Chapter-2

Origins and Growth of Sports

2.1. Early origins of sports

According to Oxford advance Lerner’s dictionary, any activity done for pleasure and that needs physical effort or skill, usually done in a special area and according to fixed rule, is called ‘sport’. Being understood from this perspective, sporting activity, in one form or other, started with the beginning of life on earth. There is no denying the fact that human beings are always attracted by physical activities which are entertaining and amusing. From the bronze statues of Greece to monuments of Pharaohs in Egypt, all reveal that every civilization was involved in sports. Gymnastics, javelin throw, wrestling and swimming are among the major sporting activities depicted clearly on those monuments. Acquiring the skills of hunting, climbing, running, and swimming etc., in fact were the vital breakthroughs in the human’s evolution from creeping creatures to rulers of the world.

Fast runners, fearless hunters, belligerent marksmen and good warriors have always emerged as heroes and led the society for ages. Achilles of Rome, Hercules of Sparta and Arjuna from Indian epic Mahabharata, are some of the excellent examples of physically skilled men who became legends. The ruins of Colosseum in Rome, Roman Amphitheatre in Germany and Togyu arena in Okinawa, Japan bear witness to the fact that enjoying sporting activities was a popular leisure activity in different parts of the world for ages. Stories of gladiators amusing and entertaining the public speak volumes about the popularity of sports in ancient societies.

A glimpse over the literature on history of sports reveals that different sports started at different points of time, some evolved into better formats, while some others declined to a stage of marginalization. Scholars like Andreas De Block and Siegfried Dewitte have tried to give a Darwinian approach of ‘survival of fittest’ in rise and fall of any sport. “Almost every sport is in itself an intricate system composed of the interaction of biological and cultural elements. But despite this interlacing of (evolved) nature

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and culture, a Darwinian theory of sports is possible.”\textsuperscript{2} The sport which attracts the most number of players and large spectators is considered to be the most successful. The sports which have evolved through the times have survived and others doomed. The signaling value of a sport decides its fate. “Evolutionary theory would predict the most successful sport to be one that has evolved towards an optimal balance between accuracy, in formativeness, and transparency, referred to as the sport’s \textit{signaling value}.\textsuperscript{3} Sports like Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby have transformed themselves with time and are popular around the globe. Different sports evolved in different parts of the world to cater to the necessity of the region. In central Asia, for example, horseback riding is a necessity. Having a good skill of the game, \textit{Buzkashi}, an odd version of polo played in that region, could make a man a fierce warrior and an excellent hunter. Mastering a perfect marksmanship could make you a law enforcement agent in western countries. Polo was played in Persia (Iran) in 6\textsuperscript{th} century B.C, but, later on, became a well-established game in China.

Indian society in ancient and medieval periods rated these skills as a gentleman’s quotient in the personality. People were rated macho and chivalrous who mastered these skills. Giving an account of the culture and sporting habits of medieval society, O’ Hanlon wrote: “Archery and wrestling formed part of the education of sons of ashraf urban elites, and well-known literary figures were often also skilled archers and swordsmen. These gendered bodily and literary accomplishments were in turn vital parts of the repertoire of a gentleman of culture, for whom appropriate bodily deportment and the cultivation of bodily health were important signs of gentility”.\textsuperscript{4}

England was the junction of development of modern ideas with the growing imperial power; all major sports started their journey as a profession from there.

The following list of ‘firsts’ indicates the development of sports in the Victorian England:

1857: First golf championship (Scotland)

1859: First overseas tour (English cricket team to North America)


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1860: First major international tournament (golf’s British open)
1864: First county championship (cricket)
1868: First Australian cricket tour of England (by Aboriginals)
1870: First Americas cup (sailing)
1871: First rugby union international (England v Scotland)
1872: First FA Cup final
1872: First football international (England v Scotland)
1877: First cricket test match and Wimbledon Championship (tennis)
1883: First Home International Championship (football) and international championship (rugby union)
1888: First football league season
1889: First football associations formed outside Britain (Denmark and The Netherlands)\(^5\)

First modern Olympics were held in Athens in the year 1896. Pierre de Coubertin drew his inspiration from the ancient Olympic Games which were held in Olympia (Greece) between the 8\(^{th}\) century B.C. and the 4\(^{th}\) century A.D.\(^6\)

### 2.2. Growth of sports and sporting bodies

In the modern world where everything changed and tended towards professionalism, sport could not be an exception. With growing popularity of certain sports and the number of people involved, sporting bodies were formed to protect and promote sports, by creating institutional mechanisms for imparting training to the existing and prospective players. Such sporting bodies not only attempted to define the features of a sport, but also formulated codes of conduct for the sports persons. Seen from the perspective of the features being suggested, not all physical activities necessarily come under the umbrella of sports. Sport Accord, an association for all the largest international sports federations, the de facto representative of international sport, uses the following criteria for determining sport:

‘A sport should have an element of competition and should not be harmful to any living creature. A sport should not rely on the element of luck specially designed for the sport only.’

At the dawn of the modern era, games and sports started developing with regular rules, and well-designed tournaments were started. England was the epicenter of development due to industrial revolution, which kicked off the emergence of the middle class. First, cricket and then football emerged as the most popular sports in Britain in the Victorian age.

In twenty first century, the world scene changed and many countries were liberated by the imperial powers of Europe. Sports associations and governing bodies of the countries were formed. As early as 1921, International Sports Federations (IFs) expressed the need of their common objectives and interests. Under the direction of Paul Rousseau, Secretary General of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) a permanent bureau of the IFs was established. In 1967, 26 international sports federations met at Lausanne and agreed to the need of increased permanent liaisons and the name “General Assembly of International Sports Federations” was adapted. In March 2009 GAISF was rebranded ‘Sport Accord.’

A 2011 report of a global management and consultant firm A.T. Kearney, says that, sports industry around the world is developing into a sector, which is growing at a faster pace than national gross domestic products (GDP) globally. Today’s global sports industry is worth between $ 480- $ 620 billion. A country wise break up depicts that sports industry is growing faster than the GDP in booming economies of the world especially the BRIC nations (Brazil, Russia, India and China). Since 2000, Russia’s spending on sports rose more than 53% annually, China’s rose by 20% due to 2008 summer Olympics, India’s by 17% and Brazil’s by 7%. All these figures are clear indicators of the fact that sports is growing as an important sector of the world economy, India being no exception.

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2.3. Classification of sports

Within the Sport Accord, sports has been categorised as follows:

**Primarily physical:** in which physical action is involved without the use of any machine or animal. The popular games like Hockey, Football, Tennis, Cricket, Athletics, all combat sports and Rugby are fine examples of this category.

**Primarily mind:** the games in which mental ability of the player is tested rather than the physical skill come under the umbrella of this category. Chess and Bridge are the best examples.

**Primarily motorized:** sports like car and bike racing are examples of motorized sports. These sports are very popular around the world for their excitement because of high speed.

**Primarily animal-supported:** sports involving the use of animals such as equestrian events, bull fighting and Buzkashi are some of the examples under this category.

Some sports have been classified in multiple categories, mostly due to a host of activities that make up such sports.\(^\text{10}\)

2.4. Genesis and growth of sports in India

Indian emperors with a mighty and skillful army used to practice and perform the skills used in battle fields in peace time.

*Archery practice, sword drills, and exercises aimed at developing strength and flexibility, therefore, featured prominently in those practices. The paintings of the Gentil Album-commissioned by Colonel Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Gentil in Faizabad in the 1770s reflecting social life in Awadh under Shujaud-Daulah convey, unambiguously, a sense of these combined forms of military and athletic practice.*\(^\text{11}\)

Polo can be called an indigenous game of this country as it has been played in India for centuries. Originally it was played in Gilgit, Chitral and Manipur in India. The game flourished during the Mogul Period and was a popular sport with the Emperors


who called it *Chougan*. Emperor Akbar was the first who introduced certain rules and regulations for this game.  

