

## India and Russia share chess gold medal after Internet fails

2nd September, 2020



The gold medal for the 44th Chess Olympiad has been shared by India and Russia. The countries received joint-gold because of a glitch with the Internet. The Olympiad takes place every two years to find the best chess-playing nation in the

world. This year it was held online for the first time. The online version of the competition was because of coronavirus. The final was between players from Russia and India. However, some games came to an end after two Indian players lost their Internet connection. Officials at the tournament said they had no choice but to award the gold medal to the two countries. They said this was fair because the Indian players lost time when the Internet connection failed.

This year's Chess Olympiad started in July. Teams from over 160 countries took part. The final round was not the only time teams had technical glitches. A player from Armenia was disconnected from the tournament's server during his quarter-final match against India. However, on that occasion, officials rejected his appeal. Armenia withdrew from the competition in protest. Officials said there were "unprecedented circumstances" in the final. They said: "The Online Chess Olympiad has been impacted by a global internet outage that severely affected several countries, including India. Two of the Indian players were affected and lost connection when the outcome of the match was still unclear."

Sources: [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [ksy.com](http://ksy.com) / [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk)

### Writing

Chess is the greatest game in the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

gold / medal / glitch / chess / online / competition / coronavirus / Internet / choice / countries / technical / final / officials / protest / unprecedented / outage / connection

### True / False

- a) There were 43 chess Olympiads before the one in the article. T / F
- b) The chess Olympiad takes place every four years. T / F
- c) The Olympiad was online because a supercomputer took part. T / F
- d) Officials at the Olympiad said it was unfair to award both countries gold. T / F
- e) More than 160 countries took part in the Olympiad. T / F
- f) A player from Armenia successfully appealed against a computer glitch. T / F
- g) An official said there was a global Internet outage. T / F
- h) It was clear that the Russian players were winning the final. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. <b>received</b>      | a. incident   |
| 2. <b>glitch</b>        | b. link       |
| 3. <b>version</b>       | c. result     |
| 4. <b>connection</b>    | d. joined in  |
| 5. <b>fair</b>          | e. problem    |
| 6. <b>took part</b>     | f. unheard of |
| 7. <b>occasion</b>      | g. format     |
| 8. <b>rejected</b>      | h. just       |
| 9. <b>unprecedented</b> | i. refused    |
| 10. <b>outcome</b>      | j. got        |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the rules of chess?
- c) What is your favourite board game?
- d) Should the final have been replayed?
- e) How would you feel if you were one of the players?
- f) What do you think of chess?
- g) How can chess help you in life?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the chess players?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. because of a glitch                    | a. glitches                   |
| 2. This year it was held                  | b. to the two countries       |
| 3. some games came                        | c. affected several countries |
| 4. award the gold medal                   | d. online for the first time  |
| 5. lost time when the                     | e. took part                  |
| 6. Teams from over 160 countries          | f. appeal                     |
| 7. technical                              | g. Internet connection failed |
| 8. officials rejected his                 | h. was still unclear          |
| 9. a global Internet outage that severely | i. to an end                  |
| 10. the outcome of the match              | j. with the Internet          |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about chess?
- What experiences do you have of playing chess?
- What do you think of the idea of an Olympics for chess?
- Have you ever won a gold medal?
- When was the last time you experienced an Internet glitch?
- What do you think of online chess?
- Are machines better at chess than humans?
- Was it fair to award the gold medal to both countries?

## Spelling

- because of a cgilht with the Internet
- the best chess-playing ionatn
- The online evnrsoi
- Officials at the reaountmtn
- drawa the gold medal
- the Internet enocciotnn failed
- A player from Armenia was cnidioedtnesc
- on that occisnao
- officials rejected his epaalp
- withdrew from the competition in eottprs
- the otmoeuc of the match
- still rnclEAU

### Answers – Synonym Match

|      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. j | 2. e | 3. g | 4. b | 5. h  |
| 6. d | 7. a | 8. i | 9. f | 10. c |

## Role Play

### Role A – Chess

You think chess is the best theme for an Olympiad. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Pokemon Go, spelling or general knowledge.

### Role B – Pokemon Go

You think Pokemon Go is the best theme for an Olympiad. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): chess, spelling or general knowledge.

### Role C – Spelling

You think spelling is the best theme for an Olympiad. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Pokemon Go, chess or general knowledge.

### Role D – General Knowledge

You think general knowledge is the best theme for an Olympiad. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Pokemon Go, spelling or chess.

## Speaking – Olympiad

Rank these with your partner. Put the best Olympiad at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| • Chess      | • Maths             |
| • Pokemon Go | • General knowledge |
| • Athletics  | • Football          |
| • Spelling   | • Monopoly          |

### Answers – True False

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | F | c | F | d | F | e | T | f | F | g | T | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.