

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."

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

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

Discussion

- 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?