Most of the modern games in India were introduced with the advent of the British rule. Cricket, Football and Tennis were the main games played in the British cantonment in the colonial era. While games like cricket and football were looked upon as exclusive European preserves, indigenous sports like wrestling were confined to the lower classes. The educated middle class remained aloof from all kinds of sporting motion. 

Local games like Wrestling, *Kabaddi* and *Galli Danda* were played by Indian masses while sophisticated sports were played by the British and the Maharajas of Princely states.

From the earliest years of British settlement in India, cricket was nurtured by leading public figures, military commanders, educators and journalists. Consequently, it was natural for men of status and affluence in India, i.e. the princes or maharajas, to take up this alien sport. Maharaja’s patronage of sport was an established practice in India by the middle of the eighteenth century. Ann Morrow has pointed out in her book *The Maharajas of India*, that sport was thought to be an important way of ‘sweating the sex’ out of the other ranks. The British upper classes loved big-game hunting, which was a symbol of status, the criterion being the number of animals one shot. In colonial India, big-game hunting became a short cut to being a gentleman, drawing the maharajas into it. It was their way of proving their credentials to their peers. In fact, as Rosalind O’Hanlon has shown, hunting was an integral part of the Indian aristocratic tradition from the early decades of the eighteenth century.

After Indian independence, the Ministry of Youth Affairs took the responsibility to develop sports and sporting personalities in the country. It coordinated with the other governing bodies of the world and formed a model for its working.
In accordance with the Olympic Charter that restricts government influence on sports federations, the sports bodies in India emerged as autonomous entities. While the IOA (Indian Olympic Association) is the umbrella body, under which all the NSFs (National Sports Federation) and SOAs (State Olympic Association) conduct various sporting events in the country, government bodies operate under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, playing a supportive role such as training and infrastructure management. In addition, there are federations for non-Olympic sports such as Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). These federations are directly affiliated to their respective international federations. Similar to the IOA and NSFs, government intervention is restricted by the charter of their respective international federations. All the sporting governing bodies are registered as non-profit societies under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. They are recipients of government aid in multiple forms, ranging from direct financial assistance (as in case of NSFs) to indirect subsidies in the form of tax benefits (as in the case of BCCI)."\(^{16}\)

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the field arm of MYAS in the promotion of sports in India through the implementation of various schemes such as the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC), SAI Training Centres Scheme (STC) and Centres of Excellence (COX) scheme. SAI also operates several regional centres and sports institutes such as the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala and the Laxmibai National Institute of Physical Education, Thiruvananthapuram. Government bodies under MYAS are responsible for providing financial assistance, training and infrastructure support to autonomous bodies such as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), various national sports federations (NSF) (recognised by IOA and their respective International Federations as per the Olympic charter), sports federations that operate under the aegis of recognised NSFs and various State Olympic Associations (SOA). In return of the investment made by Government bodies, NSFs, SOAs and IOA are responsible for organising sports competitions, holding international sporting events and providing Indian sportspersons with an adequate platform to showcase their talents. The hierarchy and working model of sports in India are depicted in flowcharts 1, 2 and 3.

Flowchart-1: Hierarchy of Sports Governance in India

The hierarchy depicted above is responsible for financial and infrastructure support to the National Sports Federation for non-Olympic sports, and India Olympic Association for Olympic sports.\textsuperscript{17}

Flowchart-2: Non-Olympic Sports Affiliations

\textsuperscript{17}KPMG. (2014). Business of Sports. New Delhi: Confederation of Indian Industry. 14-15
2.5. Popular sports of India

Of late, India has emerged as a prominent sporting nation with great potential in certain sports. Besides hockey, India is now a global leader in cricket, wrestling, boxing and shooting which was evident from the medal tally of the 2010 Commonwealth and Asian games. With total of 101 medals including 38 gold, 27 silver and 36 bronze medals, India stood second only to Australia (177) in the Commonwealth games. In 2010 Asian games, India finished with 64 medals including 14 gold medals, 17 silver medals and 34 bronze medals. India has won eight Olympics gold medals in Field Hockey and was world champions in 1975. Certain indigenous games like kabaddi, volley-ball, basketball, are also very popular in the country which engages thousands of men and women. India is world champion in kabaddi and got two gold medals in 2010 Asian games.
2.5.1. Hockey

Field hockey is one of the most popular games of Indian masses. India won its first world championship, in hockey, in 1928, by winning gold medal at Amsterdam Olympics and continued to be the champions till it lost in Rome Olympics. It came down to the seventh place at the Montreal Olympics but regained the gold medal at Moscow Olympics in 1980. India lost the gold medal in 1984.

The roots of hockey are buried deep in antiquity. Historical records show that a crude form of hockey was played in Egypt 4,000 years ago and in Ethiopia around 1,000 BC. Various museums offer evidence that a form of the game was played by Romans and Greeks, and by Aztec Indians in South America, several centuries before Columbus landed in the New World. The modern game of hockey evolved in England in the mid-18th century, primarily around schools.

India has a good record in field hockey; it was the first non-European team to be a part of International Hockey Federation. From 1928 to 1956 India remained unbeaten in the Olympics garnering six gold medals in a row. Total of eight gold, one silver medal and two bronze medals have been won by team India at the Olympics. In recent times India has lost its grip over the game to emerging teams such as Australia, Netherlands and Germany. The downslide can be understood from the fact that the Indian team could not even qualify for the Beijing Olympics. After a gap of eight years, India qualified for the 2012 London Olympics and finished 12th (last) in the race. Currently, the Indian team is 11th in the rankings of International Hockey Federation (FIH), the international governing body of field hockey and indoor field hockey. The unimpressive performance of the Indian hockey team has led to a decline in the popularity of the game in the country. Having a glorious tradition in the field, India hosted the hockey world cup in 1982 and 2010 besides the annual Hockey Champions Trophy in 1996 and 2005.

Hockey India (HI), the apex body for hockey in the country, conducts a franchise-based tournament called World Series Hockey (WSH), with its first season conducted in 2012. HI also conducts a franchise-based tournament called the Hockey India League (HIL) since 2013 being inspired by the Board of Control for Cricket in India's

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(BCCI's) highly successful Indian Premier League. The tournament is recognized by the FIH, which has also decided to provide a 30-day window for the forthcoming seasons so that all top players can participate.

2.5.2. Athletics

Athletics is an exclusive collection of sporting events that involve competitive running, jumping, throwing, and walking. The most common types of athletics competitions are track and field, road running, cross country running, and race walking. The simplicity of the competitions and less expensive equipments makes athletics one of the most commonly competed sports in the world. Athletics is mostly an individual sport, with the exception of relay races and competitions which combine athletes’ performances for a team score, such as cross country. Evidences were found about the practice of athletic sports in the late 19th century Indian states. Athletic events were conducted regularly in the various provinces of India and they were particularly popular in Bengal, Bombay and Madras.

The ‘official’ representation of British India in the Olympic Games started only in 1920 when three athletes and three wrestlers participated in Antwerp with the help of Sir Dorabji Tata. Four years later, the first national athletic championship was conducted in Delhi under the name of "Indian Olympic Games" and the All India Olympic Association was formed. Seven athletes were selected to represent the nation in 1924 Olympic Games at Paris.¹⁹

However, for numerous reasons, India’s performance has been unimpressive in terms of the Olympic medals it has won so far, despite over 50 % of the country’s billion plus population being below 25. The explanations cited for the country’s poor show include poverty, malnutrition, widespread vegetarianism, neglected infrastructure, lack of sponsorship, corruption and mismanagement, predominance of cricket, and other cultural factors.

India is counted among the countries with lowest number of total Olympic medals per capita (out of those countries which have won at least one medal). But, the recent tournament results show a turnaround in Indian athletics. In 2008 summer Olympics

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held at Beijing, India won its first ever individual gold medal when Abhinav Bindra won the 10m air rifle event. The 2012 summer Olympics saw the all-time best performance at the Olympics when 83 member Indian contingents participated in the event and won a total of six medals. Wrestler Sushil Kumar became first Indian with multiple Olympics medals since Norman Prichard in 1900. India has done very well at the recent commonwealth games held in New Delhi. With a total of 101 medals including 38 gold, India finished second in overall rankings. In 2010 Asian games, Indian athletes were able to manage 64 medals including 14 gold medals.

