution that revolutionises teaching and learning.

Principal Ramanuj Prasad expressed his happiness over the new launch by NIIT that aims at making study a fun-filled experience.



The NIIT Mind Champions' Academy
A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



Hindustan Times
Patna, July 9, 2011



Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand (L) with NIIT national chess champions and deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi in Patna on Friday. AP DUBE / HT PHOTO

Bihar has changed, but needs to invest in children: Anand

Dipti Raman
htletters@hindustantimes.com

PATNA: The world chess champion is "happy to be back in Bihar after two long years".

Though he feels Bihar has changed for the better, he wants "the state to invest more in children".

In Patna to award the winners of the NIIT Nguru mind champions on Friday, Viswanathan Anand, the champion sportsman of India who has put the country in the big league of individual world sports, said, "The state also needs to plan big for infrastructure for development and sustain the momentum by investing in children."

He was quick to add, "It really feels great to be back to witness the change."

Asked whether he was satisfied with the status of chess as a sport in the country, Anand said the game, of late, had started receiving the attention and recognition it deserved.

"The situation now is much better and I am happy with the

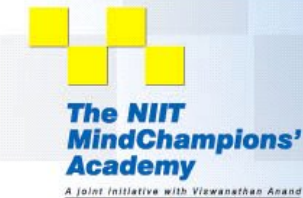
The situation now is much better and I am happy with the number of children taking up chess as a sport and career
VISWANATHAN ANAND

number of children taking up chess as a sport and career," he said. He commended the role of NIIT in helping discover young chess talent by developing in them love for the game at an early age.

Taking the question of cricket overshadowing chess and other sports, he said he was fully dedicated to chess and searching for and giving chance to new talents for the future of the game.

Talking about his preparations for the 2012 World Chess Championships, the grandmaster said once the time and venue were fixed, he would totally focus on preparations. "In the meantime, I'll be playing three-four rapid chess tournaments," said Anand.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



The NIIT Mind Champions' Academy
A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



Mail Today
New Delhi, July 11, 2011



SONU KISHAN

Vishy teaches Patnaites a few moves

THE popularity of chess has been growing in Bihar ever since International Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand visited the state two years ago. Anand, who was in Patna again last week to award the winners of a championship, said he was hopeful that Bihar would produce a Grandmaster soon.

Vishy's visit enthused Patna's schoolchildren who jostled with each other to get his autograph. He said that Bihar had changed and he was happy with the number of children opting for sports as a

career now. He, however, had a word of caution for parents that they should not force any career on their children. He said that he himself became a chess player because his mother used to play the game. But Anand wants the state government to 'invest more in children'. He thinks that Bihar needs to develop adequate infrastructure for sports to sustain the momentum. Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi thanked Anand and assured him that the government would do its best to promote sports.



Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 8, 2011

5 lakh take part in NIIT's national chess tourney

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE

NAGPUR

July 7: With the aim of popularising the game of chess among youths, well known computer education institute NIIT has set up the Mind Champion Academy in collaboration with world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand.

The Academy is now eight-year-old and recently its national-level annual championship witnessed a participation of whopping five lakh students from across the country.

This was disclosed by NIIT general manager Debdash Banerjee during a courtesy visit to Lokmat Bhavan, along with Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand on Thursday. They were welcomed by chairman of Lokmat Media Limited and MP Vijay Darda.

Banerjee said that the Academy today has more than a million students from different Indian schools and have formed more than 11,000 Chess



Debdash Banerjee

clubs across the nation in the past eight years. "It has become a movement of sorts for us," he asserted adding that around 90 per cent of the members of the Academy are from rural areas.

"There are many organisations promoting Chess but reaching out to talent in rural areas was our priority," explained divisional manager (Teachers train-

ing) Jaya Chakraborty, who accompanied Banerjee. She also informed about a recent tie-up between the NIIT and the IGNOU for the first of its kind certification programme in proficiency in the game of Chess.

Speaking about other educational endeavours of NIIT, Banerjee informed that having made its presence felt in 44 countries over three decades, the institute wanted to do something unique in the field of education. "The thought of making learning more easy through computer applications germinated and became their next mission. Using ICT as a tool, they started working with the State government to introduce computer technology as a teaching aid, he said.

