DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS AND SPORTS FACILITIES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Today sports are considered integral to all-round development of one's personality. Making an international mark in the field of sports also has a great bearing on national morale and prestige. The rural-urban gap has been getting wider, with large-scale augmentation of sports infrastructure in a few select cities, in connection with hosting of major international sporting events. International cooperation in the field of sports physical education took a big leap forward, providing the much needed opportunities of foreign exposure to national teams and coaching/training abroad. Government of India procured the services of international coaches/sportspersons by way of bilateral agreements under CEPs/ Sports protocols with the concerned countries. Not only physical strength, power and satisfaction but also a strong alternative of recreation; sports in India have paved a long way towards the road of success and have made themselves a hallmark in the world of sports

Keywords: Sports Development, Sports Facilities and International Sporting.

INTRODUCTION:

 The history of sports in India dates back to the Vedic era. Physical culture in ancient India was fed by a powerful fuel: religious rights. There were some well-defined values like the mantra in the Atharva-Veda, saying, "Duty is in my right hand and the fruits of victory in my left". In terms of an ideal, these words hold the same sentiments as the traditional Olympic oath: "For the Honor of my Country and the Glory of Sport."

.In order to meet the increasing demands of the changing times, at national as well as international level, the government has taken upon itself to implement programmers to promote excellence in sports.

 After the IX Asian Games in New Delhi in 1982, the capital city now has modern sports facilities. Such facilities are also being developed in other parts of the country. Besides sports and games included in the international sporting agenda, there are many which have developed

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indigenously. Among these are wrestling and several traditional systems of martial arts. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports was initially set up as the Department of Sports in 1982 at the time of organization of the IX Asian Games in New Delhi. Its name was changed to the Department of Youth affairs & sports during celebration of the International Youth Year, 1985. India has hosted or co-hosted several international sporting events, such as the 1951 and the 1982 Asian Games, the 1987 and 1996 Cricket World Cup, the 2003 Afro-Asian Games, the 2010 Hockey World Cup, and the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Major international sporting events annually held in India include the Chennai Open, Mumbai Marathon, Delhi Half Marathon, and the Indian Masters. The country hosted the 2011 Cricket World Cup and the first Indian Grand Prix in 2011.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS:

The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports was initially set up as the Department of Sports in 1982 at the time of organization of the IX Asian Games in New Delhi. The name was changed to the Department of Youth Affairs & Sports during celebration of the International Youth Year, 1985. It became a Ministry on 27th May, 2000. Subsequently, the Ministry has been bifurcated into Department of Youth Affairs and Department of Sports w.e.f. 30th April, 2008.

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (SAI):

After independence, on May 7, 1961 the National Institute of Sports (NIS) was set up for the development of sports at the Moti Bagh Palace grounds in Patiala. On January 23, 1973, it was renamed Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS). On January 25, 1984, Sports Authority of India was established as a registered society. On May 1, 1987 the Society for National Institute of Physical Education and Sports (SNIPES) was merged with it and as a result, the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS), Patiala and its allied centres at Bhopal, Bangalore, Kolkata and Gandhinagar and the Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education at Thiruvananthapuram came under Sports Authority of India. The NSNIS, Patiala and

the Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education, Thiruvananthapuram became its academic wings.

SAI SPORTS PROMOTIONAL SCHEMES:

The Sports Authority of India conducts various activities and schemes to promote sports in India they include:

- National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC) - for Sub-Junior level trainees
- Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC) - for Sub-Junior level trainees
- SAI Training Centers Scheme (STC) - for Junior level trainees
- Extension Centre of STC /SAG
- Special Area Games Scheme (SAG) - for Junior level trainees
- Centre of Excellence Scheme (COX) - for Senior level trainees

SPORTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Sports promotion is primarily the responsibility of the various National Sports Federations which are autonomous. The role of the Government is to create the infrastructure and promote capacity building for broad-basing sports, as well as for achieving excellence in various competitive events, at the national and international levels. All schemes are geared towards achieving these objectives. The growing role of sports has made participation and winning of medals in competitive sports a matter of great significance. In recognition of this fact, many states have set up national training academies and specialized centers of sports excellence which offer an opportunity for exceptionally talented young children to train under experts for long duration with modern training aids.

Several central/state universities also impart physical and sports education at graduate and post graduate levels. Besides, almost every state government has a department dedicated to promoting sports and youth affairs.