2.5.3. Cricket

In India, cricket is played on local, national, and international levels, and enjoys consistent support from people in most parts of the country. Its development has been closely tied with the history of the country, mirroring many of the political and cultural developments around issues such as caste, gender, religion, and nationality. The records show that the first ever cricket match in India was played in 1721 AD. Initially accepted by the Parsi community, this game of foreigners began to appear in organized form with the establishment of the ‘Oriental Cricket Club’ in 1848. India’s inaugural match with England held at the Lords in 1932 attracted 24,000 strong crowds which included the King of England, who was also then, the Emperor of India.

India’s performance since then has generally been mixed, sometimes enjoying stupendous success and sometimes suffering outright failure. India registered its first ever test victory in 1952 when it beat England by an innings in Madras. The highest profile rival of the Indian cricket team is the Pakistani cricket team, though, in recent times, it has gained other rivals, including Australia, South Africa and England. After winning the 1983 world cup in England, the journey of Indian cricket begun towards its zenith. In 2007, India won the ICC World Twenty20 world cup in South Africa and again clinched the world cup in 2011 beating Sri-Lankans at home. India is also the winner of 2013 ICC champions’ trophy in England and shared ICC champions’ trophy with Sri-Lanka in 2002. In test cricket also India maintains its supremacy, consistently maintaining its ICC rankings among the top teams of the world. The domestic cricket tournaments include the Ranji Trophy, the Duleep Trophy, the Deodhar Trophy, the Irani Trophy, and the Challenger Series. This parallels the global
situation in cricket, where 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 (IPL), a domestic franchise-based Twenty-20 competition,
during March–April every year which has already emerged as top sports brand with
fan following among the masses across the world. Popularity of cricketers like Sachin
Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh, Virat Kohli, just to
name a few, is a strong indicator of the rise of cricket as a game. For the aspiring
minds in countries like India, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Bangladesh, no dream seems to be
bigger than becoming an international cricket player.

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, including 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).

Responding to the situation and huge fan following, Indian media also gives special
importance to the game. Apart from simply reporting the happenings of the game,
media today seems to be obsessed with the off-field happenings also. Personal lives of
the players, their advertising endorsements even their holidays are also covered by
investing good space and time by the Indian media. Aamir Khan Starrer Bollywood
film Lagaan, which features villagers playing a cricket match with the British
cantonment officers for waving off the imposed tax, one of the perfect examples of
media cashing on the passion of the public.

2.5.4. Tennis

Tennis was introduced in India in the 1880s by British Army and Civilian Officers.
Soon after, regular tournaments like the ‘Punjab Lawn tennis Championship’
at Lahore (now in Pakistan) (1885), ‘Bengal Lawn Tennis Championship’
at Calcutta (1887) and the All India Tennis Championships at Allahabad in (1910)
were organized. Initially, the British like TD Barrington and LC Ogbourne won these
championships, however, slowly Indians started picking up the game. Mohd. Saleem
of Lahore won the Punjab Championship in 1915 and thereafter consecutively won
from 1919 to 1926. In 1917, NS Iyer lifted the Bengal Championship. In 1919 Mr. Nagu picked up the prestigious singles crown at the All India Tennis Championship at City's Gymkhana Club at Allahabad. Henceforth, the Indians started playing the game with greater distinction.\textsuperscript{20}

Despite being confined in the urban areas of the country, tennis is counted among the popular sports of India for rising Indian participation in the game. Tennis has gained popularity after the exploit of Vijay Amritraj. India's fortunes in 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, it was young Somdev Dev Varman and Yuki Bhambri who fluttered India’s flag on the ATP Tour. Yuki was the Australian Open junior singles champion in 2009. India’s Davis cup team is the most successful team of Asia in the tournament, who has finished runners up three times.

\textbf{2.5.5. Badminton}

Badminton is also one of the popular sports of India. Played across the net like tennis with a shuttlecock, it is said to be another indigenous game of India. Indian player Saina Nehwal is currently ranked sixth 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 player, 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.

\textbf{2.5.6. Football}

The origin of football in India can be traced back to mid nineteenth century when the game was introduced by British soldiers. Football spread among the masses through the sincere efforts of one Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhichary. Several football clubs like Calcutta FC, Sovabazar, Mohammadan Sporting, Mohan Bagan and Aryan Club were established in Calcutta around 1890s. Calcutta, then capital of British India, soon

\textsuperscript{20}All India Tennis Association. (2013). Retrieved December 14, 2013, from Wikipedia Website: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_India_Tennis_Association
became the hub of Indian football. Tournaments like Gladstone Cup, Trades Cup and Cooch Behar Cup was also started around this time. The Durand Cup and IFA Shield were both started in late nineteenth century, making them two of the oldest football competitions in the world. 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, Goa and the Northeast, its popularity rivals that of cricket. The India national football team represents India in all FIFA tournaments.

In 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.

India qualified for the FIFA world cup in 1950 but could not make to Brazil because of ban imposed by FIFA on playing barefoot in 1948. The team has never since come close to qualifying for the world cup. India won gold medals in 1951 and 1962 Asian games. This phase is usually considered as the golden period of Indian football. 70s, 80s, and 90s was a barren phase for the game that resulted in losing its foothold among the top Asian Teams. India qualified for Asia cup after the gap of 24 years in 2011. Ever since, the Indian Football Association is working hard for development of the game 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 football, there is the India women’s football championship. However, it is the European football tournaments, such as the English Premier League, Spanish La Liga and the UEFA Champions League, which are very popular among Indian football fans, especially in metropolitan cities. The 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup will be the 17th tournament of the FIFA U-17 World Cup. FIFA revealed on 5 December 2013 (as part of their Executive Committee meets in Salvador, Brazil), that India will be the host. This will be the first time India will host an international football competition.

2.5.7. Basketball

Basketball is a well-liked sport in India, played in almost every school, college and university, although less number of players make it as a profession. India has both men's and women's national basketball teams, coached by professionals who have worked extensively with NBA players. The Young Cagers, as the national team is nicknamed, made one Olympic appearance in basketball, and appeared 20 times in the Asian Championship. India is currently at the 58th seat in the world basketball rankings. The Indian national team had its best result at the 1975 Asian Championship, when the team finished ahead of teams including the Philippines, one of Asia's basketball strongholds. Internationally, one of the most renowned Indian basketball players has been Sozhasingarayer Robinson. Affiliated to the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) since 1936, India has one of Asia's oldest basketball traditions.

India's women are doing well in basketball, finishing fourth at the recent 2011 FIBA Asia Championship for Women. The team has several internationally recognized players including Geethu Anna Jose, who was invited to tryouts for the WNBA in 2011.

2.5.8. Motor Sports

Motorsport is one of the admired spectator sports in India in recent times, although there are relatively few competitors and followers of the game as compared to the likes of cricket and football, all because of its high cost. Narain Karthikeyan in February 2005 became India's first Formula One racing driver. He also became the first-ever Indian-born driver to compete in a NASCAR Series in March 2007. “Force India F1” is the Formula One motor racing team of India. The team was formed in October 2007, when a consortium led by Indian businessmen Vijay Mallya and Michiel Mol bought the Spyker F1 team for €88 million. After competing in 29 races without a point, Force India won their first Formula One World Championship points and podium place when Giancarlo Fisichella finished second in the 2009 Belgian Grand Prix. New Delhi hosted the Indian Grand Prix in 2011, at Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, Karun Chandhok was the test driver for Team Lotus and Narain Karthikeyan raced for HRT during the first half of the 2011 Formula One
season. Sebastian Vittal won the race and the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Ms. Mayawati felicitated the three winners.