He also revealed that around 1,500 private schools across India have also joined hands with the NIIT in computerising teaching methods.





Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 8, 2011

Enjoy chess, Anand to kids



World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand playing chess simultaneously with the students of School of Scholars during his one-day visit to the city on Thursday.

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE

NAGPUR

July 7: "One can achieve the success in any game including chess if he enjoys it. The students have an opportunity to make their career in chess", said World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand. He was in the city to attend the function organised by NIIT at School of Scholars, Wanadongri on Thursday.

Anand who visited the city to popularise the game said he taught the importance of the game to the students of North India. The game is already popular in South India, Maharashtra and West Bengal and he is trying to popularise it in North East area. While stressing an importance of chess to the students, he said the game of chess helps to enhance the concentration level and ultimately it helps in study also.

Anand further revealed that he is targeting to meet as many as 11,000 students this year to attract them towards chess. About his successor, Anand said, "I know the media as well as chess lovers are worried about the successor after my retirement, I am not in a hurry to call it a day. There are lot of talented chess players in India and I have great expectations from Koneru Humpy and *Dronawali Harika in future*."

About All India Chess Federations proposal to hold World championship in Chennai, Anand said he will be very happy to play in Chennai and it will be a huge boost to the chess in India. You will get lot of support while playing in own country but at the same time the challenge will be tough and I wouldn't say all will be favourable for me".

About his own performance, Anand said for last three to four years his performance is good and he would like to maintain consistency in future also.

Anand further said, "As compared to other games, cricket is very popular game in India. I am also aware about the fact that chess will not get that status in one night. It requires a movement to popularise the game in India"

Anand also criticised those people who compare him with master blaster Sachin Tendulkar. "It is very wrong to make such comparison. He plays cricket and I chess". When asked about his memorable match, Anand said last year's match with Toplov was a hard fought and difficult battle for him.

Earlier Anand was offered a red-carpet welcome by the SOS authorities and students. The day also proved to be special for the AISSE-2011 school topper who got the privilege of being felicitated at the hands of the Grand Master. In the interactive session with the students of School of Scholars, Mr Viswanathan stressed on the fact that chess and studies have a unique connection and it is seen that those who play chess also perform well in academics as chess is a brain game.

Vice-chancellor of Datta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Vedprakash Mishra was the chief guest on the occasion. Director of the school Mamta Dutta, principal Kavita Nagarajan, director Abha Meghe, Deshpande, Rekha Nair, Mrs Kothe and others were also present on the occasion.



A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



The Times of India
Patna, July 9, 2011

Chess stimulates mind, builds focus, says Anand

GM Opens State-Of-The-Art Interactive Classroom

Alok K N Mishra | TNN

Patna: World Chess champion Viswanathan Anand on Friday asked Bihar students to play chess since the game develops memory.

"It helps students develop sharp recognition capabilities and to remember lengthy variations with abilities to implement them." Anand told TOI on the sidelines of a function at DAV Public School, BSEB, here.

"During the game you are focused on only one main goal — to checkmate the opponent and become the victor; thus, it improves your concentration levels too. Improved concentration helps students learn more and perform well academically," the Indian chess Grandmaster, Anand, said.

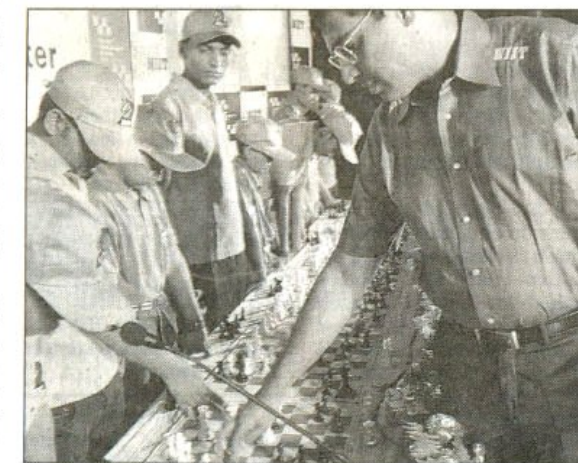
He was in the city to inaugurate a state-of-the-art interactive classroom on DAV BSEB campus here. The 50-seat interactive classroom, designed as per the National Curriculum Framework-2005, has large projectors and high-tech audio systems to provide a holistic learning experience to students.

