Finding and solving the complexity on the board remains as passion among the small town aspirants. Deepa Mishra finds out from aspirant who shares his hesitation to take up sport as full-fledged career

"Nishikant Mishra was last seen exploring all his grey matter to beat the strategy laid by his opponent. It is not only the human brain, but he has defeated most of the chess games played with the computers as well," said Deepak Mishra, Nishikant’s friend who admires his spontaneity in this game. On asking about his strategy Nishikant says, “One cannot plan strategies in advance. It is your spontaneity according to the board position at any given point of time that wins you the game”.

Chess is not just about your strategy, but one also has to keep sensing the opponent’s next possible move, believes confident Nishikant who has already set his moves. He was first introduced to the game when he was in class four but after schooling he was not much ‘into’ the sport. In his school days he represented his state for under-15 and under-25. After schooling, he went on to pursue his career in civil engineering from National Institute of Technology.

“In India, there is no systematic grooming of any sports-person unlike abroad. Here, education is always a priority over sports. My parents too were apprehensive about me taking up sports as a career” he explains. “Besides, there is also no proper funding for preparing a sports person for a tournament,” he adds. As far as making a career in sports is concerned he says, “Financially, one can’t rely on a sport as a career in India except for cricket. One should have some alternative career and therefore I am planning to pursue chess only after my degree.”

Though India has poor sports infrastructure it does not lack talented and skilled sportsmen. However many of these young men do not want to make full-fledged career in the sports arena. As Nishikant opines, “I see no reliable future in this sport. Everybody cannot be Vishwanath Anand. In fact most chess players in my knowledge get some alternative job for financial security. Any sport other than cricket is not considered as a career good enough to sustain a secure livelihood.”

When we speak of adventure, rock climbing is the first thing that comes to mind. So let’s understand the nitty gritty of adventure sports and explore some of the pinnacles in and around Mumbai where you can experience the thrill