2.5.9. Golf

Golf is a growing sport in India. It is especially popular among the wealthier classes, as it is an expensive game. The most successful Indian golfer is Jeev Milkha Singh, who has won three titles during the European Tour, four during the Japan Golf Tour, and six during the Asian Tour. Although his current world ranking is 36th, his highest ranking has been 28th (in March 2009). Singh has also won the Asian Tour Order of Merit twice. Jyoti Randhawa was the first Indian to win Asian Tour Order of Merit in 2002. Another famous golf player of India is Arjun Atwal, who went on in 2010 to become the first India-born player to become a member of, and later win, the US-based PGA Tour.

There are numerous golf courses all over India, and a Professional Golf Tour of India. India's men's golf team won gold at the 1982 Asian Games, and silver at the 2006 Asian Games.

Pitch and putt, a newer modification of golf, but a completely independent and separate competitive sport, is spreading as a popular outdoor sport worldwide. Royal and Ancient Golf Course of St. Andrews (R&A), the highest authority of golf in the world, recognised IPPA (International Pitch and Putt Association) in December 2010.

The Indian Pitch and Putt Union is the top body of pitch and putt golf in India, and is a member of the International Pitch and Putt Association.

The spirit, regulations and essence of the game are the same as in conventional golf, but as pitch and putt is played on reduced courses, power and distance do not play an important part, thus making tactics, strategy and accuracy the core principle of the game. As power is not fundamental, women and men can compete on the same footing, making this a truly universal and fair sport.

2.5.10. Boxing

Boxing is a growing sport in India after many boxers made their mark in the world arena. India is a regular medal-holder at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. India's woman boxer M.C. Mary Kom won the best boxer title and secured a
hat-trick of titles in November 2007. During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Vijender Kumar of Haryana won a bronze medal in the middleweight segment, 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. India's lone women boxer, M.C. Mary Kom, won the bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

2.5.11. Archery

The game of archery has historical and religious significance in India. From Ramayana to Mahabharata, every Indian epic and religious text talks about archers. Arjun, the protagonist in Mahabharata, was portrayed as an excellent marksman with his bow and arrow. The famous incident of nailing an arrow into the eye of a fish seeing its reflection in water is considered as a benchmark in this field. The main weapon of the Mongols was bow and arrow which was further developed and mastered by Mughals in India.

Modern-day archery in India began in the early 1970s, before its introduction as an Olympic event in 1972, and it was formalized in 1973, when the Archery Association of India (AAI) came into existence. Since its inception, AAI has been promoting an organisation for the sport. India has been producing some world class players who are the medal hopefuls in international events of archery.

2.5.12. Kabaddi

Kabaddi is a popular national sport in India, played mainly among people in villages. It is regarded as a team-contact sport and as a recreational form of combat training. Two teams occupy opposite halves of a small field and take turns sending a raider into the other half to win points by tagging and wrestling members of the opposing team. The raider then attempts to return to his own half while holding his breath and chanting ‘kabaddi, kabaddi, kabaddi’ during the whole raid. India has taken part in four Asian Games in kabaddi, and won gold in all of them. The four forms of kabaddi played in India are Amar, Sanjeevni, Huttuttoo, and Gaminee. Amar is generally played in Punjab, Haryana, America, Canada, and other parts of the world, mostly by Punjabi sportsmen. Sanjeevni is the most-played form of kabaddi in India and the world. This is the form generally used in international matches and played in Asian
Games. Huttuttoo, a much tougher version of kabaddi, was played by men in Maharashtra State. India won the kabaddi World Championship in 2007, beating Iran 29-19.

2.5.13. Wrestling

Considered one of the most ancient and oldest sport in the world, wrestling in India has a celebrated past. Again in the Indian epics wrestlers were glorified, for example, Hanuman in *Ramayana*, said to be super powerful. Even today, the wrestlers of India worship Hannuman for providing them strength. One of the premier characters in Indian epic *Mahabharata*, Bhim, was also considered to be a great wrestler. Other great wrestlers included Jarasandh, Duryodhan, and Karn.

Wrestling is among the most prestigious and oldest events in the Olympic Games. It was included in the Olympics in 708 BC. In India its journey began several centuries ago, during the medieval ages. It was mainly used as a way to stay physically fit and also used as a military exercise without any weapons. Dangal is the indigenous name of wrestling in India, and it is the basic form of a wrestling tournament.

2.5.14. Weightlifting and power-lifting

Among the sports which require sheer power, weight lifting is an ancient game which is also connected with wrestling. India never celebrated weight lifting until Karnam Malleswari won a bronze medal at the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, making her the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal. In 1992, she participated in the Asian championship which took place in Thailand, standing second and winning three silver medals. She also won three bronze medals in the world championship.

The headquarters of the Indian Weightlifting Federation is in New Delhi. The federation is affiliated with the Indian Olympic Association, and is also a member of the Asian Weightlifting Federation (Tehran) and International Weightlifting Federation (IWF, Budapest). The present general secretary of the IWF is Balbir Singh.

The Indian Weightlifting Federation has also faced a ban of one year from International Weightlifting Federation after weight lifters- S. Sunaina, Sanamacha Chanu, and Pratima Kumari were found positive in the doping test. Accused for
doping they were banned from participating in all international competitions for one year.

2.5.15. Volleyball

Volleyball is a popular recreation sport played all over India, both in rural and urban areas. Low cost and easy rules make it a well-liked sport played everywhere. Schools, colleges and universities, police lines and railway quarters volleyball could be easily located. Played across the net with a ball between two teams provides agility and spirit of coordination among the players. India is ranked fifth in Asia and 27th in the world. In the youth and junior levels, India came in second in the 2003 World Youth Championships. The Indian senior men’s team is ranked 46th in the world. Apart from, being a popular sport among the Indian masses, problems of sponsorship and finance restrain India to produce world class players.

2.5.16. Floor-ball

A game similar to that of hockey, but played indoors, floor hockey has become quite popular in India in recent times. In 2001, the Floor-ball Federation of India was started, which has contributed to its rapid expansion. So far, four national Floor-ball championships have taken place with Uttar Pradesh emerging as the winners. Women’s floor-ball has also become popular, with Mumbai becoming the first national women floor-ball champion of India. India is trying to make a mark in floor-ball at the international level as well. Being a provisional member of the International Floor-ball Federation, India has participated in many international tournaments. Efforts are being made to make India an ordinary member of International Floor-ball Federation.

2.5.17. Net-ball

Net-ball is a sport that bears its origin to the early versions of basketball. It is a sport especially popular among Indian women. Ranked 25th in the world, India’s national team of net-ball has only a few matches to its credit. The team has not been a success and could not qualify for any of the World Net-ball Championships. Net-ball was included as a medal sport in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India.
2.5.18. Hand-ball

Another sport that has become quite popular at the local level in India is hand-ball. Although India's hand-ball team came into existence on 27 April 1989, yet it has not been able to make an impact on the world stage, at the international level or the World Cup. The Hand-ball Federation of India manages hand-ball in India.

2.5.19. Throw-ball

Throw-ball is another game whose popularity has been gaining momentum over the years. It is a non-contact competitive ball sport played across a net between two teams of seven players on a rectangular court. India actively took to establishing an Asian level and, later, a world level association for the sport. Throw-ball is played in gym class, colleges, and clubs throughout Asian countries such as India, Sri-Lanka, Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, China, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. The popularity of the sport is spreading to other parts of the world including countries like France, Australia, Brazil, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

2.5.20. Polo

India is considered the cradle of modern polo. Its roots can be traced to the times of Mughal dynasty. Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire in the 15th century, played a key role in establishing its popularity. The period between the decline of the Mughal dynasty and the rise of the British Imperial rule, polo almost disappeared from India. Fortunately, the game survived in a few remote mountainous enclaves of the subcontinent, notably Gilgit, Chitral, Ladakh, and Manipur.

