

Media Reports on the launch of



 - **NIIT** DigiArt Festival

(A digital painting competition for school children)

November 2008

NIIT

Snapshots of ipaint'08 event in Chennai on November 23, 2008



iPaint 08, green initiative draws overwhelming response

- *CII- NIIT DigiArt Festival sees a record 80,000 entries submitted by schools across India*
- *NIIT MindChampion Viswanathan Anand felicitates iPaint 08 winners at Kidex 08*

iPaint 08, NIIT DigiArt Festival, an annual digital painting competition organized across schools on a national level, received a record 80,000 entries this year from schools in Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, New Delhi and Haryana. The overwhelming response was made possible due to the **Green initiative**, wherein paintings were uploaded by the schools on a specially created site on www.niit.com/ipaint and no print outs were taken.

World Chess Champion and NIIT Mind Champion, Viswanathan Anand felicitated the winners, during an award ceremony held at the Chennai Trade Centre, as part of Kidex 2008.

The winners were judged across three categories – Sub Junior, Junior & Senior. The winning entry in the Sub-Junior category came from Ravi of Biglows Public School, New Delhi; in Junior category, Love Kumar from GSSS Bihni The Thunag, Himachal Pradesh and Pallavi Nagpal from Satyug Darshan Vidyalaya, Haryana, bagged the prizes, and in Senior category, J Vinod, from ZPHS, Andhra Pradesh and K Sai Kumar from Singareni Collaries High School, Andhra Pradesh, emerged as the winners.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. P Rajendran, Chief Operating Officer, NIIT, remarked, **“iPaint 2008 is an initiative of NIIT to enable young minds to express their creativity through technology. By organizing the competition through our Green initiative this year, we hope to instill a sense of responsibility amongst young minds towards their environment.”**

Mr. Pradipa K Mohapatra, Chairman, Kidex 2008 in his address said that CII has been focusing on competitiveness and inclusive growth as thrust areas for rapid socio-economic development for the last few years. While speaking on CII's emphasis on competitiveness he said that CII was keen to extend its initiatives on competitiveness to children also who will form the next generation. He also opined that the “iPaint 08” – the CII-NIIT Digital Art Festival helps in bringing out the creativeness among kids and is also inclusive.

Making his first public appearance after winning the World Chess Championship recently at Germany for the 3rd time, Grand Master & NIIT MindChampion, Viswanathan Anand said, **“I congratulate all the students who have participated in this contest. The entries deserve a special mention for the high level of creativity shown by the children. I am confident that talent identified through NIIT's school initiatives, will help shape future champions.”**

Mr. L Balasubramanian, President, School Learning Solutions, NIIT said, **“We are overwhelmed by the response that CII- NIIT DigiArt Festival has received from children all over India. The creative application of technology by the students will help us hone the creative potential of children.”**

The success of this event has made NIIT and CII to open this competition for all schools across the country. The winners of phase II of the event will be felicitated during Hyderabad chapter of KIDEX, 2008, in December.

iPaint 2008 was extensively technology based both in terms of evaluation and uploading the painting. This is a **green initiative** with no print outs taken at any level. Schools from far flung areas were assisted in uploading their paintings by the regional coordinators of NIIT. The judging process that happened simultaneously was carried online, thus reducing the time period. In addition to this, the whole process has been streamlined in a manner that ensured maximum participation.

At the school level, the competition was conducted in the school premises where internal judges chose from a record 80,000 entries to shortlist 5800 paintings. The selected entries were adjudged by a panel of judges appointed by NIIT to finally declare the winner. The paintings have been uploaded on www.niit.com/ipaint.

Anand for chess in Olympics

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Nov. 23: The prospects of chess becoming an Olympic sport remain distant, but reigning world champion Viswanathan Anand feels the mind game deserves a place in the quadrennial sports extravaganza.

Anand, who grew up dreaming of representing the country in the Olympics, hasn't lost hope of his sport making it to the Games in the near future.

"I think it's high time chess be introduced as a demonstration sport in the London Olympics before making it as a medal sport in eight year's time.

"We can think about which format of chess will be apt once the International Olympic Council gives the nod.

"Our country has churned out an array of world champions, so the chances of India winning medals are brighter," said Anand, who played with Spaniard Alexei Shirov at the Sydney Olympics where chess was an exhibition sport.

As early as in 1924, an attempt was made to push chess into the Paris Olympics, but the bid was rejected as the organisers were not able to distinguish between professional and amateur players. In the same year, a parallel chess Olympiad took place in



Reigning chess world champion Viswanathan Anand during a promotional event in Chennai on Sunday. — A.R. Anand

Paris, the last day of which saw the formation of Fide that became the world chess governing body. However, chess features in the IOC's recognised sports list and is a part of the Asian Games.