NATIONAL-LEVEL INSTITUTIONS:

- Netaji Subhas Institute of Sports, Patiala
- Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education (LNCPE), Thiruvananthapuram
- Lakshmibai National University of Physical Education, Gwalior

SPORTS AWARDS BY GOVERNMENT:

Special Awards are given to sportspersons who win medals and titles at prestigious international sports events. These awards are also given for victory in Chess and Billiards/Snooker. Awards are given to junior sportspersons as well, for winning medals in the World, Asian and Commonwealth Championships. The basic objective of the awards is to provide an incentive to the achievers and an inspiration to the budding sportspersons. It is also intended to enable them to continue to give their best in further pursuit of the sports of their choice. The awards have been graded and are linked to the standard and status of the achievements.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is given for the most spectacular and outstanding performance in the field of sports by an individual sportsperson or a team.

The Dronacharya Award honours eminent coaches who have successfully trained sportspersons or teams and enabled them to achieve outstanding results in international completions.

Arjuna Award given to a sportsperson who has not only shown good performance consistently for the previous three years at the international level with excellence for the year for which the Award is recommended, but also shown qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievement in Sports and Games honours those sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and continue to contribute to promotion of sports even after their retirement from active sporting career.

The Maulana Abul Kamal Azad Trophy is awarded annually to the university, which has given the best all round performance during the year of award.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar aims to promote corporate involvement in the promotion and development of sports in the country.

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CONTRIBUTION OF COMMONWEALTH GAMES:

India is all set to host the 19th Commonwealth Games. The Games are scheduled to be held in Delhi from 3rd October to 14th October 2010. Recognized as the first-ever "Green Commonwealth Games", the Games have not only helped the city get a well-equipped sports infrastructure, but also helped further non-sports related infrastructure development like airports, roads and other structures.

The Commonwealth Games presents a unique opportunity for young sportspersons from India and other Commonwealth countries to get together, live in the same environment, compete with each other and achieve sporting excellence. There is no dearth of talent in our country and it is hoped that the 2010 Games will see our National Flag flying high and our torch burning bright. Main development comes with the hand of Commonwealth Games in following points-

- Sports Disciplines at the Games
- Para Sports
- Competition Venues
- Training Venues
- Games Village
- Delhi's bid to go green

BRIDGING THE RURAL-URBAN GAP:

With a view to ensuring sport development as an integral aspect of youth development and accelerated national development, the National Sports Policy 2001 - External website that opens in a new window was formulated. The policy lays special emphasis on sport activities and promotes excellence in sports at the national and international levels.

The Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Ahiyan (PYKKA) aims at achieving the above mentioned objectives by providing basic sports infrastructure and equipment at the panchayat level. It also encourages sports and games in rural areas through annual competitions at the block and district levels.

INDIA AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

Field hockey-

Field hockey was considered to be the national game of India, but this has been recently denied by the Government of India, clarifying on a RTI filed that India has not declared any sport as the national game.Until the mid-1970s, India dominated international field hockey, winning eight Olympic gold medals and won the inaugural Men's Hockey World Cup held in 1975. Since then, barring a gold medal in the 1980 Olympics, India's performance in field hockey has been dismal, with other hockey-playing nations such as Australia, Netherlands and Germany improving their standards and catching up with India. Its decline is also partly due to the internal politics in Indian field hockey bodies. Its popularity has also declined massively in parallel to the decline of the Indian hockey team. In recent times, the standard of Indian hockey has gone form from bad to worse, with the Indian hockey team not qualifying for the 2008 Olympics and finishing last in the recent 2012 Olympics. Currently, the Indian team is 11th in the FIH rankings. India has hosted 2 Hockey World Cups- one in 1982 at Mumbai and another in 2010 at Delhi, where they finished fifth and eighth respectively. It has also hosted the annual Hockey Champions Trophy in 1996 and 2005.

Until 2008, the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) was the apex body for hockey in the country. However, following revelations of corruption and other scandals in the IHF, the IHF was de recognized and a new apex body for Indian hockey, Hockey India (HI), was formed on 20 May 2009. Hockey India, recognized by the FIH, has the sole mandate to govern and conduct all activities for both men's and women's field hockey in India. Although the IHF was reinstated in 2010, it is not recognized by the FIH. The IHF conducts a city-based tournament called World Series Hockey (WSH), its first season being in 2012. However, it is not approved by Hockey India or the FIH.

Hockey India League , abbreviated as HIL, is a professional league for field hockey competition in India. It is organized by Hockey India. The tournament contested among franchisee-based teams consisting of players from India and around the world. The entire event takes place on home and away basis culminating into multi header playoffs. The International Hockey

Federation (FIH) has sanctioned the event and also provided a 30-day window at the beginning of next year so that all top players can participate.