The popularity of polo in India has seen many fluctuations, waning and rising at different times. However, it has always been considered a royal sport. The emergence of privately owned teams in the recent times has ensured a revitalization of the Indian polo. Today, polo is not just restricted to the royalty and the Indian Army, but its popularity has permeated to the general public.
2.5.21.  **Baseball and softball**

Baseball is a relatively new sport in India. Softball in India is usually played in school and at the university level. Major League Baseball conducted a talent hunt style competition to search baseball talent in India. Two Indian pitchers Rinku Singh and Dinesh Patel were selected by the "Million Dollar Arm" competition to play in the United States. The teenagers were taken to the US and received professional coaching. These two players were selected to play for Pittsburgh Pirates minor league organizations. Rinku Singh played for the Canberra Cavalry of the Australian Baseball League for the competition's inaugural 2010–11 season.

2.5.22.  **Cycling**

Cycling, as a sport, began in India back in 1938. The Cycling Federation of India administers the sport. Cycling as a professional sport is not known in India. It is more popular as a common recreational sport and a way to keep fit.

2.5.23.  **Mountain biking**

Mountain biking is becoming a popular sport in India. Himalayan Adventure Sports & Tourism Promotion Association (HASTPA), a non-governmental organization (NGO) has been regularly organizing MTB Himalaya, a hardcore endurance event, for the last six years. The participants in the event are national and international riders, ranging from professionals of the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), to young and energetic mountain biking individual riders from cities including Pune, Bangalore, Delhi and Chandigarh.

2.5.24.  **Table Tennis**

Talking of indoor games in India, table tennis is widely popular. Its popularity has caught on states including West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The Table Tennis Federation of India governs the sport in India. The country ranked 30th in the world, has produced a single player ranked in the top 50, Sharat Kamal.

2.5.25.  **Equestrian sports**

Equestrian sports have quite attracted the attention of Indian masses. India has a large following in various equestrian sports, including show jumping, dressage, endurance
riding and tent pegging. Eventing is the most popular of these, gaining the support of the Equestrian Federation of India. Eventing teams have represented the country at most Asian Games and have managed to win a bronze medal in the 2002 and 2006 games. Indian equestrian sports have also been represented at the Olympics twice, by Wing Commander I.J. Lamba, and Intiaz Anees.

2.5.26. Kayaking

Kayaking is still evolving in the Indian mainland. Indian flat water kayakers are becoming popular on the Asian circuit. However, apart from professional kayaking, there is very limited recreational kayaking. There exists a huge potential to generate interest in flat water kayaking, which is to be taken up by leisure resorts located near the sea or other water bodies. It is assumed to be more of interest for tourists, as kayaking is considered a one-time activity, rather than a sport to be pursued.

2.5.27. Whitewater kayaking

Whitewater kayaking is again a sport that has limited number of enthusiasts. Most of them are concentrated in the north towards the Himalayas, and others in the south in Bangalore in Karnataka. Some of the distinguished whitewater kayakers include Abhinav Kala, Shalabh Gahlaut, and John Pollard. Most of these enthusiasts are or were whitewater raft guides who took to the sport of whitewater kayaking. Many of them have notched first descents (similar to climbing ascents) on rivers in India and Nepal.

The temptation for most of these participants in whitewater kayaking is adventure. Indian landmass offers a huge possibility of exploration to these aficionados. "Bangalore Kayakers" or "Southern River Runners" are India's first amateur group of white-water kayakers. They usually explore rivers around the Western Ghats.

Kayakers have to face the problem of availability of gears. With the global designs for whitewater boats and paddles changing annually, Indian kayakers have to pay high charges in case they want to import any kind of gear. They are sometimes left with the choice of buying used gear in Nepal.
2.5.28. Rock climbing

An adventurous sport, rock climbing is not new for India. Apparently, the mountaineers headed for Himalayan ascents had to train somewhere, and would have imparted some of the preliminary technical climbing culture. History of rock climbing can be traced by the evidences associated with bouldering and climbing around Bangalore's famous Ramanagara crags and Turahalli boulders, around Western Ghats closer to Mumbai and Pune. Dinesh KS (Dinni) of Wild-craft Equipment was climbing in Bangalore around the 1980s as part of a continuing tradition of climbing around the area.

The major locations for rock climbing in India are the Deccan Plateau and south of the Vindhya Range. Mumbai, Pune, and Bangalore have an established climbing tradition. For example, Hampi is considered the bouldering capital of India. Climbers congregate here during New Year's Eve and climb through the weeks preceding and after. Badami is popular for its free and sport routes (numbering over 200).

Mostly considered to be entertaining and non-competitive, the competitive version of rock climbing, such as sport climbing, has a very intense scene. Indians have notched several international positions in sport climbing and are considered an Asian powerhouse.

Other locations ripe with possibilities for sport climbing include Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Kangla Wall of MMTA (Manipur), Shillong, Kolkata, and Indore.

2.5.29. Billiards and Snooker

In billiards, India is considered a powerhouse. In world billiards competitions, India has been a force to reckon with. Champions including Wilson Jones, Michael Ferreira, Geet Sethi and now the domination of Pankaj Advani have underlined the dynamic status of the country. The Snooker Federation of India, which governs the sport in the country, plays a proactive role in promoting the game. It has been trying hard in the recent past to enhance the popularity of the game in the country. The Billiards and Snooker Federation have also organized several training camps in various parts of the country for tapping and nurturing the potential talent and providing them with regional and state sponsorship.
2.5.30. Gymnastics

Gymnastics received a boost in India with Ashish Kumar winning the first-ever medal in gymnastics for India at the 2010 Commonwealth Games. However, the win was sparked with the controversy following the president of the Gymnastics Federation of India, asking Kumar's chief coach from the Soviet Union, Vladimir Chertkov, "Is this all that you can deliver, a bronze?" The media reported the comment on a wide scale. Later, the coach revealed that, "In August 2009, we had no equipment. Ashish trained on hard floor till February 2010, and then we got equipment around 20 years old." This followed the federation's announcement that no Indian team would travel to Rotterdam for the World Championships in October, which would mean that Indian gymnasts would not have the opportunity to qualify as a team for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

2.5.31. Winter sports

Winter sports are quite popular in the Himalayan region in India. Skiing tournaments take place every winter in Gulmarg, Kashmir, and Manali. Winter sports are generally more common in the northern states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. India offers a range of winter sports such as skiing, snow rugby, snow cycling, and snow football. Shiva Keshavan is the only Indian to have won medals in international meets in winter sports Asian Gold 2011, Asian Silver 2009, Asian Bronze 2008, Asian Silver (doubles) 2005, Asian Bronze (singles) 2005, and to have participated in four Olympic Games. He also holds the speed record for Asia at 134.4 km/h, becoming the fastest man in Asia on ice. People living in mountains practice luge.

2.5.32. Bandy

Bandy is a team sport played on ice, in which skaters use sticks to direct a ball into the opposing team's goal. It is a winter sport, and is generally played in northern India, where there is snow and ice. The Bandy Federation of India is the governing body for bandy in India, with its headquarters in Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. India has a national bandy team. India is one of seven countries in Asia and out of a total of 28 to be a member of Federation of International Bandy.
2.5.33. Ice hockey

A popular winter sport, ice hockey is played in the colder parts of India, including Kashmir, Laddakh, and parts of Himachal Pradesh.

2.5.34. Traditional and regional sports

Gilli-danda

Gilli-danda used to be one of the most popular domestic traditional sports of India. It is played by using one small stick (gilli) and a large stick (danda) like cricket, with the ball replaced by gilli. Boys in villages of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Maharashtra still play it as a recreational sport.

Kancha

Kancha is a game played with glass balls called marbles. Kancha is very popular among boys in small Indian cities and villages only as a gully sport. It is rarely played by girls. The participant has to hit the marble kept in a circle. If he hits the target properly, he wins. The winner gets the kancha of other participant boys.

Kite-flying

Kite-flying is again one of the most popular traditional sports in India. It is pursued by many people in India, in cities as well as villages. The festival of Makar Sankranti features kite-flying competitions. Kite flying is relished by people across all age groups and ethnicities.

Kho-Kho

Kho-Kho is a very popular traditional sport among girls of India. Almost in every school the game is introduced to enhance the team spirit. Children in every household get together and play kho-kho.