Launched by NIIT Limited, working on talent development, interactive classroom enhances teaching and learning through elements of interactivity, automation, customization, web-link library, and teaching learning plan.

Asked what lags chess talent in Bihar, Anand said: "There is a lack of interest in playing chess among youths. The situation will improve only when people take interest in the game and start playing chess."



World chess champion Viswanathan Anand meets students after opening the interactive classroom at DAV Public School in Patna on Friday; (below) Anand plays chess with school students



Though he refrained from providing a specific answer to whether he planned to groom chess talent at the national level through coaching or otherwise, Anand called upon youths to play chess: "Chess induces holistic mental development. It develops logical thinking, promotes imagination and creativity, and teaches independence as you are forced to make important but decisive decisions yourself."

About Bihar's turnaround, Anand, who last came to Bihar in December 2008, said the state had witnessed remarkable and vi-

brant development in the recent years.

"Now the leadership should be focused on ensuring that the growth momentum is maintained. It is only through improving education further that the momentum could be sustained. Involvement of students in chess will make education exciting and propel the state's development," Anand said.

Later, he played chess simultaneously with 10 youngsters from various parts of the country, including four from Bihar, at a separate function held here at Rabin-dra Bhavan



A joint initiative with Viswanathan Anand



The Telegraph
Patna, July 8, 2011

ANAND FELICITATES WINNERS OF CHESS TOURNAMENT

First move tips from master

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Patna, July 8: Mahasweta Kumar, a Class IX student of Mangaldai Town GHS School, Assam, knows a little more about chess than how to move a bishop across a chessboard. But the national champion of NIIT MindChampions' Academy National School Finals, 2011, was overwhelmed when she met Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand.

Anand today felicitated Mahasweta and nine other young chess players at a function at Rabindra Bhavan. He also played the game with the school students.

"Most of the children continued with the struggle even after the game was over. They played with spirit. They should continue to play the game," said Anand.

As advice to the young players, he said: "The first move is very important in a game of chess. If you make a wrong move, you may be forced to make a number of unnecessary moves."

The students who were felicitated included Mahasweta, national runners-up Mukul Kumar, Class X of GD Mother International School, Muzaffarpur, west-zone winner Dudani Devarshi, Class IX student of Arbuda Sanskar Vidyalaya, Ahmedabad, and north-zone winner Tarang Mittal, a Class XII student of Chhabil Dass Public School, Ghaziabad.



Vishwanathan Anand plays chess with a school student at Rabindra Bhavan in Patna on Friday. Picture by Jai Prakash

Mahasweta said: "It is great to be here. National-level recognition is a great thing for young players like us." She was also the national-level winner of The Telegraph

School Under-12 Chess Tournament, 2008.

Anand said: "The NIIT MindChampions' Academy was started in 2002. The academy now has over a million stu-

dents with over 11,000 clubs across the country. Children who play chess often notice an improvement in their academic and non-academic skills. It is also a lot of fun."

He also inaugurated NIIT NGURU state-of-the-art interactive session at DAV, BSEB.

Deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi was present at the programme.



A joint initiative with Vishwanathan Anand

Deccan Chronicle
Trivandrum, July 7, 2011

master class



Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand during a visit to Saraswathi Vidyalaya in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. See page 14 — DC

Sentinel
Guwahati, July 7, 2011

Anand pleased with children taking to chess

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, July 6: World chess champion and NIIT Mind-Champion Viswanathan Anand on Wednesday expressed happiness that young minds are taking to the game.

"It is heartening to note that

young children are taking up chess enthusiastically and mastering the strategies of the game." Anand said while felicitating the south zone finalists of NIIT MindChampions' Academy (MCA) at a function here.

Recent studies suggest there

is a strong correlation between chess and academic excellence and MCA Clubs have positively influenced the students by enabling them to experience holistic learning during the school hours, a company official said.

