



Indian Inventions

Chess

India's Gift to the World and the Science of Strategy

Have you ever sat in front of a chessboard and felt like a general preparing for battle? The pawns are your foot soldiers, the knights are your cavalry, the rooks are your mighty chariots and the queen is your unstoppable force. Every move is a decision, every piece a weapon and every game a new war of wits. Chess is not just a board game. It's a way to train your brain in **focus, logic, planning and innovation.**

But here's the coolest part: this powerful game of brains and bravery was **born in India more than 1500 years ago.** Yes, the same chess that is now played in cafes, schools, world tournaments and even in space (astronauts have played chess onboard missions) started right here in our own land.

The Indian Roots of Chess: The earliest form of chess was called **Chaturanga**, a Sanskrit word meaning "four divisions", just like the four parts of an ancient Indian army: elephants, chariots, cavalry and infantry.

Chaturanga was played on an 8x8 board, exactly like modern chess, and each "soldier" had unique movement rules. The game later travelled to Persia (where it was called *Shatranj*), then spread across the Arab world and Europe, evolving into the chess we know today.

So, the next time you move a knight or castle your rook, remember: you're continuing a tradition started by Indian minds over a thousand years ago.

More Than a Game: The Science of Chess

At first, chess might look like just moving pieces around. But look closer—it's actually a **science lab for your brain!**

- **Mathematics:** Counting moves, calculating probabilities.
- **Physics-like thinking:** Predicting how things move when forces (your opponent's moves) act on them.
- **Logic and Pattern Recognition:** Spotting traps and repeating formations.
- **Decision-Making:** Choosing the best move under pressure.

Scientists call this **predictive thinking**, imagining future scenarios and planning accordingly. Astronauts, engineers and scientists all use the same skill every day.



Learning from India's Grandmasters

India isn't just the birthplace of chess—it's also home to some of the world's greatest chess brains today:

- **Viswanathan Anand** - The Tiger of Madras: India's first Grandmaster and former World Champion, known for lightning-fast calculations.

- **R Praggnanandhaa** - **The Teenage Genius:** Became a Grandmaster at just 12 and has already battled the world's top players.
- **D. Gukesh** - **The Record-Breaker:** In 2024, this Chennai teenager became the youngest ever winner of the Candidates Tournament, earning a shot at the World Championship.
- **Vaishali Rameshbabu & Koneru Humpy:** Proof that chess brilliance is not limited by gender, both are international stars inspiring young girls across the country.



Left to Right - Srinath, Pentala Harikrishna, Arjun Erigaisi, D. Gukesh, Vidit Gujrathi and R.Praggnanandhaa

Chess in Indian Schools: Building the Next Thinkers

More and more schools across India are introducing chess into classrooms and after-school clubs.

- In **Tamil Nadu**, chess is even a compulsory subject in some schools.
- In **Gujarat**, it's used to boost focus and exam performance.
- Thanks to apps like **Chess.com** and **Lichess**, even kids in rural villages can now practice against players worldwide.

Chess has become a **universal classroom**, where intelligence has no boundaries.

The Innovation Connection

Chess is also sparking fresh ideas among students:

- A student in Bengaluru built a **robotic chessboard** that moves pieces automatically using magnets and AI.
- A team in Chennai created a **talking chessboard for the visually impaired**, using sensors and voice feedback.
- A science project in Hyderabad proved how regular chess practice can improve exam scores through better memory.

You don't need to be a Grandmaster to innovate, you just need creativity and curiosity.

Conclusion: From a Game to a Way of Thinking

Chess is more than India's ancient gift to the world, it's a tool for **smarter thinking, sharper focus and endless innovation**.

So, the next time you sit at a chessboard, don't just play. **Experiment. Strategize. Dream.** Who knows? You might invent the next smart chess app, design a chess robot or even become India's next world champion.

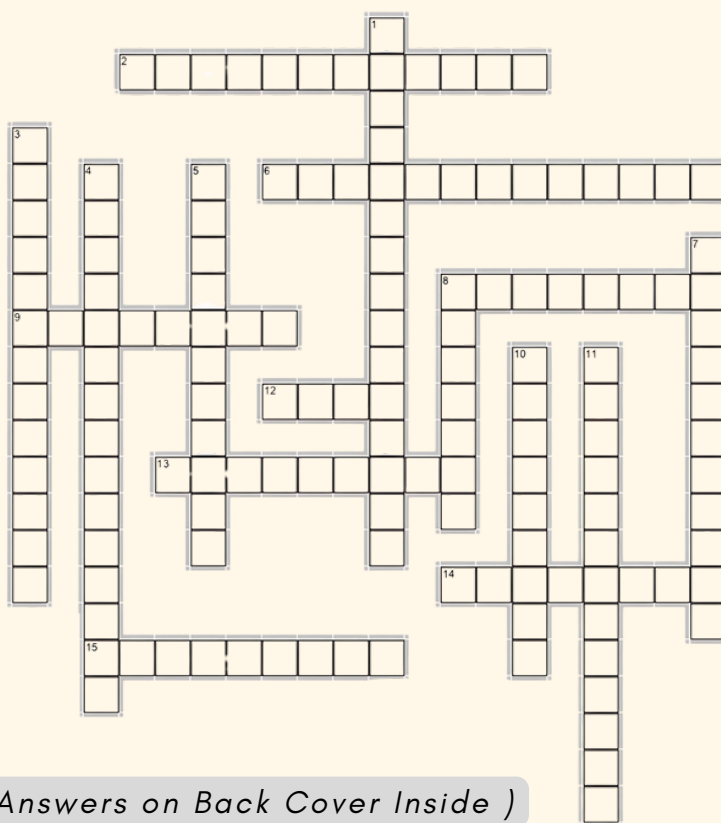
Remember, India gave the world this incredible game centuries ago. Now, it's your move.

Word Search 2506

Topic: Environment

Across

- protecting, maintaining or improving natural resources, to keep them safe from destruction or degradation and conserve them for future generations
- destruction of forests to make land for agriculture
- the release or discharge into the air of pollutant substances such as gas or smoke
- an area designated to receive household garbage, solid waste and construction debris
- location where garbage, rubbish or waste is taken and just dumped, without environmental controls
- the process of minimizing waste by recovering materials and transforming them into new products
- rain mixed with sulphuric, nitric and other acids formed by gases released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels are burned
- a community of plants, animals and other organisms living in an area which provides what they need in order to survive



(Answers on Back Cover Inside)

Down

- a measure of the effect that human activities have on the climate
- a gradual warming of the earth's surface temperature reportedly caused by the emission of gases that trap the sun's heat in the earth's atmosphere
- gases that trap the heat of the sun in the earth's atmosphere, producing the greenhouse effect
- fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas
- the surroundings and external conditions that affect the growth and development of living things
- the surroundings and external conditions that affect the growth and development of living things
- the study of the relationship of living things (plants, animals and humans) with each other and with their environment
- contamination of the air, water, or soil with substances that can cause harm to human health or the environment
- capable of being broken down or decomposed by natural biological processes