After giving away prizes for a

painting competition in the city, Anand, as brand ambassador for NIIT, said he was delighted with the Indian players' performances at various international chess events. "It has been a dream year for us. Our junior players reaped a rich haul at the

recently concluded Worlds at Vietnam.

"We have proved that India is a force to be reckoned with in international chess. I hope this upward trend will continue in the coming years," the undisputed world champion added.

The Hindu
Chennai

November 24, 2008

Anand launches II phase of 'iPaint08'

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand on Sunday launched the second phase of 'iPaint08' organised as part of 'Kidex 2008' and felicitated the winners of first phase in three categories.

Organised by NIIT and the Confederation of Indian Industry, the first phase of 'iPaint08' received 80,000 entries from schools located in Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, New

Delhi and Haryana. L. Balasubramanian, president, NIIT School Learning Solutions said, "The competition is now open for all schools across the country. The winners of the phase II of the event will be felicitated during Hyderabad chapter of Kidex 2008. December 15 is the last date for uploading paintings on to a specially created site www.niit.com/ipaint and the results

will be announced on December 28."

In his address, Mr. Anand urged the young students to make use of technology to express their creativity better. P. Rajendran, NIIT Chief Operating Officer said that the digital painting competition became a huge success due to the Green Initiative, in which paintings were uploaded on to a website and no printouts

• It is now open for all schools across the country

• Results will be announced on December 28

were taken. Pradipta K. Mohapatra, Kidex Chairman said CII had been focusing on competitiveness and inclusive growth as thrust areas for rapid socio-economic development. CII-Young Indians (Yi) and the Group for Nature Preservation and Education (GNAPE) also organised a Nature Quiz coinciding with Kidex 2008. The 'GNAPE-Yi Nature Quiz-2008' tested the students on their knowledge of nature, wildlife and environment.

The winners of the competition were awarded trophies on Saturday.



HAIL THE KING: Winners of an art competition place a crown on world chess champion Viswanathan Anand's head, in Chennai on Sunday

Down memory lane

'I Was A Normal Kid,' Says World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand

Pavitra Srivatsan | TIV

Chennai: "Yes, I used to play many pranks when I was a kid." Looking at the undisputed king of chess, Viswanathan Anand now, it's tough to imagine this bespectacled genius as a little boy, playing a prank. But Anand was serious. "You'll have to ask my brother or sister if I was bad or not. But I wasn't that bad. I was just a normal kid."

With scores of children lining up to meet him, it was a trip down memory lane for Anand.

"Academics-wise I was good. In fact, initially there wasn't much conflict between my studies and my chess. Even when I had just started playing chess, my parents were quite supportive. My mother was the one who introduced me to the game."

Smiling at the days gone by, World champion Viswanathan Anand had a coronation ceremony waiting for him back home in Chennai.

And for the many kids who had



Viswanathan Anand enjoys his interaction with children on Sunday.

lined up to catch a glimpse of the chess champ at the Chennai Trade Centre on Sunday. It was a special moment as they found their hero wearing a crown, coronated by the children themselves.

The occasion was the CB-NIFT Digital Art Festival's 'I Paint! 2008' prize distribution ceremony, and the guest of honour was, of course, Visy Anand, the face of its Mind Champi-

on Academy.

Even before Anand made an appearance, the place was teeming with hundreds of children. Seeing the two rows of children in school uniforms, carrying identical black placards up their heads - all saying "Welcome Visy Anand", jostling with each other for a place in the front, and surrounded by more groups of squealing children holding autograph pads in their hands, it was quite clear that here was a man that they looked up to.

Thirteen-year-old Love Kumar Sharma from Himachal Pradesh, winner of the competition in the national category was all smiles, as he described his digital painting. "It's a scenery of the mountains, and trees and even a temple," he gushed.

Quiz him if he knew who was going to hand him his certificate and prize, and the shy smile turns to a vigorous nod of the head. "Of course. The world chess champion." And would he like to be a chess champion too? But the digital art winner preferred, what

else, but computer engineering!

But there were several other children whose hands shot up into the air when asked if they would like to be like the Grandmaster.

Seeing the number of little ones straining their necks to see him, or the continuous stream of children being ushered in by equally excited parents to get his autograph, Anand said that this was the perfect platform for kids to express themselves.

"It's a great opportunity to give children the chance to express themselves, and reach a wide audience using technology."