IANS



A joint initiative with Vishwanathan Anand



Hitavada
Nagpur, July 8, 2011

Enjoy the game, says Anand

■ Sports Reporter

THE undisputed king of the chequered board prefers to keep things simple. World chess champion Viswanathan Anand, who was in the city on Thursday to interact with school kids and promote chess, advised them to "enjoy" the game to make it big.

"For the beginners, I would ask them not to worry about results and to just enjoy the game.

"For those who have played a bit and think that they have achieved some level and are not enjoying the game, I would like to advise them to take a break. Don't do it as a chore or an obligation. Stop it if the sport is not fascinating anymore. If after the break they feel they are missing out on chess then only should they start playing. The main thing is one must derive joy from playing," said Anand, while interacting with the scribes after guiding and kids of School of Scholars, Wanadongri.

Anand believed that there was a good breed of Indian youngsters following him but they were lacking (Contd on page 9)



World champion Viswanathan Anand playing chess with students of School of Scholars simultaneously at CCD Hall in the school's premises on Thursday. (Pic: Moonlight)

The Times of India
Pune, July 8, 2011

TIMES SPORT

19

'WOULD BE NICE IF I CAN PLAY WORLDS IN INDIA'

Chess King V Anand Looking Forward For 'Home Support' In His Title Match With Boris Gelfand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nagpur: It's not impossible to achieve everything by being simple and humble. World chess champion in all formats V Anand - is the prime example of this. Anand doesn't shy away from the reality that cricket is easily the most popular sports but chess has also given the role models to the country. On his visit to TOI office, Anand talked about various aspects of the game, World Championship, competitors, his future and different issues like doping.

Excerpts:
What are your views on the doping scandal?

They are yet to investigate the whole incident. It's not clear whether they did it intentionally or the banned substances were present in the food supplements. I feel sorry for the athletes but at the same time doping cannot be condoned. It's a reality.

What's your opinion about World Championship challenger Boris Gelfand?

We have been playing against each other since our junior days. There is hardly any age difference between us. He is just one and half years older than me. I don't know

whether this is right advertisement for World championship because my challenger is not younger than me. I have to prepare well because earlier he had beaten me. Although on most occasions I got the better of him, I cannot take him lightly.

Neutral followers are wondering if you can dish out an entertaining match. For, recent history is of draws....

Yes, it is true that we have played numerous draws recently. It is normal for chess followers to think that the forthcoming World championship will produce plenty of draws. We will try to be different but it all depends on match situations. Sometimes, it is better to play safe. I am not in favour of playing correct and copybook chess.

Will world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen's absence rub sheen off the WCC?

I wouldn't say that. There are three-four top players who will be competing there. One person's absence shouldn't make too much of a difference. There is enough depth in world chess at present. At the same time, I feel it would have been good to have Carlsen.

Which is your preferred World Championship format?

In 2002 I decided to stop worrying



World chess champion V Anand (left) sign autographs for children at a school in Nagpur on Thursday. He also visited The Times of India office and interacted with the staff

about the format. The moment you start thinking about format you allow it affect you. At present many people around the world think that match format is the best format for world championships so I prefer it too.

There is talk of Chennai bidding for the WCC...

I'm not sure if guys in Chennai

are actually interested in bidding for it so I don't want to put the bomb under them right now. But yeah it will be nice for once to play World Championship in my own country. The support, though it not very vocal in terms of chess, is very important. Plus if the WCC happens in India it will be a big boost for the chess in the country.

Who are the players you take inspiration from?

There are two players - Mikhail Tal and Bobby Fischer whom I grew up admiring. Tal was very accessible and still chess players around the world respect him. I met him in Brussels. Fischer fascinated me because there was an

enigma about him. I was lucky to have met him once and was surprised by his knowledge of India. In fact he asked me where I can get some 'amrutanjana'.

Apart from chess any other player you admired?

I liked John McEnroe a lot when I was growing up. I never shout like him though I liked that guy a lot.

India have not unearthed a player of Elo 2700 after Sasikiran touched that mark for some time. What India need to do to have 3-4 players in 2700 bracket. Who is the most special Indian talent today who can reach that level?