2.6. Professionalization of sports and its impact in India

Professionalization of sports is referred to make a living out of sporting activities. Earning a livelihood by playing sports like hockey, cricket, football or athletics and making it the main business of life is what we often understand by the
professionalization of sports. But in true sense of the term, a profession has the following features:

- Existence of a well organized and systematized body of knowledge.
- Existence of mechanism for imparting knowledge.
- Existence of representative association.
- Existence of formal code of ethics.
- Service motive of the practitioners.

In the present publicity-hungry globalised world, almost every sport is professionalized. From football clubs of Europe, professional boxers and fighters of America to Cricketers in Indian Premier League, professionalism swayed over healthy pass times and recreational activities of the masses. Despite all advantages of professionalism, it does not come without demerits. Theodore Roosevelt, former America President has claimed that amateur sportsmen claim more respect than professional sportsmen: “In America the difference between amateurs and professionals is in one way almost the reverse of what it is in England and accords better with the ways of life of the nation’s democratic community. In England the average professional is a man who works for his living, and the average amateur is one who does not; whereas in America the amateur usually is, and always ought to be, a man who, like other American citizens, works hard at some regular calling—it matters not what, so long as it is respectable, - while the professional is very apt to be a gentleman of more or less elegant leisure, aside from his special pursuit. The mere statement of the difference is enough to show that the amateur, and not the professional, is the desirable citizen, the man who should be encouraged.”

Sports in Indian society was also amateur in nature throughout the ancient and medieval history. At the dawn of the modern era, the imperial powers of Europe, the Great Britain took the reins of Indian soil and brought with them new games like cricket and football. The British cantonment was the epicenter of all the modern sports where army personnel used to play for recreation. Cricket was commonly said to be a gentlemen’s game because of its non-professional nature, as it was played by the Lords and amateur players of England.

In the world championships, India was first represented by Englishmen who were born in India, like Norman Gilbert Pritchard who won silver medal in 1900 Rome Olympics in 200 meter running. On the other hand, Indians such as Sir Ranjit Singhji and Sir Duleep Singhji started playing cricket for English cricket team in 1900s. One of the famous sportsmen of British India, Major Dhyan Chand who played hockey, was professionally an army man.

After the independence of the country in 1947, the government of India took the task of developing games and sports, by coordinating with pre-established associations and boards. India with a population over one billion people is eyeing its stake to become the next super power, a need was there to give proper attention towards sports as it is one of the indicators of development, prosperity and supremacy. “Since sporting activities have traditionally been recreational in nature, the involvement is often questioned and is forwarded as a logic argument in favour of autonomous sporting bodies. One constant theme in the evolution of sports over the past century is that it has become a means to demonstrate a nation’s supremacy. Be it the US during the cold war era or China in contemporary times – countries have used sporting excellence as a signal of their overall might and world dominance. Even the United Nations, in its resolution 58/5 adopted by its General Assembly in 2003, has recognized sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace. Closer home, we are a country of one billion aspiring people trying to prove our supremacy to the world, and sport is increasingly being seen as a medium to express it. Given such widespread public involvement and association of national pride with sports, the State cannot remain oblivious to it. As an entity dedicated to public welfare, the state has a definite interest in the promotion and governance of sports.”

India hosted and co-hosted several international events of sports which led to improvement in infrastructural facilities to compete at the international level. Top in the list are the 1951 and 1982 Asian games, the 1987, 1996 and 2011 cricket world cup, the 2003 Afro Asian games, the 2010 hockey world cup and 2010 Commonwealth Games. In 2011 India also hosted its first Indian Grand Prix at the Buddha international circuit, an Indian motor racing circuit at Greater Noida. All these developments are a strong indication of the fact that the government of India is

serious in developing sports by investing money in organizing, improving and providing at-par infrastructure to the sports persons of the country.

Sports Authority of India the field arm of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, supports and nurtures talent in youth and also provides infrastructural facilities, coaching and equipment by utilizing the funds allocated by the government of India. Table-1 displays the list of funds allotted to the sector of sports in previous six Five-Year Plans by the government, released in a report at the “SCORECARD 2014 – National Conference on Business of Sports” organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with KMPG, a global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services.\(^2^4\)

![Table-1: Funds allotted to the sports sector during five year plans by the government](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Five year plans</th>
<th>Duration of the five year plans</th>
<th>Allocation to sports (INR Million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>1980-1985</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Five Year Plan</td>
<td>1985-1989</td>
<td>2,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>1992-1997</td>
<td>2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>1997-2002</td>
<td>4,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenth Five Year Plan</td>
<td>2002-2007</td>
<td>11,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleventh Five Year Plan</td>
<td>2007-2012</td>
<td>46,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A significant increase can be observed in the fund allocation to sports in various Five-Year Plans, most of which was allocated for developing infrastructure for sports. Some of the initiatives, adopted for the development of sports, are mentioned below:

- INR 942.5 million was allocated for creation of sports infrastructure including Rural Schools.
- INR 201.3 million was allocated for installing of synthetic playing surfaces.
- INR 328 million was allocated for promotion of games and sports in various Universities and Colleges.

Scheme of assistance for the creation of Urban Sports infrastructure

Following are some schemes instituted by the Government for infrastructure development:

- **Scheme of assistance to Urban Sports Infrastructure Development**: To improve the entire sports ecosystem, the scheme of assistance to Urban Sports Infrastructure Development was introduced in 2010–11 to develop infrastructure such as synthetic playing surfaces and to address other important issues such as training and development. Financial assistance to schools/colleges/universities/academies for developing sports infrastructure was provided by this scheme, which can potentially operate as SAI’s extension centers. The scheme also provides assistance to the National Playing Fields Association of India and the State-Level Playing Fields Association.

- **National Playing Fields Association of India (NPFAI)**: This scheme aims to spread awareness on fitness and encourage Indian children to play sports by building more playing fields and spaces in the country. After establishing this scheme in February 2009, MYAS instructed all the State Governments to establish playing fields associations at the state level as well, so that it can sanction funds to these states for the development of playing grounds and parks.

- **Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) scheme**: Instituted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) in 2008–09, the scheme aims to develop sports infrastructure at the grassroot level throughout India by providing assistance to its network of village panchayats and blocks panchayats in 10 years. It is estimated that the scheme has covered only 22 per cent of village panchayats in India in five years since its inception. The PYKKA scheme requires state governments to establish a PYKKA cell under their respective governments’ department of sports to receive requisite financial assistance from the central government. Approximately 66% of the
panchayats approved under the PYKKA scheme have developed playfields in their respective areas.\textsuperscript{25}

The Sports Authority of India in assistance with the central government not only builds training centers and academies, but also builds and maintains stadiums and fields. The foundation for construction of several stadia, facilities and related infrastructure was laid by hosting Asian Games of 1982 and Commonwealth Games in 2010. It stands as a legacy for the citizens, and also facilitates urban development. Indeed, the creation of legacy assets is done keeping in mind, the long-term sports and development strategy of the host country. The government pursued its vision of building quality athletics infrastructure, highlighting India’s brilliance in international-level non-cricketing competitions, also in a bid to motivate the youth to pursue sports seriously as a profession.

Table-2 shows the allocation of money to the stadiums for Commonwealth Games 2010

\begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|l|l|}
\hline
Stadium name & Cost of establishment/up-grading during CWG 2010 \\
\hline
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium & INR961 Crore \\
Indira Gandhi Stadium & INR 249 Crore \\
Dr. SPM Swimming Pool Complex & INR 377 Crore \\
Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range & INR 150 Crore \\
Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium & INR 262 Crore \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Money allotted to stadiums in Commonwealth Games 2010}
\end{table}

The CWG 2010 could have been a landmark in the creation of assets for the country’s sports fraternity. But the legacy planned by the government for CWG 2010 assets was narrow, which marred the possibilities of generating desirable income and influx.\textsuperscript{26}

However, these initiatives are inadequate to endorse the progress of sports through the provision of appropriate infrastructure. There exist several problems concerning the improvement of sports infrastructure in India.