However, when it came to clubbing chess and technology, Anand had a note of caution to sound. "Computers cannot replace one's own ability to absorb information. It helps, but it's not everything."

He also had a word of praise for the young chess players at the World Junior Meet in Vietnam, saying that they had been performing consistently in the age group events.



मुलाकात

विश्व चैंपियन वीश्वानथन आनंद को सीआईआई द्वारा आयोजित पुरस्कार वितरण समारोह में मुलाकात करके बच्चों के दिलों में विश्व चैंपियन बनने का सपना बोधित करने के लिए प्रयास किया।

ANAND MAKES IT MEMORAB

Express News Service
Chennai, November 23

SACHIN Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni take a break! You have a competitor. The one and only Viswanathan Anand. When children (none of them chess players) were asked if they wished to be like Anand one day almost all of them lifted their hands in unison at the CII NIIT Digi Art Festival awards function where the world champion was the chief guest.

An audio visual presentation was shown to the gathering where Anand's remarkable feats and the World crown clippings were shown.

His duels with the two big Ks (Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov) were also on display. The children watched the visual in rapt attention.

The glint in their eyes showed that they too wanted to grow up like Anand one day and bring laurels to the country.

Thirteen-year-old Sai Kumar from Andhra Pradesh who won the digital painting in the senior category could not believe his luck that he got his prize from the legend. "It was a big surprise and I am happy to get the award from Anand," said Sai, who plays chess as a hobby.

Haryana's Pallavi Nagpal,



Anand is crowned by children at the CII NIIT Digi Art Festival awards function.

Vishy wows school

ARTS

Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, who inaugurated the CII NIIT iPaint 08, was accorded a grand welcome generally reserved



IF you think movie stars are the only ones being mobbed - newsflash for you: World Chess Champions get mobbed even more in Chennai, especially when they're making their first public appearance after having won the title third time in a row, fresh from Bonn, Germany.

To say that the mood was upbeat at the Convention Centre, Chennai Trade Centre, at the CII-NIIT Digi-Art Festival, iPaint 08 - to be presided over by Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand - wouldn't be giving it due credit. A swarm of school students, all holding placards that shouted, "Welcome Vishy, King of Kings!" clung to the Chess Champion as he stepped out of the car - and the deluge was far from over as the crowd swept into the Convention Centre. Enthusiastic children and over-eager parents spilled over to the guest of honour every few seconds, asking autographs, while the NIIT volunteers had a tough time reigning them all in.

This year, iPaint 08, an annual digital painting competition organised across schools on a national level, received a record 80,000 entries from across schools in Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh - made possible by the



Green initiative, where paintings by students are uploaded by the schools on a specially created site. The winners were judged across three categories: Sub Junior, Junior and Senior. P Rajendran, Chief operating Officer, NIIT and Pradipa K Mohapatra, Chairman, Kidex 2008, both present at the event, were vocal in their praise for both

the children who had delivered such creative entries, as well as the World Chess Champion.

The star of the afternoon, though, was Vishy Anand himself - with anticipation rising to a fever pitch when a small compilation video of his successes was displayed. As the winning children were asked to the stage, Anand was seated on

a throne and 'crowned' royally, before being given prizes. "I'm really glad reception to this contest will help children cover the technology area better," he said, adding congratulations to the children who had won.

Later, at a press conference, Anand commented on the current state of Indian sports to how advanced sports and student. "I'd love to see Chennai included in the Olympics," he said, when asked if this was a possibility. In response to a question of why chess was so popular, he replied that steps were being taken to change the status quo. "Exposure to chess has increased in places like Chattisgarh, places

BLE SUNDAY FOR CHILDREN



J MANOHARAN

unction in Chennai on Sunday

who won the award in the senior category, was at a loss of words to describe her first meeting with Anand.

"This is my second competition in digital painting. I have heard a lot about Anand. To get the prize from him is special and I think I am fortunate," said Pallavi.

Anand spent some time with the media and couple of youngsters who quizzed him on his initiation into the game and bagging the world crown.

Anand was thrilled to have won the triple crown and stated that there was not much difference between the three formats which he won.

"It was important for me to

win at Bonn. First of all even though I have been winning matches (one format or other) there were skeptics who kept arguing that match format was the best.

"Once you have won that (match format) you have more credibility when you say that there isn't much difference between formats. Also it was nice to win against Vladimir Kramnik convincingly," said Anand.

On his future plans, Anand had this to say: "As for the future I see no reason to stop or anything like that. I will take a break for a couple of months and then start preparing for Linares which is slated

for mid February."