I think Sasikiran has done remarkably well in the last few years. But at the same time, youngsters like P Harikrishna, Parimarjan Negi and Abhijeet Gupta have also been doing well recently. It is not easy to reach 2700 but given the talent they have, I am sure they will reach there very soon. Hari is the most talented of the lot.

Ganguly, Hari, Sari and now Negi... what do they need to attain that quantum leap to be among the elite players?

All of them have done well in the last few years. In fact, Sasi rose to No. 18 but he didn't have a great

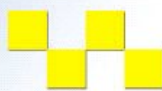
last year. Hari is also very talented and so are Ganguly and Negi. However, they need to do well consistently. One or two bad tournaments and you have to start all over again to achieve the same level.

Vidarbha has only two International Masters - Anup Deshmukh and Swapnil Dhopade. What do you think the region should do to increase the number of IMs and even produce GM one day?

The popularity of chess has to increase for the better results. There should be good exposure for the talented youngsters so that they could get to play with different types of players. The importance of good coaches in player's development is vital. I am sure, things will improve here and Vidarbha will also contribute quality players.

More and more ex-players from different sports are now coming into administration. What are your plans whenever you quit the game?

First of all, I am not an ex-player (laughs). On a serious note, I am enjoying the game and haven't thought about it. Administration is something I don't enjoy but you never know... maybe in future I may rethink.





DNA
Mumbai, July 8, 2011

SHORT STORIES



World champion Viswanathan Anand playing simultaneous chess with children in Nagpur on Thursday –PTI

► **World jr chess in Chennai**

The World junior chess championship will be held at Chennai from August 1 to 16. The World Chess Federation (FIDE) has appointed R Anantharaman as the chief arbiter of the tournament, in which 190 players from 43 countries are likely to participate.

Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 5, 2011

World chess champion Anand in city on July 7

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR

July 4: As a part of NIIT's Mychamp programme, World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand will be visiting Orange City on July 7 (Thursday) to interact with the students of



Vishwanathan Anand

School of Scholars. To popularise the chess through NIIT Mychamp programme, nowadays Anand is visiting several cities. According to him by learning chess the students can enhance their performance in academics too especially in maths and science.

This is the maiden visit of world champion to the Orange City. According to information during his one-day visit to the city he will interact with the students of School of Scholars, Wanadongri at 9.30 a.m. After spending one and half hour with the students, he will address the media at the same venue.

SoS principal Kavita Nagrajan while talking to Lokmat Times said, "We are eagerly waiting for his visit to the school. We are happy that for the first time he is arriving in the city and visiting our school."

Ms Nagrajan said the school is geared up to give a grand welcome to the king of chess in the school.

Lokmat Times
Nagpur, July 8, 2011

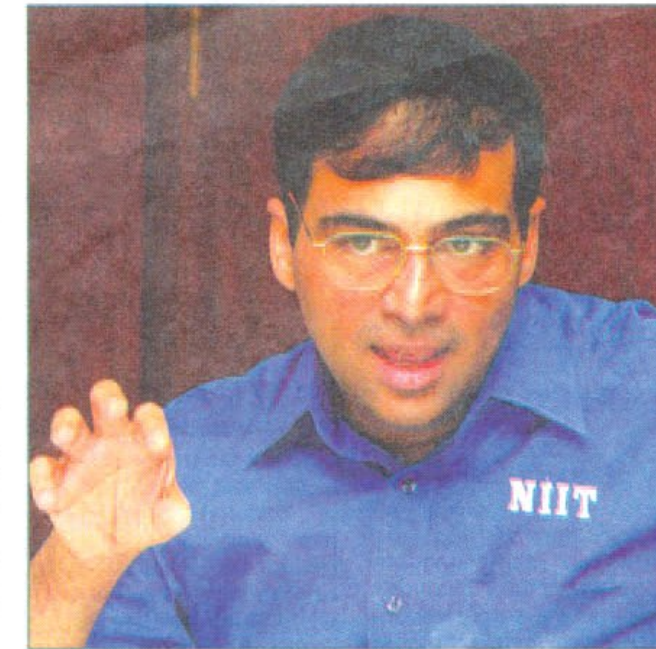
Mother taught me chess: Anand

LOKMAT NEWS SERVICE
NAGPUR

July 7: It is rightly said that behind every successful man there is a woman and world chess champion Vishwanathan Anand is no exception to this. It was none other than his mother who played an important role in shaping his career, revealed Anand himself which interacting with the editorial staff of Lokmat Media Limited during a courtesy visit to Lokmat Bhavan here on Thursday.

