

CHECK MATE!



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 hesitance to take up sport as full-fledged career

“Nishikant Mishra was last seen exploiting 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 sports-

men. 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.”

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Courtesy: Google Images



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

Whenever we see mountains aren’t we left spellbound with their greatness but have you ever thought of climbing one. Mammoth task isn’t it. Well you may not prescribe it in your fun-seeking handbook but some people enjoy clinging to a rock face hundreds of feet above the terrain and still want to move higher.

Pawan Singh a final year medical student and also an ace climber explain why he chooses this breath taking activity “rock climbing is all about challenging yourself, every time I am up there I set my next step as a challenge and it feels great to score over them”. Pawan also points out some of the popular spots in and around Mumbai for rock climbing “The popular spots here are Borivali National Park, Mumbra boulders and Manori rocks, on the outskirts of Mumbai the one

where I like to climb on is Igatpuri the sheer rock-faces provide the appropriate terrain”.

Other spots are Lonavala and Khandala, near Mumbai which are home to some great rock climbing sites. The Karla Mountains, about 16 km from Khandala, had a cluster of caves to climb on.

Prashant makhija member of Holiday Hikers a group based in Mumbai which conducts the activity of rock climbing says “the best time for climbing in Maharashtra is from October to May, since no rains are there in this period” he also stresses on having a proper training session before engaging in this activity “Rock climbing calls for mental and physical strength, flexibility and endurance. A novice to the sport would need the help of an instructor and a few training classes to learn the ropes”.

Also known as the king of adventure sports Rock climbing is about scaling rocks by using special equipments which are use for safety purposes but experience is what matters the most in rock climbing “A climber learns from experience that the mountain must not be taken for granted” Says Nilesh Rastogi an instructor from Goregaon. Apart from physical strength he stresses more on mental preparation “Mental preparation is a vital part of rock climbing experience. Taking time before and after a climbing session to focus on relaxation can help with the mindset needed to achieve greater confidence and success”.

“It’s risky and can prove dangerous but if done in the required manner it can be fun too” cautions Prashant.

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