Cricket-

Cricket has a long history in India, having been introduced in the country during the British rule. It is the most popular sport by a wide margin in India and is often considered as an unofficial religion in India. It is played on local, national, and international levels and enjoys consistent support from people in most parts of India. Its development has been closely tied up with the history of the country, mirroring many of the political and cultural developments around issues such as caste, gender, religion, and nationality. The Indian cricket team played its first official match (a Test) in 1932 against England and its performance since then has generally been mixed, sometimes enjoying stupendous success and sometimes suffering outright failure. The highest profile rival of the Indian cricket team is the Pakistani cricket team, though in recent times it has gained other rivals like Australia, South Africa and England. Although cricket is the most popular sport in India, it is not the nation's official national sport (a distinction held by field hockey). The governing body for cricket in India, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was formed in December 1928 and is based in Mumbai. Today, BCCI is the richest sporting body in the world.

India has hosted or co-hosted a large number of multi-nation major international cricket tournaments viz. the 1987 Cricket World Cup (co-hosted with Pakistan), the 1996 Cricket World Cup (co-hosted with Pakistan and Sri Lanka), the 2006 ICC Champions Trophy and the 2011 Cricket World Cup (co-hosted with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh). The India national cricket team has won major tournaments like the 1983 Cricket World Cup in England, the 2007 ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa, the 2011 Cricket World Cup which they won by beating Sri Lanka in the final at home, and has shared the 2002 ICC Champions Trophy with Sri Lanka. It had also briefly held the position of the No. 1 team in Tests. The domestic competitions include the Ranji Trophy, the Duleep Trophy, the Deodhar Trophy, the Irani Trophy, and the Challenger Series, all of which are not widely followed, despite cricket's popularity in the country. This parallels the

global situation in cricket, whereby the international game is more widely followed than the domestic game in all major cricketing countries. In addition, the BCCI conducts the Indian Premier League, a domestic franchise-based Twenty20 competition, during March–April every year and is extremely popular.

Football-

Football was introduced to India during the British occupation. Although India has never been represented in any FIFA World Cup, it did qualify in 1950, though it did not take part as they were not allowed to play barefoot.[21] India was an Asian powerhouse in football in the 1960s, finishing as runners up in the 1964 AFC Asian Cup, but gradually the standard of football has gone down compared to other countries, and India currently ranks 168th in the FIFA rankings as of 31 October 2012.

Football is, nevertheless, widely popular both as a spectator sport, and as a participation sport. In some parts of the country such as Kerala, West Bengal and the Northeast, its popularity rivals that of cricket. The India national football team represents India in all FIFA tournaments. The Yuva Bharati Krirangan of Kolkata is the second largest non-auto racing stadium in the world.

On 23 June 1937 at the Army Headquarters, Shimla, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) was formed at a meeting of the representatives of Football Associations of six regions where the game was very popular in those days. It is the governing body for football in India. Domestic competitions for men's football include the I-League and the I-League 2nd Division in the Indian League System, the annual knock-out style Federation Cup (India) and the Indian Super Cup, for women's the India women's football championship.

Tennis-

Tennis is a popular sport among Indians in urban areas. Tennis has gained popularity after the exploits of Vijay Amritraj. India's fortunes in the Grand Slam singles have been unimpressive, although Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi have won many Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles Grand Slam Titles. Sania Mirza is the only notable Indian woman tennis player, having

won a WTA title and breaking into the Top 30 WTA rankings. On the men's side, young Somdev Devvarman and Yuki Bhambri are flying India's flag on ATP Tour.

Basketball-

Basketball is a popular sport in India. It is played in almost every school, although very few people take it professionally. India has both men's and women's national teams in basketball. Both teams have hired head coaches who have worked extensively with NBA players and now aim at the goal of popularizing the game in India. India is currently ranked 58th in the world in basketball. Affiliated into FIBA since 1936, India has one of Asia's longest basketball traditions.

Chess-

It is believed that the game originated from India as a successor to Chaturanga or Shatranj. The All India Chess Federation is the governing body for chess in India. Chess has risen in popularity in India in the last few decades primarily due to its star player GM Vishwanathan Anand. He is the current World Champion, and he has revolutionized the popularity of this sport in India.According to Fédération Internationale des Échecs or World Chess Federation (FIDE) World Ranking as of Jan 2013: Vishwanathan Anand is in No: 7 rank with rating.

Badminton-

Badminton is a popular sport in India. Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal is currently ranked second in the world and has been named the Most Promising Player of 2008 by the Badminton World Federation. This is the first ever achievement by any Indian shuttler, after Prakash Padukone and Pullela Gopichand, who both won the All England Open in 1980 and 2001 respectively. At the 2012 London Olympic Games, Nehwal won the bronze medal in the individual women's competition.