The Chairman of Lokmat Media Limited and Rajya Sabha member Vijay Darda, director (operations) of Lokmat Media Limited Ashok Jain, general manager (Nagpur) Nilesh Singh and general manager of NIIT Debdash Banerjee were present on the occasion.

Anand said he started to play chess when he was just six-year-old and his mother taught him how to play. "In fact, my mother used to do a lot for my chess. My mother and her family members used to



World chess champion Vishwanathan Anand making a point while interacting with the editorial staff of Lokmat Media Limited during a courtesy visit to Lokmat Bhavan on Thursday. (Another photo and report on Page-19)

play some chess. She used to play with her younger brother. Thus, she had some background in the chess using which she taught me playing chess."

Anand, who became the undisputed World Champion in 2007 and then successfully defended

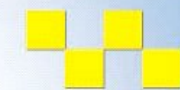
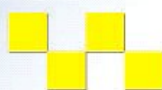
his title in the World Chess Championship 2010 against Veselin Topalov, said he exactly does not know about the origin of chess as there are different theories about it. "I don't know when and where exactly the chess originated or was invented. You

can't say when it was invented as there are different theories about it. It has some references in Chanakya Niti and mythological epic Ramayana also. It could have been invented a few hundred years BC."

Anand said the Indian version of the chess continued for a long time. But then in 1492, the rules were changed in Spain and since then all follow that version.

Anand Viswanathan, who is always (and wrongly!) referred to as Viswanathan Anand, said stamina plays an important role in chess. For, if one is tired, he or she cannot play properly and tends to commit mistakes. Therefore, the chess players should work on stamina. Anand also said yoga and pranayam can be useful to improve the concentration level in chess. "I also do a little bit of yoga," he informed.

Asked whether analytical mind is essential to play chess, Anand, who is also called 'Vishy', said apart





The Times of India Nagpur, July 8, 2011

TIMES SPORT

15

He came, he smiled, he chatted, gave smart and honest answers, played and, obviously, won a game. And a few hearts

'CORRUPTION worse than doping'



Sandeep Dabhekar | tw
It's not everyday that a world champ visits your office. The conference hall, a place for mundane meetings, was filled with the eager and expectant faces. After all it was Grandmaster V Anand who was coming to TOI's Nagpur office. With the aura of the world leader around him, Anand stood out even in a simple navy blue shirt and greyish black trouser.
The talks started on familiar territory. The game, his next target, preferred format etc. Slowly the ease set in, yes, a world champ's presence can make even journalists, seasoned or not, get circumspect. The talks veered to more contemporary issues: Corruption, civil society movement, politics and doping.
The trademark guile that the master displays on the 64-square went for a loss. Frank, straight from the heart replies became the order of the day. Anand was in the city for an NIIT - of which he is brand ambassador - initiative which took him to School of Scholars where he interacted with many kids.
As a first tricky move, the conversation shifted to politics. Will he veer towards it in the future?
"I will be very surprised if I got politically inclined in future. I don't think so. It's never interested me enough. Politics is not just about creating a think-tank, it's a lot about winning too," he said.
"And the rules are much broader