The Constitution of India declares sport to be a state subject. The state governments in India earmark funds for the creation of facilities and sports infrastructure depending upon their requirements. The country has no innovative approach towards developing sports infrastructure.

The situation became grim after the shift of the schemes led to the withdrawal of support related to sports infrastructure from the central government to the states in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Another major obstruction for building sports infrastructure is non-availability of land to develop fields and playgrounds. Furthermore, not much endeavor has been done till now in promoting sports-specific infrastructure by adopting PPP model (public-private partnership) to ensure the sustainability of these facilities. There still remains a lot of scope for exploring and exploiting commercial aspects for generating revenue from these infrastructures. India needs an overhaul in building and sustaining sports infrastructure.

The report released by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) suggested following steps to be taken for developing sound and state-of-the-art sports infrastructure in the country:\(^\text{27}\)

- A devoted land bank should be arranged for building sports infrastructure
- The adoptions of PPP model that propels the government to provide institutional and financial support for building infrastructure, along with the support of the private sector.
- Introduction of various commercial aspects, such as selling the naming rights, hospitality packages and branding inside the stadia, to make these facilities sustainable
- The use of these assets for several purposes, such as organizing exhibitions, conferences or for setting up sports academies


\(^{27}\)Ibid
Ensuring the access of the public to use these infrastructural facilities against membership fees

These measures can be instrumental in overcoming the hurdles and pacing up India’s growth in terms of sports infrastructure. More importantly, a transformation in the mind-set of the officials and decision makers in sports, politics and related fields is indispensable to extract optimum results from such actions.

2.6.1. Role of the corporate sector in infrastructure development

In India, the involvement of companies in sports infrastructure development is mostly in the form of public-private partnerships (PPP). Some of them are:

- The Naya Raipur Development Authority is building a sports city in Naya Raipur. Facilities like tennis, aquatic and an indoor stadium along the PPP model are the major attractions. The private player is expected to build the facility and hand it to the authority. Some amount of this land is earmarked for a residential complex, which could cross-subsidize the sports facilities.

- Jindal Steel Works (JSW) has collaborated with SAI as part of its CSR initiative to oversee the upgrading and maintenance of infrastructure at SAI’s regional training centre in Hisar. The latter is expected to monitor the training and selection of players.\(^{28}\)

By involving more corporate houses and encouraging them in building sports infrastructure for the country, India could overcome its bottlenecks in becoming a sports power in times to come.

2.6.2. Role of governing bodies in developing the sports in India

The arrival of modern sports in India owes mainly to the British Empire. Gradually they started to pick up in the Indian society, and thus, it became obligatory for boards and associations to ensure the advancement and regulation of the game throughout India. Subsequently, a need was felt to arrange and control inter-territorial, foreign and other matches of different games. The developments also called for making arrangements incidental to visits of teams to India, and to manage and control Indian

representatives playing within and outside the country. The Boards and other authorities were affiliated to the international bodies which directly regulate the respective games.

2.6.2.1. **Indian Olympic Association (IOA):** The Indian Olympic association is accountable for the Indian participation in the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games. The association was established in 1920. In India, each Olympic and non-Olympic game has a federation at the national level. Generally, the selection of sportspersons is based on his/her performance at national level. Sometimes, special selection trials are also conducted to select the participants who will represent India in the Olympic Games and other international events. Once selected, the contestants are made to undergo rigorous drilling training camps. The national federations are assisted by the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports, Patiala, which offers thorough training for athletes. These sportspersons are then recommended by the national federations to the IOA for official sponsorship of participation in the games.²⁹

A distinctive feature of the Indian Olympic Association is that it not only manages the national federation for each sport, but also maintains State Olympic Associations in various states in the country. The State Olympic Associations are responsible for the promotion of sports in their respective states, working in tandem with the state bodies for the different games and sports. The Indian Olympic Association is solely responsible for India’s participation in the Olympic Games. Apart from this, there are other responsibilities that the IOA shoulders. They are:

- Deciding the organization of National Games
- Maintaining liaison between the government of India and member federations or associations
- Protecting the amateur status of sportspersons
- Promoting and developing the Olympic Movement

**Foundation of IOA**

Sir Dorabji Tata, towards the end of 1919, first sowed the seeds for establishing a sports body at national level for promoting the Olympic Sport in united India. With the support of Dr. A. G. Noehren, the then Director of YMCA, he established the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in 1927. Sir Dorabji Tata and Dr. Noehren become the Founder President and Secretary General respectively of IOA. Though no national Olympic committee was formed in India, Sir Dorabji Tata fielded a token contingent of 6 members i.e. four athletes and two wrestlers in the Antwerp Olympic Games in 1920. During these Games, Sir Dorabji Tata was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and thus became the first IOC member in India. Upon his return to India from Antwerp Olympic Games, Sir Dorabji Tata, in association with Dr. A. G. Noehren began to search throughout India for talent in athletics. This talent search aroused national interest in athletics and helped to promote the organisation of athletic meetings in all states and provinces in India.

In February 1924, the first ever Inter-State Athletic meet was organized in Delhi and an eight-member athletic team selected during this meet was sent for the Paris Olympic Games in 1924. By 1927, the IOA decided to hold regular inter-state games and since then national championships in all sports are being held in various states of India.

2.6.2.2. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI): BCCI controls all the advances and development of cricket in India since the year 1928. By then, not only was cricket being played all over the subcontinent by the locals, but it had also scaled unforeseen heights of popularity. An annual Presidency match between the Europeans and Indians had been instituted in Chennai in 1915. It was played during the Pongal festivities. Sindh, Calcutta, Lahore, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Kanpur were among the other leading cricket centers on the subcontinent. The Maharaja of Patiala supervised the creation of cricket arenas in Patiala and Chail, where he arranged for coaches from overseas to train junior cricketers.

Former skipper of England cricket team, Arthur Gilligan, was one of the active participants in a meeting in Delhi in February 1927 to promote Indian Cricket. The Maharaja of Patiala, a British businessman named Grant Govan, and Anthony De

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Mello were the other attendees. Gilligan expressed his praise of Indian cricket, and promised to press for India's inclusion in the ICC, if all the promoters of cricket in the land came together to establish a single controlling body.

Govan, Patiala and De Mello in turn assured Gilligan that they would do their bit. They convened a meeting in Delhi on 21st November 1927, which was attended by around forty-five delegates. These comprised cricket representatives from Sind, Punjab, Patiala, Delhi, the United Provinces, Rajputana, Alwar, Bhopal, Gwalior, Baroda, Kathiawar and Central India. There was a consensus that a Board of Cricket Control was essential to ensure the advance and control the game of cricket throughout India.

Another meeting, held at the Bombay Gymkhana on 10th December 1927, ended with a unanimous decision to form a 'Provisional' Board of Control to represent cricket in India. The plan was for this 'Provisional' Board to cease to function as soon as eight territorial cricket associations were created. Representatives of the eight associations would then come together to constitute the Board.

Govan and De Mello visited England in 1928, where they made out a case on India's behalf in front of the ICC. The Provisional Board met in Mumbai in December 1928 during the Quadrangular tournament, to discuss the next course of action. It was at this meeting that Govan and De Mello prevailed upon the others to reconsider the decision taken at the previous year's meeting. They did not want India to miss out on the opportunity to host South Africa in 1929 and tour England in 1931.

Their persistence paid off. The Provisional Board was deemed to have finished its work, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India was established. Govan was the first President, and De Mello the first Secretary. Five months later, the ICC admitted India as a full member. There were those who favored Delhi and Calcutta as likely bases of the board, but it was Bombay that finally won. The city's cricketing ethos and cosmopolitan nature was believed to have given it the edge.

India had to wait till 1932 to become a Test-playing nation. 'Team India' underwent a 'baptism by fire' from 1932 to 1952 before opening its account in Test cricket. The fifth and final Test of the 1951-52 series against England at Chennai was won by an innings and eight runs. A year later, the Indian cricketers registered their first-ever
series win against compatriots-turned-foreigners Pakistan. India first won a Test series abroad in 1967-68, when the New Zealanders were beaten 3-1 on their own pitches. Three seasons later, the Indian team went several steps further, winning back-to-back series in the West Indies and England.