Golf-

Golf is a growing sport in India. It is especially popular among the wealthier classes and has not yet caught on with others due to its expense. The most successful Indian golfer is Jeev Milkha Singh, who has won 3 titles during the European Tour, 4 during the Japan Golf Tour, and 6 during the Asian Tour. Although his current world ranking is 36th, his highest ranking has been 28th (in March 2009). Singh has won the Asian Tour order of merit 2 times. Other Indians who have won the Asian tour order of merit are Jyoti Randhawa in 2002 (the first Indian to achieve this) and Arjun Atwal, who went on in 2010 to become the first India-born player to become a member of, and later won the U.S.-based PGA Tour. There are numerous golf courses all over India. There is an Indian Golf Tour. India's men's golf team won gold at the 1982 Asian Games and silver at the 2006 Asian Games. Lakshman Singh won the individual gold at the 1982 Asian Games.

Boxing-

Boxing is one of the most enjoyable profiled sports in India. India has not produced a world champion in any weight class, although it is a regular medal-holder at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. In November 2007, India's Mary Kom won the best boxer title and also secured a hattrick of titles. During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Vijender Kumar won a bronze medal in the middleweight boxing category, and Akhil Kumar and Jitender Kumar qualified for the quarterfinals. Akhil Kumar, Jitender Kumar, A.L. Lakra, and Dinesh Kumar each won a bronze medal at the 2008 World Championship. Vijender Kumar is current world no.1 on middleweight class. India's lone women boxer M.C Mary Kom won the bronze medal at London Olympic Games, 2012.

Archery-

The game of archery has got historical significance as all royals in the ancient days used to practice archery. Modern day archery in India started in early 1970s before its introduction in

Olympics in 1972, and it was formalized in 1973 when Archery Association of India (AAI) came into existence. AAI has since then been promoting an organization for the sport. India has been producing some world class players who are the medal hopefuls in International events of Archery.

Kabaddi-

It is one of the most popular sports in India, played mainly among people in villages. India has taken part in four Asian Games in kabaddi, and won gold in all of them. There are four forms of kabaddi played in India are Amar, Suranjeevi, Huttuttoo, and Gaminee. Amar is generally played in Punjab, Haryana, and other parts of the world, mostly by Punjabi sportsmen. Suranjeevi is the most played form of kabaddi in India and the world. This is the form used in international matches generally and played in Asian Games. Huttuttoo was played by men in Maharashtra State. Huttuttoo is a much tougher version of kabaddi. India won the Kabaddi World Championship in 2007.

Wrestling-

Wrestling is considered as one of the most ancient and oldest sports in the world. The game of wrestling started its journey in India several centuries back. Wrestling in India is also known as `dangal`, and it is the basic form of a wrestling tournament. Wrestling in India is most famously known as Malla-Yuddha. There are also mentions of wrestling in the ancient times. These can be found in the great epic of Indian history. Mahabharata has a huge mention about the game of wrestling in India. One of the premier characters in Mahabharata, Bhima was considered to be a great wrestler of that time, and some of the other great wrestlers included Jarasandha, Duryodhan, Karna, etc. In the other Indian epic, Ramayana also mentions about wrestling in India and Hanuman is described as one of the greatest wrestlers of that time.

Volleyball-

Volleyball is a sport played all over India, both in rural as well as urban India. India is ranked 5th in Asia. Doing well in the youth and junior levels, India came in second in the 2003 World Youth Championships. The Indian senior men's team is currently ranked 46th in the world.

CONCLUSION:

The historians believe that many sports (games) like hockey, archery, wrestling and chess originated in India, which are synonymous to strength and speed nowadays. In the late Vedic Era, besides sports; the Yoga and Meditation, the inevitable parts of the toughest "Yogashastra" made India, acquire the seat of spiritualism, all over the world. This dignified discipline of Indian Sports finds its place in Bhagwat Gita too.

Today sports in India have achieved a zenith in terms of popularity and as a career option. Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, SAF Games, Wimbledon and many other world sports tournaments see Indians as one of the most leading sports participants in the world. From Tendulkar, Paes, Bhupathi, Anand, Geet Sethi, Karthikeyan to Sania Mirza lead the present sports generation of India. Cricket, Hockey, Football, Weightlifting, Snooker, Kabaddi, Kho Kho and Archery are the sports of India that have been deep seated into an Indian psyche, whether of a sports person or a sports lover.

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