er than what they are on chess board," he added with a smile. "I don't think I am cut out for it."
How can a discussion about politics be complete without touching upon the issue of corruption? Anand said that Lokpal Bill can be a solution for the evil.
"But, honestly, I am not aware of the fine print and the issue is rather complex. But it's hard not to trust Anna Hazare. Yes, I do support the movement, but in the same breath I must admit this is more on instinct rather than a reaction that's come after a thought out process."
When asked which is the bigger evil - corruption or doping, Anand said, "Of course, corruption. Doping affects only a certain section of athletes and their sport. The affected area is smaller when compared to corruption, where a nation gets affected. At the same time doping cannot be condoned. It's a real pity."
As the talks neared the end, a daring soul decided to take the chance. Anand was asked about his teen crushes, that too in complete detail. How many, when and why?
Anand must have outsmarted many nerve-wrecking situations on the chess board but this one stumped him for sure. The question ensued a few fidgety moves and a start and pause reply. "Well... there have been those... in college... you know like everybody has!" he stammered. Quite inaudibly or was it in reflex, his hand went towards a cup of coffee which he barely sipped. "You guys know how a crush is like," he added.
The talks were rounded off with TOI's self-proclaimed chess champ showing his brazen might against Anand. To his credit the lucky chap survived almost 15 moves before raising his hands in defeat.
"For the first few minutes, I didn't know what was happening around me. I was sort of numb. I'm still not able to believe that I actually played against Anand," said our champ.

'Would be nice if I can play Worlds in India'

Grandmaster V Anand looking forward to taking on Boris Gelfand

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A person can achieve everything by being simple and humble. Chess GM V Anand is the prime example of this. He has achieved everything in life, he will achieve plenty more and that's because he firmly keeps his feet planted on the ground. Over the years, he has been compared to Sachin Tendulkar but that doesn't deter him because he knows if the little master is on top in his sport, he too is champion. Anand doesn't shy away from the reality that cricket is easily the most popular sports but chess has also given the role models to the country. On his visit to TOI office, Anand talked about various aspects of the game, World Championship, competitors, his future and different issues like doping.

What are your views on the doping scandal?
They are yet to investigate the whole incident. It's not clear whether they did it intentionally or the banned substances were present in the food supplements. I feel sor-

younger than me. I have to prepare well because earlier he had beaten me. Although, on most occasions I got the better of him, I cannot take him lightly.

Neutral followers are wondering if they can dish out an entertaining match. For, recent history is of draws.

Yes, it is true that we have played numerous draws recently. It is normal for chess followers to think that the forthcoming World championship will produce plenty of draws. We will try to be different but it all depends on match situations. Sometimes, it is better to play safe. I am not in favour of playing entertaining chess. I prefer to play correct and copybook chess.

Will world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen's absence rub sheen off the WCC?

I wouldn't say that. There are three-four top players who will be competing there. One person's absence shouldn't make too much of a difference. There is enough depth in world chess at present. At the same time, I feel it would have been good to have Carlsen.

Which is your preferred World Champ-

ship format?
In 2002 I decided to stop worrying about the format. The moment you start thinking about format you allow it affect you. At present many people around the world think that match format is the best format for world championships so I prefer it too.

Who are the players you take inspiration from?
There are two players-Michael Tal and Bobby Fischer whom I grew up admiring. Tal was very accessible and still chess players around the world respect him. I met him in Brussels. Fischer fascinated me because there was an enigma about him. I was lucky to have met him once and was surprised by his knowledge of India. In fact he asked me where I can get some 'amrutaman'.

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Ganguly, Hari, Sari and now Negi... what do they need to attain that quantum leap to be among the elite players?

All of them have done well in the last few years. In fact, Sari rose to No. 10 but he didn't have a great last year. Hari is also very talented and so are Ganguly and Negi. However, they need to do well consistently. One or two bad tournaments and you have to start all over again to achieve the same level.

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More and more ex-players from different sports are now coming into administration. What are your plans whenever you quit the game?

First of all, I am not an ex-player (laughs). On a serious note, I am enjoying the game and haven't thought about it. Administration is something I don't enjoy but you never know... may be in future I may rethink.

LESSON FROM THE MASTER: Grandmaster V Anand playing with young students at the School of Scholars, Wanadongri, in Nagpur on Thursday

ry for the athletes but at the same time doping cannot be condoned. It's a real pity.

What's your opinion about World Championship challenger Boris Gelfand?

We have been playing against each other since our junior days. There is hardly any age differences between us. He is just one and half years older than me. I don't know whether this is right advertisement for world championship because my challenger is not

onship format?

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