The country's unexpected triumph in the World Cup in 1983 emboldened the BCCI to bid for the 1987 World Cup along with its Pakistani counterpart. It was the first time anyone had even thought of staging the competition outside England. The bid was upheld by the ICC, and the neighbors went on to stage a hugely successful event, the doubts raised by cynics notwithstanding.\footnote{BCCI(2014). Board of Control for Cricket in India. Retrieved January 11, 2014, from BCCI official Website: www.bicci.tv/about/2014/history}

**Revenue**

BCCI currently has the highest income of any national cricket board, with a revenue of 8.68 billion (US$140 million)\footnote{Ali, Q. M. (2013, June 10). Richie rich BCCI remains highest profit earner amongst 10 Test nations. Retrieved February 12, 2014, from India Today Web site: http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/bcci-remains-highest-profit-earner-amongst-10-test-nations/1/279334.html} in 2010-11. It does not depend on the government for its finances and it is not required for BCCI to make its balance sheets public. The global media rights for international cricket held in India between March 2010 and March 2014 were awarded to production house Nimbus for US$ 612 Million. While Air Sahara became the official Indian cricket team sponsor for a period of four years at a cost of US$70 million. The media rights for 25 neutral venue one-day matches played over the next 5 years were awarded to Zee Telefilms for US$219.15 million. According to Business Standard, it got another Rs 20 billion ($450 million) from the sale of other rights, including hotel, travel and ground sponsorship.

Mr Lalit Modi was partly responsible for the transformation of the finances of BCCI, when he took over as the Vice President in Dec 2005, under the stewardship of Mr. Sharad Pawar. The BCCI has recently established an inter-city cricket league, the Indian Premier League in limited-overs and Twenty20 format. It is structured along the lines of other professional leagues such as the English Premier League, except without the relegations and promotions system as there are only eight official teams as of now. The league has recruited several prominent overseas cricketers and has separate TV, internet, mobile, merchandising, sponsorship and ground signage rights.
The IPL founder and Creator Lalit Modi predicted that it would become the single largest revenue earning avenue for BCCI after its establishment.

**Working of BCCI**

The BCCI has 27 state association members and three non-playing members, across five zones. They are - North Zone, East Zone, West Zone and Central Zone. All state associations are responsible for organizing tournaments, selecting the team of their state for domestic tournaments and providing training and infrastructure to the young players.

Following are the domestic tournaments conducted by the BCCI around the year; players for the team to represent India are selected on the basis of performance in this domestic circuit.

- BCCI Corporate Trophy
- Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy
- Irani Cup
- NKP Salve Challenger Trophy
- Ranji Trophy
- Duleep Trophy
- Vijay Hazare Trophy
- Deodhar Trophy
- Indian Premier League
- Vizzy trophy

Table-3 reveals the state associations and stadiums which are affiliated to the BCCI
Table 3: State associations and stadiums affiliated to the BCCI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Member States</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Name of Stadium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh Cricket Association</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>ACA/VDCA Stadium, Vishakapatnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Goa Cricket Association</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>Dr R Prasad Stadium, Margao</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kerala Cricket Association</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hyderabad Cricket Association</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal, Hyderabad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Karnataka State Cricket Association</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>M. Chinnaswamy Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu Cricket Association</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>M. A. Chidambaram Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cricket Association of Bengal</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>Eden Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tripura Cricket Association</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>Maharaja Bir Bikram College Stadium, Agartala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jharkhand State Cricket Association</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>Keenan Stadium</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Assam Cricket Association</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>Nehru Stadium, Guwahati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Orissa Cricket Association</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>Barabati Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Delhi District Cricket Association</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Feroz Shah Kotla Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Services Sports Control Board</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Model Sports Complex, Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Punjab Cricket Association</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Punjab Cricket Association Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Haryana Cricket Association</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>Devi Lal Stadium, Gurgaon</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>HPCA Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Mumbai Cricket Association</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Wankhede Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Maharashtra Cricket Association</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Subrata Roy Sahara Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Baroda Cricket Association</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>IPCL Sports Complex Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Gujarat Cricket Association</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Sardar Patel Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Saurashtra Cricket Association</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Ground, Rajkot</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Cricket Club of India</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>Brabourne Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh Cricket Association</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>K. D. Singh Babu Stadium, Lucknow</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Usharaje Stadium Indore</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Rajasthan Cricket Association</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Sawai Mansingh Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Railways Sports Promotion Board 1959–60</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Karnail Singh Stadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Vidarbha Cricket Association</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6.2.3. Hockey India (HI): It is the apex body of hockey in the country, which has the sole mandate to govern and conduct all activities, for both men and women hockey. It is recognized as National Sports Federation by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India vide letter no. F.No.32-14/2013-SP-III dated 28 February 2014 as the sole body responsible towards promoting the hockey in India. Formed on May 20, 2009, it is also affiliated to the International Hockey Federation (FIH), the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Asian Hockey Federation (AHF). With the assistance of Sports Authority of India and Department of Sports, Government of India, Hockey India has drawn out a Long-Term Development Programme (LTDP) to train players and to provide overseas exposure, besides regular international competition. It is committed to getting the Indian teams into the top six in the world.

Infrastructure

With the aim of popularizing the game of hockey at the grass root level, Hockey India has decided, to give an annual grant of 5 lakh to all its state associations, to help them improve the sport of hockey in their respective region. The decision was taking during the Hockey India executive board meeting held in New Delhi 12th May 2012. This is the first time in the history of Indian Hockey, that the national federation gave a grant to its state association since the commencement of men and women hockey from 1927.33

Indian Hockey stadiums boast of world class facilities and infrastructure. The hockey stadiums in India are equipped with synthetic turfs and spectator friendly amenities. Over the years, they have hosted memorable contests.

- Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Egmore, Chennai

Radhakrishnan Stadium is regarded as one of the best by the International Hockey Federation in terms of its infrastructure. After installation of a synthetic turf surface in 1995, the stadium hosted the hockey event in the SAF Games and the 1996 Champions Trophy. The stadium was upgraded by the Sports Authority of Tamil Nadu to prepare the venue for hosting the 2005

Champions Trophy in December. Floodlights and re-laid synthetic surface makes it a world class stadium of hockey.

- **Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Delhi**
  
  The National Stadium, which is known as the "temple of Indian hockey," was dedicated to the memory of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand in 2002. The Stadium has two brand new synthetic hockey turfs and has a capacity of 25,000. In preparation for the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games, the hockey pitches were equipped with floodlights and electronic and video-matrix scoreboard.

- **Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad**
  
  The Gachibowli Stadium was built for the 2003 SAF Games by construction major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. The stadium also hosted the 2005 Hockey Premier League. It is one of the most well equipped as well as popular hockey stadiums in the country.

- **K. D. Singh Babu Stadium, Lucknow**
  
  The stadium was named in the memory of famous Indian hockey player ‘Kunwar Digvijay Singh Babu, in the capital city of Uttar Pradesh. The stadium is one of the leading hockey stadiums in the country and a host of several memorable tournaments.

- **Surjeet Hockey Stadium, Jalandhar**
  
  Named after the Olympian Surjeet Singh, this astro-turf stadium is based in Jalandhar. The stadium is one of the most popular hockey stadiums of north India and a host of several national and international hockey championships in the country.

The impact of professionalization on Indian sport can be seen by the medal tally of the latest Olympics at London 2012, where India performed well and got six medals. Indian also became the world champions in cricket twice in 1983 and in 2011. The performance of Indian individual sportspersons has also improved and established Indian supremacy in the world. Among others, wrestler Susheel Kumar, boxers
Vijendra Singh and Mary Kom, tennis stars Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati, Sania Mirza and badminton sensation Saina Nehwal have emerged as popular Indian sports brand drivers.

1 Kabaddi: a popular game of Indian masses, played between two teams attempting to breach each others territory turn wise.
2 Gulli Danda: a popular game of India played with two sticks, long and a short, the game resembles hitting skills of cricket.