The maestro is pleased with the 'abundance' of talent in the country. He believes that with kids dominating various age-group tournaments, it was only a matter of time before they made their mark at the international level.

When queried who will be the contenders for the world title in the future, "There are six to seven players who can have a go at the title. Although there is not much difference (points) between the players one has to keep playing consistently well," said Anand.

Anand was willing to play in any format if chess was included in the Olympics.

The New Indian Express
Chennai
November 25, 2008

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IIIT Digi-Art Festival-
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North, North East," he explained.

Now that he'd paying playing continuously for 3 years, would he consider a small break?

"My next tournament is in February, he said. "So December would probably be a good time for a short break, yes."

As student journalists from Chandamama asked him about the pranks he'd played - there would be none as it was considered risky business - Anand answered patiently, if a little amused at their forthrightness.

The deluge of questions might have come to an end - but the quest for autographs still came thick and fast. Visy was more than ever, in the hearts of Chennaiites, the King of Kings.

—Pavithra Srinivasan
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Assam Tribune
Guwahati
November 26, 2008



World Chess Champion and NIIT mindchampion Viswanathan Anand being felicitated by children at DigiArt Festival organised by the NIIT in Chennai on Sunday. – UNI

Dina Malar
Chennai
November 24, 2008



சதுரங்க உலகின் சக்ரவர்த்தி... ஜெர்மனியின் பான் நகரில் நடந்த உலக செஸ் சாம்பியன்ஷிப் போட்டியில் இந்திய வீரர் விஸ்வநாதன் ஆனந்த் வெற்றி பெற்று, மூன்றாவது முறையாக உலக செஸ் சாம்பியன் பட்டம் வென்றார். சென்னைவில் தனியாக நிறுவனம் நடத்திய பாராட்டு விழாவில் ஆனந்த் நேற்று கலந்து கொண்டார். செஸ் விளையாட்டில் முடிசூட்ட மன்னன் ஆனந்த் என பாராட்டும் விதத்தில், அவருக்கு 'சிங்' என்று முத்திரையுடன் தகைக்கும் கிரீடத்தை அணிவித்து அழகு பார்த்தனர் விழாக் குழுவினர்.

Maalai Sudar & Sakshi
Chennai
November 25, 2008



ఎన్.ఎం.ఎస్ ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఆదివారం విద్యార్థులకు చిత్త లేఖన పోటీలు నిర్వహించారు. విజేతలకు బహుమతి ప్రధానోత్సవం సందర్భాత్వం ట్రోఫీ సెంటర్‌లో ఆదివారం జరిగింది. ఈ కార్యక్రమానికి ముఖ్య అతిథిగా చెన్న విశ్వవిజేత విశ్వనాథ్ ఆనంద్ హాజరయ్యారు. విద్యార్థులు స్వాగతం పలికారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా విశ్వనాథ్ విద్యార్థులతో కాసేపు ఆనందంగా గడిపారు. -చెన్నై న్యూస్‌లైన్

Dinakaran
Chennai
November 24, 2008



అకిల ఇన్‌దీయి పగ్గణి మఱణువు, మఱణువురుక్కఱణువు ఉవువియప్పొుుడి సెుుణ్ణుణ్ణు న్నఱ్ణుం పఱక్కమం వుఱ్ణుత్తక ముయుత్తీల్ కుడన్త 2 నఱుుంకణుఱుక న్ణుడెుుప్పెఱ్ణుత్తు. ఇుుప్పొుుడియీల్ 8 ఆుుయీరమ్ పేుుర్ పుంగుుకేఱ్ణుఱున్. వెుుఱ్ణుఱీ పెుుఱ్ణువుుఱుకణుుకుకు ఉులక సెుుస్ సఱుంపీయన్ వీసుువునఱుఱుణ్ణు ఆుుణ్ణున్త పఱీశుకణుణ్ణు వుుఱుంగుుకీ కవుుఱువిత్తఱుఱు. న్ణుకఱుఱుశుుసీయీన్ పొుుత్తు సీఱుుమీక్కుకు ఆుుడ్డొుుకీఱుఱుం పుుఱుంగుుక్కుఱుఱుఱు ఆుుణ్ణున్త.

Eendau
Chennai
November 24, 2008



విశ్వనాథన్ తో నిట్ సంస్థ అధికారులు ఏ.రాజేంద్రన్, ఎల్.బాలసుబ్రహ్మణ్యన్, 'కిడెక్స్' ఛైర్మన్ ప్రదీప్ కె.మోహపాత్ర, తదితరులు, చిన్నారుల నృత్యం

చిన్నారులతో 'విషీ' ఆనందం

చెన్నై, న్యూస్టుడే

ప్రతిభ పెంచుతాయన్నారు.

చిత్రలేఖనంలో తెలుగు తేజాలు...

చదరంగ చక్రవర్తి విశ్వనాథన్ ఆనంద్ కు ఆ చిన్నారులు తమవంతుగా సాదర స్వాగతమిచ్చారు. కేరింతలు, చప్పట్లతో అభినందనలు చాటారు. ఆవురావు రమంట్లూ ఆటోగ్రాఫ్ కోసం ఎగబడ్డారు. 'విషీ వీ లవ్ యూ' అంటూ ఆభిమానం చాటారు. భారత పరిశ్రమల సమాఖ్య(సీఐఐ), ప్రముఖ కంప్యూటర్ శిక్షణ సంస్థ నిట్ సంయుక్తంగా నిర్వహించిన జూనియర్ స్టాయి డిజిటల్ పెయింటింగ్ పోటీ 'కిడెక్స్' విజేతలకు బహుమతి ప్రధాన కార్యక్రమమిది. నందంబాళ్ళం చెన్నై ట్రేడ్ సెంటర్ ఆదివారం డీనికీ వేదికగా నిలిచింది. రెండోసారి చదరంగ జగజ్జేతగా నిలిచిన తర్వాత ఆనంద్ పాల్గొన్న తొలి కార్యక్రమమిది. అందుకే ఆ చిన్నారుల్లో అంత కేరింతలు, తుళ్లింతలు. ముందుగా విశ్వనాథన్ ఆనంద్ ను పోటీ విజేతలైన చిన్నారులు సింహాసనంలో కూర్చోబెట్టి కిరీటధారణ చేయడం ముచ్చటగొలిపింది. ఆ తర్వాత బహుమతి ప్రధాన కార్యక్రమం చోటుచేసుకుంది. ఈ సందర్భంగా ఆనంద్ మాట్లాడుతూ కంప్యూటర్ పై అవగాహనతో చిన్నారుల్లో సృజన స్థాయి మెరుగుపడుతుందనడానికి కిడెక్స్ పోటీలే ఉదాహరణని చెప్పారు. సాంకేతికత మారుమూల ప్రాంతాలకూ చేరగలదనడానికి ఇది ప్రతీకని పేర్కొన్నారు. ఇటువంటివి చిన్నారుల

నిట్-సీఐఐ సంయుక్తంగా తొలిసారి 2006లో కిడెక్స్ పోటీలు నిర్వహించాయి. మళ్ళీ ఈ ఏడాది జూనియర్ స్టాయిలో నిర్వహించాయి. 'హరిత మిత్ర'(గ్రీన్ ఇనిషియేటివ్) పద్ధతిలో ఏ దశలోనూ కాగితం వాడకుండా పూర్తిగా కంప్యూటర్ లోనే ఏర్పాటు చేసిన పోటీలివి. విద్యార్థులు తమ కంప్యూటర్ లోని 'పెయింట్ బ్రష్' సాఫ్ట్ వేర్ తో చిత్రాలు గీశారు. న్యాయవిద్వేతలు కూడా కంప్యూటర్ లోనే విజేతలను ఎంపిక చేశారు. సబ్ జూనియర్ విభాగంలో న్యూఢిల్లీ లిగ్గోస్ పబ్లిక్ పాఠశాలకు చెందిన రవి విజేతగా నిలిచాడు. జూనియర్ విభాగంలో హర్యానాకు చెందిన సత్యగ్ దర్శన్ విద్యాలయకు చెందిన పద్మి నాగ్ పాల్, హిమాచల్ ప్రదేశ్ లోని జీఎస్ఎస్ఎస్ బిమ్నా ది తునాగ్ పాఠశాల విద్యార్థి లవ్ కుమార్ విజేతలుగా బహుమతులు గెలుచుకున్నారు. సీనియర్ విభాగంలోని రెండు బహుమతులూ ఆంధ్రప్రదేశ్ కే దక్కాయి. ఇద్దరూ మారుమూల ప్రాంతాలకు చెందిన నిరుపేద విద్యార్థులే. అదిలాబాద్ జిల్లా సింగ రేణి గనుల పాఠశాలకు చెందిన కాటేపల్లి సాయికుమార్, కరీంనగర్ ఝగ్గారంలోని జిల్లాపరిషత్ పాఠశాలకు చెందిన జగదాల్ వినోద్ ఆ విజేతలు.

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